

Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

Organization: Dan Dunaway

Issue

Increase the annual bag limit for brown bears in Unit 17 from 1 bear to 2 bears and eliminate State registration.

Regulation to change

Unit 17—Brown bear

Unit 17—1 bear by State registration permit only

Sept. 1-May 31

How the New Regulation would Read

Unit 17—Brown bear

Unit 17—2 bears

Sept. 1-May 31

Justification

This proposal requests the Federal Subsistence Board increase the annual brown bear bag limit in GMU 17 from 1 to 2 bears. Beginning in 2011 the Alaska Board of Game adopted a 2 bear per year bag limit in an effort to reduce human bear conflicts and to provide greater opportunity to hunters while the bear population was thought to be large and increasing. The 2-bear limit does not appear to have significantly increased the local bear harvest. Regulations currently allow the sale of hides as handicrafts and an added bear would provide added economic opportunity to local subsistence users. Public comments made at recent BBRAC meeting indicate brown bears are very abundant in GMU 17 and a 2-bear bag limit is not likely to have any negative impact on the populations. This proposal would also remove registration requirement but would NOT eliminate the requirement to seal harvested bears with ADFG. The State has not been registering brown bear hunter in GMU 17 for some time now.

source:

Peterson, C 2023. Brown Bear management report and plan, Game Management Unit 17: Report period 1 July 2014–30 June 2019, and plan period 1 July 2019–30 June 2024. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report and Plan ADF&G/DWC/SMR&P-2023-17, Juneau, AK

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/research/wildlife/speciesmanagementreports/pdfs/brownbear_2014_2024_smr_gmu_17.pdf