

Proposed Change to Federal Subsistence Hunting Regulation

Proposed by: Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council

Proposal: Request up to 4 Brown bear permits for harvest for the community of Kodiak, Unit 8

note: The community of Kodiak includes residents on the Kodiak Road system (Monashka, City of Kodiak, Bells Flats to Chiniak and Pasagshak and Anton Larsen Bay. Not included: Nemetz and Coast Guard Base residents and Rocket launch facility residents

Current Regulation: The current regulation does not include the community of Kodiak for subsistence bear hunt permits.

Change: We request that the community of Kodiak be included in the issuance of subsistence permits for the harvest of brown bear, following the current listed season dates:
Open Season, Dec 1- Dec 15 and Apr.1-May 15

We would like to add the following language to regulation:

Harvest Limits:

Akhiok—2 permits;

Karluk—1 permit;

Kodiak Community—up to 4 permits;

Larsen Bay—Up to 3 permits;

Old Harbor—Up to 3 permits;

Ouzinkie—Up to 2 permits; and

Port Lions—Up to 2 permits.

Season:

Dec. 1-Dec. 15

Apr. 1-May 15

Explanation: The communities around Kodiak Island have a long history of the customary & traditional harvesting of Brown bear for food and traditional handicraft. In the published journal, *Two Voyages to Russian America*, 1802-1807 by G.I. Davydov writes, ‘on Kad’iak sometimes two or three people in a group creep up on an animal and fire arrows at it, and if it attacks them, they fight it off with spears.’ Davydov also notes that Kamleikas (rain parkas) are made from the intestines of whales, seals and bears and of the gut kamleikas, the best are from the bears (Davydov. Published 1977 from journals). The Alutiiq Museum, and local author and Kodiak Brown bear expert Larry Van Dael, also have produced publications about the importance of traditional bear harvesting on Kodiak Island. In addition, many museums across the world hold collections of art that both depict bears and are articles of clothing that today we recognize as Native handicraft from Kodiak.

The importance of accessing bear for food and other needs is well documented in Kodiak. The residents of the villages around the island have access to harvest 1, 2, or 3 bear, with village populations ranging from 30-100 residents. The community of Kodiak has about 9,000 residents and 4 or less permits is a reasonable number of permits to request. The community of Kodiak has the same history of customary and traditional use as the villages that currently receive permits and requests permits for the harvesting of Brown bear.

We don't believe this will place a burden on the population of bears. About 200 bears are killed by hunters each year on Kodiak Island, this includes resident and non-resident hunters, as well as international hunters. The bear populations and their habitats are healthy, and we don't foresee this causing any issues with the conservation or management of the bears.