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ADVISORY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Unit 9 Spring 2021 Brown Bear Hunting Opportunities

(Palmer) – State Brown Bear Registration permit hunt RB370 in Game Management Unit 9 was cancelled for nonresident hunters in spring 2020 over COVID19 concerns. The hunt remained open to resident hunters who harvested 38 bears. A typical spring harvest averages 250 bears, 70% of which are male bears.

Last month the Board of Game in a special meeting voted to offer those permit holders who could not hunt bears in Unit 9 in 2020 the opportunity to hunt in May 2021, which would have normally been closed under a conservative biennial hunt structure. This was a one-time adjustment; all other seasons remain the same. The special spring season for RB370 is *not* listed in the 2020–2021 Alaska Hunting Regulations and *is only* for those who did not hunt on their spring 2020 permit.

The 2021 spring season for RB370 will be held May 10–31 for Units 9A and 9B, and May 10-25 for Units 9C, 9D, and 9E, and will be open only to residents and nonresidents who did not hunt brown bears in the Unit 9 RB370 hunt during the spring of 2020. Nonresident hunters are required to hunt with a guide. Bag limit is 1 bear every 4 regulatory years. Mandatory RB370 hunt permit reports are due within 10 days of a successful hunt or 15 days for unsuccessful hunts, those that did not hunt or the close of the season. Harvested bears must be sealed within 30 days of the kill.

Permits for RB370 will be available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>, in person at ADF&G offices in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Homer, King Salmon, McGrath, Palmer, and Soldotna starting April 1, 2021.

For additional information contact Area Wildlife Manager David Crowley at dave.crowley@alaska.gov or 246-3707, or Regional Management Coordinator Todd Rinaldi at todd.rinaldi@alaska.gov or 861-2105.