

ACR 3 - Reduce the bag limit for black bear in Units 7 and 15, south of Kachemak Bay.

SUBMITTED BY: Seldovia Village Tribe

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Decreasing black bear population numbers south of Kachemak Bay in Units 15C and 7 from Bear Cove around the Peninsula to Upper Nuka passage.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Reduce the bag limit from three bears/regulatory year to one bear/regulatory year south of Bradley River, Bradley Lake and Kachemak Creek and south of the city limits of Seward at 60° 4' 58" N. Latitude.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

a) for a conservation purpose or reason: The current regulations have resulted in a significant population decline and if continued will lead to a further decline, a loss of hunter opportunity, and a declining economic return for the local economy.

b) to correct an error in regulation:

c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted: The current regulation of three bears/year in Units 7 and 15 was adopted at the time harvest opportunities were decreased in PWS. While nonresidents were only allowed one bear south of Kachemak Bay, the three bear limit was a marketing tool for transporters and more Alaska residents chose to hunt the coastal areas of the Kenai Peninsula than was anticipated as hunting success declined in the Sound and hunters switched locations.

Additionally, the board changed to a three year cycle in 2015. Due to where Units 7 and 15 fell in the regulatory cycle this actually put these units at four years before a new regulation could be considered within the normal board cycle for 2019. The decline in bears was not significantly apparent until the fall of 2015 after proposals were due in April of 2014 for the last board cycle. This issue is of significant importance to many user groups within the area including the subsistence communities of Seldovia, Port Graham, and Nanwalek, local guides and transporters, and other local hunters. It needs to be addressed before the next regular board cycle for Units 7 and 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? If regulations are not changed before the 2019 Board of Game meeting, black bear populations in this area will continue to decline, hunter opportunity will be lost, and permanent detriment could be done to population numbers. Additionally transporters, guides, and local businesses that benefit from black bear hunting and viewing may be permanently negatively impacted.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE: This ACR is not allocative in nature as loss or decline of this resource will equally affect all user groups.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE. N/A

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. We are a local tribal government advocating for sound management of our subsistence resources.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING. A similar ACR was considered during the 2015/16 board cycle as an ACR presented by Dave Mastolier.