

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers statewide as follows:

We are proposing 5AAC 92.080(7)(C) artificial light, except that artificial light, night vision goggles, and forward-looking infrared devices may be used:

- (I) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season November 1 - March 31 in all units.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Make the Region III changes apply statewide. The board discussed, amended and passed this proposal for some units at its recent Region III meeting. This proposal could/should be applied to all units unless there is a unit specific reason not to do so.

The original intent was, and is, to provide more opportunity for harvest when short "daylight" hours restrict opportunity. Adding the use of night vision devices as they are now defined in the regulation for some units to the exceptions under unlawful methods would allow hunters and trappers many more hours each day besides what is defined as "daylight". There are healthy populations of furbearers and the harvest would be sustainable and provide additional "reasonable opportunity" for harvest personal use and subsistence. We anticipate that any additional harvest would not be a conservation issue. This change would be expected to add some burden on the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Local committee and discussions with trappers and some Board of Game members.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F24-054)
