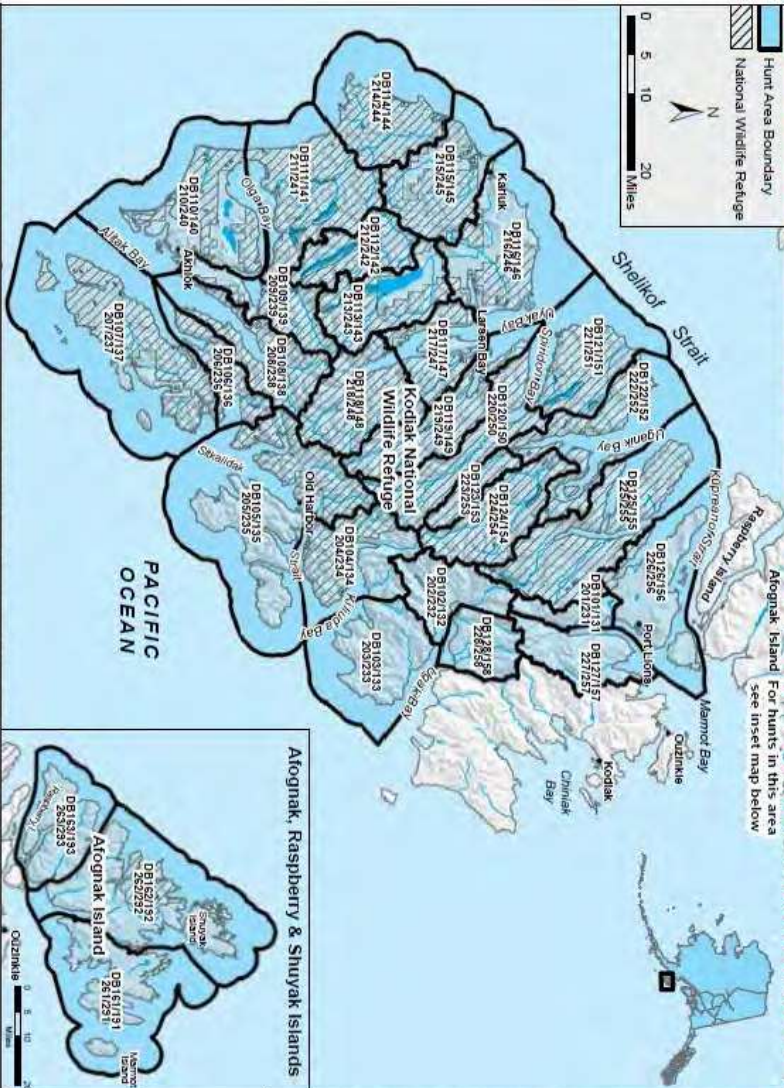


- 
- **Proposal 236**
  - 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.
  - 5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.
  - Remove the sow restriction and penalties for resident hunters in Kodiak brown bear hunt areas 8 thru 16, and institute a sow skull size restriction for resident hunters

# Kodiak Brown Bear 2025-2026 Alaska Drawing Permit Hunt Supplement



Hunt Maps available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>

### Reporting Requirements

Successful Hunters – Report in person to ADF&G in Kodiak within 15 days of harvest. The bear skull (unfrozen and removed from the hide) and hide (unfrozen, with claws and evidence of sex, intact and naturally attached) must be presented for sealing within 30 days of harvest and prior to leaving Game Management Unit 6.

### Guide Requirements

Nonresident brown bear hunters who are citizens of the United States must be accompanied in the field by an Alaska-licensed guide registered to guide in the hunt area, or an Alaska resident relative 19 years of age or older, within the second-degree of kindred (see "Alaska Residents or Nonresidents Hunting with Resident Relatives" section below).  
Nonresident brown bear hunters who are not citizens of the United States (nonresident aliens) must be accompanied in the field by an Alaska-licensed guide registered to guide in the hunt area. See "Nonresidents and Nonresident Aliens Hunting with an Alaska-licensed Guide" section below.

The application period previously held in May for Fall hunts is now combined with the Nov/Dec application period.

- Successful applicants must pick up their permit in person at the ADF&G office in Kodiak Mon-Fri, 8:00am-4:30pm.
- Permits for Spring 2025 hunts will be available beginning March 5, 2025
- Permits for Fall 2025 hunts will be available beginning October 1, 2025
- A valid Alaska big game hunting license, Big Game Tag Record, and brown/tinted bear locking-tag must be presented at ADF&G in Kodiak at the time of permit issuance.
- Hunters are restricted to a 15-consecutive-day hunt period selected by the hunter at the time of permit issuance.
- The bag limit is one bear every four regulatory years, and a legal bear is any bear except cubs or females accompanied by cubs. A wounded bear counts against your bag limit for the regulatory year.
- Applicants successfully drawn for a fall Kodiak bear hunt are ineligible to receive another Kodiak bear permit the following spring.
- Much of south and east Afognak Island and northern Kodiak Island is privately owned and subject to land use fees. Access permits are available from land owners. Land status maps and addresses of land owners are available online at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/wild/damning/alaskakodiak-island/>.

**No mention at all in the 2025-2026 draw supplement that hunt areas 8-16 have a sow penalty before applying**

Hunt Number	Spring 2026	Fall 2025	Spring 2026	Fall 2025	Area
DB201	DB231	3	4	Kizhuyak Bay	
DB202	DB232	5	4	West Uyak Bay	
DB203	DB233	5	5	South Uyak Bay	
DB204	DB234	4	5	Kiliuda Bay	
DB205	DB235	4	5	Three Saints & Barling bays*	
DB206	DB236	3	5	Kaigunak Bay*	
DB207	DB237	3	5	Atliulik Peninsula*	
DB208	DB238	3	6	Deadman Bay*	
DB209	DB239	2	5	Dog Salmon River*	
DB210	DB240	3	5	South Olga Lakes**	
DB211	DB241	3	5	Red Lake*	
DB212	DB242	1	5	Frazier Lake*	
DB213	DB243	3	4	Karluk Lake**	
DB214	DB244	1	5	Halibut Bay*	
DB215	DB245	3	5	Surgeon River***	
DB216	DB246	3	6	North Karluk River***	
DB217	DB247	3	5	North Uyak Bay**	
DB218	DB248	2	6	South Uyak Bay*	
DB219	DB249	2	5	Zachar Bay*	
DB220	DB250	2	5	South Spiridon Bay*	
DB221	DB251	3	5	Spiridon Lake*	
DB222	DB252	3	6	Uganik Bay*	
DB223	DB253	2	3	South Arm, Uganik Bay*	
DB224	DB254	3	6	Uganik Lake*	
DB225	DB255	3	6	Uganik Island & Terror Bay*	
DB226	DB256	6	6	Kupreanof Peninsula	
DB227	DB257	7	15	Sharatin Bay	
DB228	DB258	7	15	Wild Creek	
DB261	DB291	7	17	East Afognak & Marmot islands	
DB262	DB292	7	17	Central Afognak & Shuyak islands	
DB263	DB293	7	17	Southwest Afognak & Raspberry Islands	

\* Areas mostly or entirely included in exclusive guide use areas  
\*\* Areas partially included in exclusive guide use areas

Residents and nonresidents within second-degree of kindred use hunt numbers on left side of this chart when applying; guided nonresidents use hunt numbers on the right.



## Issues with current regulation and sow penalty on resident hunters

- DB 208 – 216 and DB 238 - 246 draw permits have on average a 5% chance of drawing
- These permits are essentially a once-in-lifetime opportunity for residents
- Sow harvest is legal and permit winners want to harvest a bear
- No real disincentive to not take a sow when no penalty on the hunter
- 17 resident permits lost since regulation went into effect RY 24
- Loss of resident permits will continue if sows remain legal to harvest, even with education efforts to differentiate between sows and boars
- **BOTTOM LINE: Residents (unlike guides) do not have a monetary incentive to not take sows in these areas. Residents will continue to lose substantial number of permits for these areas if this regulation continues.**

**In past years, when there were Kodiak brown bear conservation concerns in hunt areas 8-16, the board chose to implement the below regulation (from RY 94 – RY 06) for nonresident guided hunters only**

*“...in the Deadman Bay, Dog Salmon River, South Olga Lakes, Red Lake, Frazer Lake, Karluk Lake, Halibut Bay, Sturgeon River, and North Karluk River permit hunt areas, for each female bear with a skull length (posterior sagittal crest to center of upper incisors) of less than 15 inches or with a skull width (zygomatic breadth) of less than nine inches harvested in a regulatory year by a guided nonresident hunter, one permit will be deducted from the next regulatory year’s nonresident allocation for the area in which that bear was taken.”*

**As the Department states in their comments on Proposal 236, “Although the effect and success of these female skull size restrictions is difficult to assess, it was widely believed the prior regulation (RY94-RY06) had a positive effect on the population.** The regulation was rescinded on July 1, 2007.”

***Why didn’t the board just impose the same regulation from RY 04 – 96 if it was thought to have had a positive effect on the population?***

- What we'd like to see happen with Proposal 236:
  - Rescind the sow penalty on resident bear hunters
  - Re-implement the same regulation in hunt areas 8 – 16 that was in place RY 94 – 06 for nonresident guided hunters only
- Other alternatives: Implement a boar-only regulation in hunt areas 8-16, or another penalty on the hunter to provide more disincentive to harvest a sow.
- We support Proposal 238 education requirements, and we definitely want fewer sows taken in these areas, but this sow penalty on resident hunters that is imposed on future resident hunting opportunities is not a fair way to do it. There needs to be some penalty imposed on the hunter who takes a sow, otherwise there is little disincentive to not take a sow.



## **Proposal 237 - 5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.**

Require all nonresident hunters to apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits and reallocate unused nonresident permits to residents

**Facts about the Kodiak brown bear “draw” hunt for nonresident guided hunters:**

- It’s not really a random draw hunt like it is for resident hunters
- Nonresidents can skip the permit process entirely
- Many nonresidents never apply for a permit or pay the application fee
- Nonresidents (unlike residents) have multiple opportunities to hunt Kodiak brown bear

**There are 62 Kodiak brown bear draw hunts for both residents and nonresidents. For the 2025-2026 draw hunts, nonresident guided hunters had 100% draw odds for 30 of the 62 hunts, whereas residents averaged 5% draw odds overall.**

What (former) Board of Game Chairman Burnett said about this during the last cycle when deliberating RHAK Proposal 78:

***“So, why do we pretend that these are draw hunts? I mean, other than the fact we’ve identified them as draw hunts by putting them in the draw supplement. No one can draw except very few people, there are no odds, it’s 100% or zero. Why can’t we identify those separately? And rather than pretending that it’s a regular random draw like everything else, maybe have people pay a fee as if it were a draw. What prevents us from doing that?”***

## Regarding transfer of unutilized nonresident permits:

Results of the 2025 Permit Hunt Drawing

Hunt Number	Apps Received	Permits Available	% Drawn
<b>Brown Bear</b>			
DB106 <sup>+</sup>	0	2	0
DB108 <sup>+</sup>	0	2	0
DB110 <sup>++</sup>	0	2	0
DB123 <sup>+</sup>	0	1	0
DB131	0	1	0
DB136 <sup>+</sup>	0	3	0
DB138 <sup>+</sup>	0	4	0

**What, exactly, is happening with these 15 permits? Were they not utilized? Were they actually hunted? If not utilized, that is a lot of money that didn't go to the Department or guides.**

**We continually see these kind of results in the nonresident Kodiak draw supplement, which is why we asked for these (unused) permits to transfer over to the resident pool of tags.**

## Proposal 237 Amendment

We understand there may not be a way to transfer unutilized nonresident permits to the resident pool of tags. In that case, we ask that the board amend this proposal to take that aspect out, so only this part below remains:

*Require all nonresident guided hunters to apply for Unit 8 Kodiak brown bear drawing permits as required within 5AAC 92.061 and pay the application fee, and for the Department to submit that application.*