

Game board adopts changes in hunting regulations

Hunters can expect nearly 70 changes in next year's hunting regulations when the 1976-77 hunting and trapping regulation booklets are distributed to license vendors in July.

The regulation changes were adopted by the seven-man Alaska Board of Game, which met in Anchorage recently to consider more than 250 proposals submitted by the public and by the Fish and Game Department. The new regulations become effective July 1.

The board placed restrictions on caribou hunting seasons and bag limits in many units, closing hunting during the October rutting season and during the spring and summer for Units 17 and 19.

The board also passed regulations which will restrict the sale and trade of caribou meat in Units 22-26 in Northern Alaska, require that caribou meat in these units be salvaged within 15 days and will reduce the caribou seasons and bag limits there.

The board also adopted several changes in next year's moose hunting regulations, placing restrictions on that portion

of Unit 9 south of the King Salmon River.

The new regulations will require that bull moose taken there have three brow tines, or a spread of at least 50 inches. In addition, antlers of moose taken in that portion of the unit must be sealed by a Fish and Game Department representative in King Salmon or Kodiak.

The board restricted moose hunting in Unit 17, establishing a 10-day September hunting season. An early season antlerless moose hunt in Unit 16B and the remote portion of 16A was approved and the November moose hunt in 16B was deleted.

The board expanded wolf hunting seasons and bag limits in several areas where wolf predation problems exist, but rejected all proposals to reinstate aerial wolf hunting by the public.

Several new special-use areas were approved, including a mountain goat viewing area near Cordova and a new controlled-use area near Wood River in the Alaska Range which will restrict the use of motor-

ized vehicles for hunting.

The board also restricted the use of aircraft for bison hunting on the Copper River. The Dyea Closed Area near Haines was deleted, and the boundaries of several closed areas near Juneau were clarified.

The Eagle River drainage and Hillside area within the Chugach State Park near Anchorage were closed to all hunting except small game hunting with shotgun or bow and arrow.

Indian Creek and Falls Creek were closed to sheep hunting and a portion of the Eklutna Closed Area was reopened to sheep hunting. The shooting of red squirrels in the park was prohibited.

Also in effect for next year is a permit system for mountain goat hunting in Units 7, 14 and 15.

The Game Board rejected all

but a few of the trapping proposals submitted.

The new regulation booklets will be available from license vendors in July.