



MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

RUSTY GARRISON  
DIRECTOR

April 26, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: Rusty Garrison

SUBJECT: **NOTICE AND SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority contained in the Game and Fish Code (Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Secs. 27-1-4, 27-3-15, and 27-3-26), the Board of Natural Resources proposes to amend Department of Natural Resources rules governing the hunting of game animals and game birds. The proposed amendment (copy attached hereto), when adopted, amends Rule 391-4-2-.22 pertaining to bear.

**SYNOPSIS AND MAIN FEATURES**

The purpose of hunting regulations is to manage Georgia's game birds and game animals according to sound principles of wildlife management and to meet public objectives for use of these renewable natural resources. Changes to the existing rule reflect the need to add Camden county to those counties included in the southern bear zone.

This notice and synopsis of the proposed rule revisions, together with an exact copy of proposed rule revisions, is being mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. Copies of all these documents are also available by electronic mail and are available for review on the Division web page ([www.gohuntgeorgia.com](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com)). Please call Tammy Peters (706) 557-3350 to request a copy.

Members of the general public will have an opportunity to comment on this proposed amendment electronically by email through the Division website, by telephone (706-557-3350), or by submitting written statements by close of business on May 31, 2019. Written statements should be mailed to the attention of Tammy Peters at:

Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Division  
Game Management Section  
2067 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.  
Social Circle, Georgia 30025

The Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed rule and any comments received during the public comment process at its June 25, 2019 meeting at 9:00 A.M. at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252, Atlanta, Georgia. Please bring this notice to the attention of interested acquaintances.

RG/jwb

Attachment: Proposed Rule

SUBJECT	PROPOSED CHANGE	CURRENT REGULATION	CHANGE	JUSTIFICATION
<b>391-4-2-.22 Bear</b>				
Southern Bear Zone	Bears may be taken in Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes and Ware counties on the last two (2) Thursdays of September and the Friday and Saturday immediately following each, and the first two (2) Thursdays of October and the Friday and Saturday immediately following each.	Bears may be taken in Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes and Ware counties on the last two (2) Thursdays of September and the Friday and Saturday immediately following each, and the first two (2) Thursdays of October and the Friday and Saturday immediately following each.	Expands the southern bear zone for hunting bear by adding Camden county.	Long-term harvest data, nuisance bear complaint reporting, and bear bait station survey data show a stable to increasing bear population in South Georgia. Expanding bear hunting opportunity into Lanier and Lowndes counties will facilitate minimizing population expansion into marginal habitats where high potential for human conflicts exist. These proposed changes will have minimal effect on bear populations and harvest.

**CERTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
BRAD RAFFENSPERGER**

(Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Secs. 50-13-3, 50-13-4, and 50-13-6)

I do hereby certify that the attached amendments are correct copies, as promulgated and adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FILING DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Rule 391-4-2-.22 "Bear" is hereby repealed in its entirety and new Rule 391-4-2-.22 is adopted in lieu thereof and reads as attached hereto.

Authority O.C.G.A. 27-1-4, 27-3-15, and 27-3-26.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me this \_\_\_ day of June 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Pearson, Executive Counsel

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me this \_\_\_ day of June 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**RULES  
OF  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION  
CHAPTER 391-4-2  
HUNTING REGULATIONS**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

391-4-2-.22 Bear

**391-4-2-.22 Bear.**

(1) Bears may be taken with archery equipment during the statewide archery deer season, with primitive weapons during the statewide primitive weapons deer season and with firearms during the statewide firearms deer season in Barrow, Carroll, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hart, Jackson, Madison, and Walton counties and all counties north of these counties except that county specific weapons restrictions enumerated in 391-4-2-.25 and 391-4-2-.26 shall apply to bear hunting in such counties. No dogs are allowed except as otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70. Bears must be reported within 24 contiguous hours to the Gainesville or Armuchee Game Management office or the department's published toll-free telephone number (800-241-4113). At a minimum, the hide and skull of any harvested bear shall be taken during normal business hours to any Game Management office listed as open for bear check-in in the annual Hunting Seasons and Regulations guide for tagging by the department within 3 business days of harvest.

(2) Bears may be taken in Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes and Ware counties on the last two (2) Thursdays of September and the Friday and Saturday immediately following each, and the first two (2) Thursdays of October and the Friday and Saturday immediately following each. Hunting with dogs is allowed except that still hunting only is allowed in Lanier and Lowndes counties. Bears must be checked and tagged at the Georgia Forestry Commission Office at Fargo, the Georgia Forestry Commission Office at Folkston, or the Dixon Memorial check station during the hours and dates listed as open for bear check-in in the annual Hunting Seasons and Regulations guide.

(3) Bears may be taken in Bibb, Houston and Twiggs counties on the third Saturday in December. Hunting with dogs is prohibited. Bears must be checked and tagged at the Oaky Woods WMA check station from 12 noon through 9 p.m. on the day of hunt.

(4) It is unlawful to kill a female with cubs or kill a cub having a live weight of less than 75 pounds.

(5) It is unlawful to possess a bear unless it is reported and tagged as stated in subsections (1), (2) and (3) above.

(6) Bag limit 2; provided, however, that an individual may take no more than 1 bear per season from Bibb, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, Houston, Lanier, Lowndes, Twiggs or Ware counties.

**Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 27-1-4, 27-3-15, 27-3-26.**