2017 Bear Forums
Questions & Answers

Statewide Summary
Attendance

- Marion 31
- Thomasville 05
- Bladenboro 43
- Williamston 44
- New Bern 33
Anonymous Response!
Are you a hunter? (for any species)

96% Yes
4% No
Which of the statements best describes you?

- I mostly hunt specifically for other game species but I may take a bear if I see one: 11%
- I mostly hunt bears but hunt for other game species: 69%
- I only hunt bears: 18%
- I do not hunt bears: 2%
Last season, did you participate in a bear hunt using dogs?

2017 Forums: 94% Yes, 6% No

2016 Forums: 66% Yes, 34% No
2016 Bear Forum Question:
Should Coastal Bear Seasons be aligned with the new Zones?

Based on responses of 219 bear hunters at the 2016 Bear Forums
Have you seen the presentation about the Development of Zones in the CBMU?

- Yes, at the forums last year. 34%
- Yes, I reviewed the information online. 17%
- No, I have not seen it but I know about it. 22%
- I didn’t know anything about it until tonight. 28%
Have you seen the presentation about the Development of Zones in the CBMU?

- Yes, at the forums last year. 34%
- Yes, I reviewed the information online. 17%
- No, I have not seen it but I know about it. 22%
- I didn't know anything about it until tonight. 28%
Do you typically hunt in Zone ..? 

Zone 1: 27%
Zone 2: 16%
Zone 3: 83%
Zone 4: 57%
Do you think this Zone option is an improvement over the current season?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
<th>I'm not sure (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone 1</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 2</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 3</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 4</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hunted in Zone 27% 16% 83% 57%
In a normal year, how many different Zones do you bear hunt in?

- 23% for 1 Zone
- 41% for 2 Zones
- 25% for 3 Zones
- 12% for 4 Zones
Do you hunt in a county that currently has the “long season”?

- Yes: 56%
- No: 44%
2016 Bear Harvest

% Female = 40 – 44% vs. % of Population = 20% - 27%

% Female

50% 52% 54% 100% 51% 34% 35% 30%

Total Bear Harvest

100 56 29 67 51 56 25 4
2016 Bear Harvest

Sampson County
With Dogs: 26 Bears, 23% Female
No Dogs: 11 Bears, 45% Female
Do you prefer the current “long season” knowing there is a possibility that it may be negatively impacting bear population growth and quality of bears?

Statewide: 53% Yes, 39% No
Marion: 77% Yes, 3% No
Thomasville: 75% Yes, 0% No
Bladen Co.: 90% Yes, 5% No
Williamston: 55% Yes, 38% No
New Bern: 59% Yes, 41% No

Hunt in the Long Season:
- Statewide: 56%
- Marion: 33%
- Thomasville: 40%
- Bladen Co.: 95%
- Williamston: 35%
- New Bern: 58%
Do you prefer to leave the current 50-Day season as is even if there are changes in other counties in Zone 3 or 4?

- **Statewide**: 80% Yes, 15% No, 5% Not Sure
- **Bladen**: 93% Yes, 3% No, 5% Not Sure
- **Williamston**: 70% Yes, 26% No, 5% Not Sure
- **New Bern**: 77% Yes, 16% No, 6% Not Sure
What is most important to you?

- # of Days
- # of Bears
- Quality

Statewide:
- # of Days: 41%
- # of Bears: 18%
- Quality: 42%

Bladen Co.:
- # of Days: 61%
- # of Bears: 6%
- Quality: 32%

Williamston:
- # of Days: 32%
- # of Bears: 26%
- Quality: 42%

New Bern:
- # of Days: 31%
- # of Bears: 19%
- Quality: 50%
Would you prefer?

- Only change to Saturday Openings: 70% (Combined), 88% (Williamston), 47% (New Bern)
- Leave the Seasons as they are: 14% (Combined), 8% (Williamston), 23% (New Bern)
- New Season Options Presented: 16% (Combined), 5% (Williamston), 30% (New Bern)
How would the season options impact your bear hunting?

- No Impact: 16%
- Positive Impact: 25%
- Negative Impact: 53%
- I'm Not Sure: 6%
For those that said negative or I’m not sure, what is your top concern?

- I'm losing to many hunting days: 42%
- There will be too many hunters in my area: 5%
- I'm worried that we may kill too many bears: 17%
- Some Combination of A, B or C: 31%
- Some other Reason: 6%
If you don’t believe zone options discussed are improvements, what concerns you the most?

- Increasing Hunting Opportunity: 18% (Combined), 22% (Williamston), 12% (New Bern)
- Reducing Hunting Opportunity: 20% (Combined), 7% (Williamston), 12% (New Bern)
- Losing access to land because of increased lease fees: 35% (Combined), 40% (Williamston), 24% (New Bern)
- Increases in harvest that would result from these changes: 21% (Combined), 27% (Williamston), 12% (New Bern)
- Something else: 6% (Combined), 2% (Williamston), 12% (New Bern)
Would you prefer a shorter season with a season bag limit of 2 bears?

Yes, 1%

No, 99%
Would you support Mandatory Tooth Submission?

- Yes: 80%
- No: 18%
- Not Sure: 2%
General Observations

• Meeting Atmosphere
  “Public Hearing” vs. “Forum Setting”.

• Long season hunters concerned about losing days.

• Actually less uniformity of opinion than you would think.

• Concerned that changes will foster “commercialization”.
  i.e. increased lease fees and property loss due to outfitter operations

• Hunters are concerned that too many bears will be shot.
  Dog hunters especially concerned that these seasons would further increase
  still hunter harvest in some areas.