

# Hunting and Trapping

## Emergency Order

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order** 05-01-13

Issued at Nome, Alaska  
June 27, 2013

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m.  
July 1, 2013

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2014  
unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the State Tier II subsistence muskox hunt (TX107) for Unit 23, north and west of the Noatak River, for regulatory year 2013-2014 which begins July 1, 2013. This closure is the regulatory action that establishes 'no open season' in response to the illegal harvest of cow muskox reported by the department on May 15, 2013. The next available annual harvest quota has been reached through this incident of illegal harvest and no additional harvest is warranted. This change in regulation is published in the 2013-2014 Alaska Hunting Regulations No. 54.

### REGULATION:

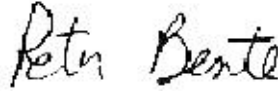
Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.050 (a) (2) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSKOXEN** are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting muskox in a portion of Unit 23:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(2)		
...		
Unit 23, that portion north and west of the Noatak River:		
1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only	<b>No open season</b> (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
...		

All other muskox hunting regulations in Unit 23 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Peter Bente  
Management Coordinator

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Cape Thompson muskox population occupies the portion of Unit 23 north and west of the Noatak River. The spring 2013 population estimate in the traditional survey area was 227 muskoxen, showing recent stability in the population at a level that has declined 34% from its highest level documented in 2005. Due to population reduction, a conservative harvest management strategy has been adopted to allow for the combined goals of herd growth and hunt opportunity. A bull-only harvest rate of 2.5 % has been applied to the population yielding a quota of 6 bulls for subsistence hunting opportunity in regulatory year 2013-2014.

As reported on May 15, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers investigated and confirmed at least 5 cow muskoxen from the Cape Thompson population were shot illegally and left un-salvaged sometime during January or February 2013. This illegal take of cow muskox was additive to the legal harvest of bull muskox by subsistence hunters who completed their hunts in March 2013. The over-quota illegal take of cows has filled the next available harvest quota requiring closure of the TX107 season in regulatory year 2013-2014. This announcement is the regulatory action by the department to establish 'no open season' for the next regulatory year.

The take of cows significantly affects the future growth potential of the muskox population. Conservation of the herd is needed and no further harvest from the Cape Thompson muskox population is warranted. Managers will continue to monitor the population to determine the timing of the next available quota for subsistence hunting.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

This Emergency Order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Kotzebue.

1. Lieutenant Governor
2. Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison, Anchorage)
3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
4. Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Director  
Deputy Director

- Assistant Director
- Regional Supervisors
- Regulation Coordination Team
- Area Offices Statewide
- Information Management Section, Anchorage, Douglas, Juneau
- Public Communication/Information, Anchorage, Fairbanks
- Federal Subsistence Liaison
- 5. Division of Boards
  - Boards Support Section, Executive Director
  - Field Offices: Dillingham, Kotzebue
  - Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Chair
    - Unit 22 AC, Northern Norton Sound
    - Unit 22 AC, Southern Norton Sound
    - Unit 23 AC, Kobuk-Lower
    - Unit 23 AC, Kobuk-Upper
    - Unit 23 AC, Kotzebue
    - Unit 23 AC, Noatak-Kivalina
    - Unit 23 AC, Northern Seward Peninsula
- 6. Division of Subsistence
  - Assistant Director
  - Program Director, Fairbanks
  - Field Offices: Fairbanks, Kotzebue
- 7. Public Communications Section, Juneau
- 8. Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
  - Director
  - Detachment Commander
    - C Detachment, Western
    - D Detachment, Northern
  - Field Offices:
    - Unit 22: Nome
    - Unit 23: Kotzebue
- 9. U. S. Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management
    - BLM, State Director
    - BLM, Anchorage District
    - BLM, Fairbanks District
      - Unit 23/26 Arctic, Mgr
      - Unit 23/26 Arctic, Wildlife
      - Unit 22/23 Central Yukon, Mgr
      - Unit 22/23 Central Yukon, Wildlife
  - Fish and Wildlife Service
    - FWS, Regional Director
    - FWS, Office of Federal Subsistence Management
    - FWS, OSM Regional Advisory Councils, Coordinators
      - FWS RAC Unit 22, Seward Peninsula
      - FWS RAC Unit 23, Northwest Arctic
    - FWS, Refuges
      - FWS, Selawik NWR, Refuge Mgr.
    - FWS, Law Enforcement, Nome
  - National Park Service
    - NPS, Regional Director
    - NPS, Subsistence

NPS, Park Unit, Superintendent  
Bering Landbridge, Nome  
Gates of the Arctic, Fairbanks  
Western Parklands, Kotzebue

10. Clerk of the Court or Magistrate

Unit 23: Kotzebue

11. I.R.A./Traditional Village Councils/Regional Native Corporations

Unit 22

Bering Straits Native Corporation  
Kawerak, Inc., Natural Resources Department  
Kawerak, Inc., Reindeer Herders Association  
Sitnasuak Native Corporation

Brevig Mission	Nome	Teller
Council	Shaktoolik	Unalakleet
Elim	Shishmaref	Wales
Golovin	Solomon	White Mountain
Koyuk	Stebbins	
Mary's Igloo	St. Michael	

Unit 23

Maniilaq Association, President  
NANA Regional Corporation, Lands Supervisor  
Northwest Arctic Borough, Lands Office  
North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management

Ambler	Kobuk	Point Lay
Buckland	Kotzebue	Selawik
Deering	Noatak	Shungnak
Kiana	Noorvik	
Kivalina	Point Hope	

12. News Media:

Statewide: APRN, Associated Press  
Anchorage: Anchorage Daily News, KTUU  
Fairbanks: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, KUAC Radio  
Kotzebue: Arctic Sounder, KOTZ Radio  
Nome: KICY Radio, KNOM Radio, Nome Nugget