

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order 05-06-11

Issued at Kotzebue, Alaska
July 1, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
July 1, 2011

Expiration Date: June 30, 2012

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order changes the State of Alaska subsistence hunting season for muskox by registration permit in Unit 23 Southwest during regulatory year 2011-2012. The open season for Hunt RX106 is January 1 through March 15 unless closed by a subsequent emergency order when the harvest quota is reached. The affected hunt area is Unit 23 Southwest, that portion on the Seward Peninsula west of and including the Buckland River drainage. The available harvest quota for a combined state and federal hunt in Unit 23 Southwest is up to 7 muskox (including up to 3 cows). The season will be closed by emergency order when the quota is filled. Registration permits for hunt RX106 will be available in Kotzebue, Deering, and Buckland beginning on December 12, 2011. The fall season has been closed due to a lower harvest quota based on a revised population estimate of muskox found in Unit 23 Southwest.

REGULATION:


Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.050 (a) (2), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSKOX**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting muskox in Unit 23 Southwest:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
...		
Unit 23 Southwest, that portion on the Seward Peninsula west of and including the Buckland River drainage		
1 musk ox per regulatory year by registration permit only	Jan. 1 – March 15 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.

...

All other muskox hunting regulations in Unit 23 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Charlotte Westing
Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Board of Game approved a harvest rate of up to 8% for muskox in Unit 23 Southwest. In 2009, harvest rates were reduced to 4% in response to stable population counts and declining trends in bull:cow ratios (mature bulls per 100 cows three-years old and older). For regulatory year 2011-2012, a harvest quota of up to 7 muskox (including up to 3 cows) has been established based on the revised 2010 population estimate, declining bull:cow ratios, and a 4% harvest rate.

To prevent overharvest in the herd, the harvest quota for this portion of Unit 23 is managed jointly by state and federal managers for subsistence hunting opportunity. The reduced quota has required State managers to implement a shorter State hunting season using a single quota rather than managing the hunt with split quotas for separate fall and winter seasons which was possible when available harvest was higher. A winter season has been implemented to allow: 1) the take of up to 3 cows in place of bull-only bag limits typical of fall hunts, and 2) easier access to the hunt area using snowmachines.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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