

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 01-01-17

Issued at Sitka, Alaska
21 July, 2017

Effective Date: 31 July, 2017

Expiration Date: 30 June 2018
(unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order)

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the resident and nonresident mountain goat hunting season in the following hunt zones of RG150; (1) The Pyramids, (2) Slaughter Ridge, (3) Indian River, (4) Bear Mountain, (5) Rosenberg Lake, (6) Lake Irina, (7) Indigo Lake, (8) Necker Bay, (9) Lucky Chance, (10) North Kelp Bay, (11) Kasnyku/Takatz, (12) Whale Bay and (13) South Baranof on Baranof Island in Game Management Unit 4. This emergency order takes effect at 11:59 PM, July 31, 2017.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the provisions of **5 AAC 85.040, Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| ... Unit 4, The Pyramids – Drainages north of Redoubt Lake, west of Redoubt Lake Trail and south of Silver Bay, including Deep Inlet and Eureka Mtn. | No open season (General hunt only) | No open season |
| Slaughter Ridge – Drainages north of Katlian Bay, west of Coxe River, east of Nakwasina Sound and south of Nakwasina River | | |

downstream of Cold Storage Lake pass, but excluding the Lisianski Peninsula.

Indian River - Drainages of Sitka Sound between Katlian River and Sawmill Creek, north of Sawmill Creek, south of south fork Katlian River and west of Clarence Creek, including Indian River, Granite Creek, Starrigavan Creek, and the Mt. Verstovia/Arrowhead ridge.

Bear Mountain – Silver Bay drainages between Sawmill and Medvejie Creeks, south of Blue Lake/Creek, west of the south fork Blue Lake Creek and northwest of Medvejie Creek to Baranof Pass.

Rosenberg Lake – North fork Nakwasina River drainages upstream of the Peak 3098 Creek confluence, south of the north fork Nakwasina River downstream of the Peak 3098 Creek confluence, and Rosenberg Lake/Creek drainages.

Lake Irina – Drainages south of Redoubt Lake, north of West Crawfish Inlet and west of their respective inlet streams, but excluding the Kliuchef Peninsula.

Indigo Lake - Drainages north of Vodopad River and Green Lake downstream of the creek originating from Peak 4130, east of Silver Bay and southeast of Medvejie Creek/Lake to Baranof Pass, including Indigo Lake and Cupola (Cross) Peak.

Necker Bay – The peninsulas west of Small Arm Whale Bay/Creek, west of Benzeman Lake and southeast of Crawfish Inlet, but excluding Aspid Cape.

Lucky Chance - Drainages east of the Redoubt Lake Trail, north of Redoubt Lake Creek; and south of Green Lake and the

Vodopad River, including Lucky Chance Mountain.

North Kelp Bay - Drainages east of Lake Eva Creek and north of Middle Arm Kelp Bay/Creek downstream of Lake Eva Creek pass.

Kasnyku/Takatz - Chatham Strait drainages between Kelp Bay and Triple Lake Creek, including Kasnyku and Takatz Bays.

Whale Bay – Drainages east of Small Arm Whale Bay/Creek, east of Benzeman Lake, west of Great Arm Whale Bay/Creek to the pass at Peak 2907 and drainages of Politofski Lake.

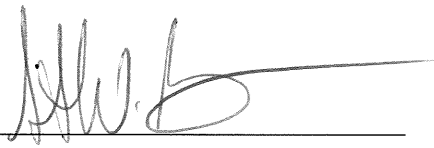
South Baranof - Drainages south of Gut Bay and the east branch of Great Arm Whale Bay and their respective inlet streams; and north of the divide between Larch Bay and Port Conclusion.

1 goat by registration permit only, the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited.

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All other mountain goat hunting regulations in Unit 4 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Stephen Bethune
Sitka Area Wildlife Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Data from collared goats near Sitka documented that goats have high fidelity to small home ranges and are slow to recolonize vacant habitat. That finding combined with high localized harvest in more accessible areas lead managers to develop an updated management strategy for mountain

goats on Baranof Island beginning with this 2017 season. Baranof Island was divided into 34 small hunt zones. Dividing Baranof Island into more zones allows biologists to manage at the subpopulation level, which should afford hunters more opportunities and reduce the possibility of localized overharvest. Under the previous management strategy, quotas were based on larger geographical areas, which sometimes included several subpopulations. The quota for a large zone could be reached after several goats were taken from a small area around a single access point. That resulted in the large area being closed while additional harvest opportunity remained in more remote portions of that larger zone. This new strategy of subdividing large zones should provide more opportunity for hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access close.

Based on aerial surveys during 2015 and 2016, biologists documented mountain goat population levels in each of the hunt zones and assigned corresponding quotas. Zones closed by this emergency order did not have high enough population levels for a sustainable harvest. Any harvest in these zones could have long term negative impacts on the health of these subpopulations. The department will attempt to survey these areas again in September to determine if goat populations have increased to harvestable levels and could be re-opened by emergency order in-season.

For more information on the 2017 Baranof Island mountain goat hunt strategy visit the Unit 4 FAQ's page at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/hunting/goathunting/pdfs/unit_4_rg150_mountain_goat_hunt_faqs.pdf

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