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## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release: October 9, 2012*

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### **State closes muskox hunt TX102 in Unit 22D remainder in response to illegal harvest**

Nome – Today, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) issued an emergency order announcement closing the State Tier II subsistence muskox hunt (TX102) in the American River and Agiapuk River drainages (described as the Unit 22D remainder hunt area in the 2012-2013 Alaska Hunting Regulations) effective October 9, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. The TX102 Kuzitrin River hunt area remains open at this time. The harvest quota for TX102 has been exceeded by recent illegal harvest and the hunting season is being closed to conserve the Seward Peninsula muskox population. No further hunting or harvest of this population is warranted in Unit 22D remainder.

Acting on a report, Alaska Wildlife Troopers confirmed that at least 7 muskoxen (2 bulls and 5 cows) from this population were shot and left near Brevig Mission during September 2012.

The 2012 spring Seward Peninsula muskoxen population survey documented a population-wide 23% decline since 2010. The subunit estimate for Unit 22D indicated a 28% decline during the same time period. This represents a large population reduction compared to the relatively stable population estimates between 2007 and 2010 that followed a long period of growth. In response to the decline in the population, a conservative harvest management strategy was adopted for Seward Peninsula muskox hunts to promote herd growth and rebuild depleted bull: cow ratios in the population.

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