

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 02-01-13

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska
July 2, 2013

Effective Date: 12:01 AM
July 3, 2013

Expiration Date: June 30, 2014
11:59 PM unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

In spring 1992 the Board of Game adopted a lynx tracking harvest strategy with framework trapping seasons of November 10–February 28 in Southcentral units. The Board delegated authority to the department to adjust season dates within this framework to track population cycles. In March 2005, the Board of Game determined that lynx hunting seasons but not bag limits would be included as part of the lynx tracking harvest strategy. In March 2009 the Board eliminated the tracking strategy in Unit 6 and established a permanent hunting and trapping season of Nov. 10 – Feb. 28.

This emergency order meets the lynx management needs for 2013–2014 by adjusting lynx hunting and trapping seasons for the Region II units managed under the lynx tracking harvest strategy.

Based on information collected during the past season, the following adjustments are made to the lynx hunting and trapping seasons. In Units 7 and 15, the hunting season will remain Nov. 10 - Jan. 31. and trapping will open from Jan. 1 – Jan. 31. In Unit 14C, the hunting season will be Dec. 1 – Jan. 31, and the trapping season Dec. 15 – Jan. 31.

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals** and **5 AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for lynx hunting and trapping:

Unit	Open Season	Bag limit
5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals		
(4) Lynx		
Units 7, and 15	Nov. 10–Jan. 31	2 lynx

Unit 14C	Dec. 1 – Jan. 31	2 lynx
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5AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping

(5) Lynx

Units 7 and 15	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31	No limit
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Unit 14C	Dec. 15 – Jan. 31	No limit
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All other lynx hunting and trapping regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Gino Del Frate
Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

Units 7 & 15: Kenai Peninsula

Observations and track counts indicate snowshoe hare populations have declined on the Kenai. The lynx population was very high during this cycle and is now declining across the Kenai Peninsula. Hare and lynx populations in these areas probably peaked during the winter of 2011-2012. The 2011–2012 harvest was a record high take of 466 with approximately 27% kittens. The 2012–2013 harvest declined with a preliminary take of 338 with only 19% kittens. We expect kitten production and survival to continue declining as the population moves toward the next cyclic low. Therefore, we will maintain the lynx hunting season from Nov. 10 – Jan. 31 and shorten the trapping season from Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 for 2013-2014.

Units 14C Anchorage and Chugach State Park

Observations by department staff and trappers indicated snowshoe hare and lynx populations are patchy but persist. Snowshoe hare populations peaked around 2000 to 2001 and again in 2011-2012 throughout most of Unit 14C. Lynx populations have followed similar patterns. Lynx trapping was closed and reopened for 1 month during the 2005–2006 season. It was increased to 6 weeks during the 2006–2007 season and maintained through the 2012–2013 season. We will continue with the lynx hunting season from Dec. 1 – Jan. 31 and the trapping season from Dec. 15 – Jan. 31 for 2013-2014.

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9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Regional Director, Anchorage
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10. U.S. Forest Service, Regional Forester, Juneau
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