

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 01-02-19

Issued at Sitka, Alaska
26 July, 2019

Effective Date: 31 July, 2019

Expiration Date: 30 June 2020
(unless superseded by subsequent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) South Baranof, (2) Necker Bay, on Baranof Island in Game Management Unit 4. This emergency order takes effect at 11:59 PM, July 31, 2019.

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Therefore, the provisions of **5 AAC 85.040, Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective: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, 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.	No open season (General hunt only)	No open season
Necker Bay – The peninsulas west of Small Arm Whale Bay/Creek, west of Benzeman Lake and southeast of Crawfish Inlet, but excluding Aspid Cape.		

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

...

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

Doug Vincent-Lang
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 the 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, affording hunters more opportunities and reducing 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 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 is providing more opportunity for hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access close.

Based on aerial surveys during 2017 and 2018, biologists documented mountain goat population levels in each of the hunt zones and assigned corresponding quotas. Zones closed by this emergency order could be over-utilized due to low population levels and accessibility.

Quotas in open zones could also be adjusted according to in-season surveys.

For more information on the Baranof Island mountain goat hunt strategy that began with the 2017 season, 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

DISTRIBUTION:

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 - Regional Supervisors
 - Management Coordination Team
 - Area Biologists (Statewide)
 - Regulatory Coordinator
 - Webmaster HQ, Juneau
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5. Division of Boards
 - Executive Director
 - Board of Game members
6. Division of Subsistence
 - Director
7. Advisory Committee Chair (Sitka)
8. Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers
 - Director
 - Detachment Commander, Juneau
 - Field offices: Hoonah, Sitka
9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Regional Director, Anchorage
10. Media Contacts: Juneau Empire, Capitol City Weekly, Sitka Sentinel, KCAW Radio, KIFW
11. Flight Service: Harris Air (Sitka)
12. Municipalities of: Angoon, Elfin Cove, Gustavus, Hoonah, Pelican, Port Alexander, Sitka, Tenakee Springs
13. Other Agencies:
 - USDA-FS Tongass NF – Ranger Districts: Hoonah, Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka
 - Admiralty National Monument, Juneau
 - Huna Totem Indian Association
 - Sitka Tribe of Alaska
 - Sealaska Native Corporation