Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order Alaska Department

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Emergency Order 05-12-20

Issued at Barrow, Alaska December 4, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.

December 4, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2020

unless superseded by subsequent

emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order opens hunting for muskoxen from December 4, 2020 to December 31, 2020 in a portion of Unit 26A in the vicinity of Point Lay. The hunt is open to residents only by registration permit and the bag limit is one (1) muskoxen per hunter with a total quota of 2 muskoxen. All other muskox seasons and bag limits in the remainder of Unit 26A are not affected by this Emergency Order.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 92.046, PERMITS FOR TAKING INCIDENTAL OR STRANDED MUSK OXEN, are being implemented in a portion of Unit 26A. Therefore, the following regulations in 5AAC 85.050(3), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSK OXEN, are superseded as follows:

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

Units and Bag Limits

(3)

In Game Management Unit 26A, state managed lands within 20 miles of Point Lay

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 muskoxen by registration permit only. The season will be closed when 2 muskoxen have been taken. December 4-December

31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season

All other muskox hunting regulations in Unit 26(A) remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang Commissioner

By delegation to:

Čarmen Daggett

North Slope Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In 5AAC 92.046, the Board of Game has authorized the Commissioner to open a season for muskoxen in Unit 26A and portions of Unit 24. The Board adopted this regulation based on testimony from local subsistence hunters that muskoxen have been observed to interfere with caribou movements, adversely affecting subsistence hunting for caribou. The Board of Game left it to the Commissioner to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether hunting of muskoxen should be used to prevent potential competition with caribou or interference with caribou hunting.

Residents have informed the Department that several muskoxen have recently moved into the Point Lay area. A portion of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and Teshekpuk Caribou Herd migrates through this pass during its annual migration. Residents in Point Lay rely on caribou harvested from this area and have testified that local hunters believe muskoxen would likely divert caribou from their normal migration path. The Department has determined that muskox hunting by permit may be allowed on state managed lands near Point Lay with a bag limit of one bull muskoxen per Alaskan resident hunter. The season will be closed December 31 or when two muskoxen are harvested.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copies are available from Department of Fish and Game offices in Barrow, Kotzebue and Nome.

1. Lieutenant Governor

2. Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison, Anchorage)

3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game

4. Division of Wildlife Conservation

Director

Deputy Director

Assistant Director

Regional Supervisors

Regulation Coordination Team

Area Offices Statewide

Information Management Section, Anchorage, Juneau

Web-page Manager, Juneau (electronic copy)

Public Information Centers, Anchorage, Fairbanks

5. Division of Boards

Boards Support Section, Executive Director

Field Offices: Kotzebue

6. Division of Subsistence

Assistant Director

Program Director, Fairbanks

Field Offices: Fairbanks, Kotzebue

7. Public Communications Section, Juneau

8. Department of Public Safety, Fish and Wildlife Protection

Director

Detachment Commander, Soldotna

Field Offices: Coldfoot, Kotzebue, Nome

9. U. S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management, State Director

Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field Office

Bureau of Land Management, Arctic Team: Fairbanks

Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Team: Fairbanks, Kotzebue

Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Director

Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Federal Subsistence Management

Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement, Fairbanks

Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Advisory Councils

North Slope, Chairman

National Park Service, Regional Director

National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

10. Clerk of the Court or Magistrate: Barrow

11. Regional Native Corporations /I.R.A. Councils/Traditional Village Councils/Other Gov't

Anaktuvuk Pass

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

Atgasuk

Northwest Arctic Borough, Lands Office

North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management

Point Lay, Native Village of

Wainwright, City of

12. News Media:

Statewide: APRN

Anchorage: Anchorage Daily News, KTUU
Barrow: KBRW Radio; Arctic Sounder
Fairbanks: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, KUAC
Kotzebue: KOTZ Radio, Arctic Sounder