

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 02-01-11

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska
June 30, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 AM
July 1, 2011

Expiration Date: June 30, 2012
11:59 PM unless superseded by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 2011–2012 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 – Feb. 15. 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**5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals** and **5 AAC 84.270(5), Fur bearer trapping**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for lynx hunting and trapping: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 – Feb. 15	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 and lynx populations are relatively widely distributed and are at high levels across the Kenai Peninsula. Hare and lynx populations in these areas reached a population peak in 1998–1999, when lynx harvest reached 151. Lynx trapping on the Kenai Peninsula was reopened for the 2008–2009 season after being closed since 2002–2003.

These preliminary results indicate the lynx population may be at its cyclic peak. We should expect kitten production and survival to begin declining during the next 1-2 years. We also should expect relatively high lynx numbers to continue for another 1-2 years after the peak before the population moves toward the next cyclic low. Therefore, we recommend maintaining the lynx hunting season at Nov. 10 – Jan. 31 and maintaining the trapping season at Jan. 1 – Feb. 15 for 2010-2011.

Units 14C Anchorage and Chugach State Park

Snowshoe hare populations seem to have peaked around 2000 to 2001 throughout most of Unit 14. Lynx populations peaked during the 2001–2002 trapping season when harvest peaked at 5 lynx. Following the decline from this peak, lynx trapping was closed and reopened for 1 month during the 2005–2006 season. It was increased again to 6 weeks during the 2006–2007 season and maintained through the 2010–2011 season.

This unit does not have extensive habitat or refugia for lynx and has a relatively high proportion of short-term or short-line trappers. Observations by department staff and trappers indicated snowshoe hare and lynx populations are still patchy but continue to increase. Therefore, we recommend maintaining the lynx hunting season at Dec. 1 – Jan. 31 and maintaining the trapping season at Dec. 15 – Jan. 31 for 2011-2012.

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 - Regional Director, Anchorage
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10. U.S. Forest Service, Regional Forester, Juneau
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