

# Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

**Emergency Order No.** 02-02-14

**Issued at:** Anchorage, Alaska  
July 8, 2014

**Effective Date:** 12:01 AM  
July 9, 2014

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2015  
11:59 PM unless superseded by  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 2014–2015 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 lynx hunting and trapping seasons will be closed on the Kenai Peninsula (GMUs 7 and 15) and in the Anchorage Area (GMU 14C).

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**5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals** and **5 AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for lynx hunting and trapping:

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Open Season</b>	<b>Bag limit</b>
<b>5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals</b>		
(4) Lynx		
Units 7 and 15	No open Season	

Unit 14C No open season

**5AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping**

(5) Lynx

Units 7 and 15 No open season

Unit 14C No open season

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 now declined on the Kenai. Hare and lynx populations in these areas were very high and probably peaked during the winter of 2011-2012. The 2011–2012 harvest was a record high take of 456 with approximately 27% kittens. The 2012–2013 harvest was almost as high with 433 lynx taken. As expected the 2013-14 harvest was low with only 118 reported and 20 % kittens. We expect kitten production and survival to continue declining and remain low as the population moves through the next cyclic low. Therefore, the lynx hunting and trapping seasons will close and likely not reopen until we see a cyclic upturn.

**Units 14C Anchorage and Chugach State Park**

Observations by department staff and trappers indicated snowshoe hare and lynx populations are patchy. Snowshoe hare populations peaked around 2000 to 2001 and again in 2011-2012 throughout most of Unit 14C. Lynx populations have followed similar patterns. Only 6 lynx were harvested this past year and all were adults. Therefore, the lynx hunting and trapping seasons will also close and likely not reopen until we see a cyclic upturn

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