

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 02-01-19

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska
July 9, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 AM
July 1, 2019

Expiration Date: June 30, 2020
at 11:59 p.m. unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

In spring 1992, the Alaska Board of Game adopted a lynx tracking harvest strategy in Southcentral game management units with framework trapping seasons of November 10 through the last day of February. The board delegated authority to the department to adjust season dates within this framework to track population cycles. In March 2005, the board determined 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 November 10 through the last day of February.

This emergency order meets the lynx management needs for 2019–2020 by adjusting lynx hunting and trapping seasons for the Region 2 units managed under the lynx tracking harvest strategy.

Based on information collected during the past season, the lynx hunting season will be open from January 1 through February 15 in Units 7 and 15, but remains closed in Unit 14C. The lynx trapping season will remain closed on the Kenai Peninsula (Units 7 and 15) and in the Anchorage Area (Unit 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in **5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals** and **5 AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for lynx hunting and trapping:

Unit	Open Season	Bag limit
5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals		

(4) Lynx

Units 7 and 15 Jan. 1– Feb. 15
 Unit 14C No open season

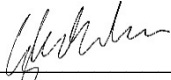
5AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping

(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.

Doug Vincent-Lang
 Commissioner

By delegation to: 
 Cynthia Wardlow
 Regional Supervisor

JUSTIFICATION:

Units 7 and 15: Kenai Peninsula

Observations and track counts indicate snowshoe hare populations are starting to increase on the Kenai Peninsula, but not to the level that would justify opening a lynx trapping season this year. As a measure of evaluation, a limited hunting season has been allowed on the Kenai Peninsula since RY15, following a closure to both hunting and trapping seasons during the 2014–15 regulatory year. Kitten production and survival is expected to increase during RY19 as the hare population is starting to increase, but lynx trapping seasons will remain closed for RY19 with the potential to reopen in RY20.

Units 14C Anchorage and Chugach State Park

Snowshoe hare populations peaked throughout most of Unit 14C around 2000 to 2001 and again in 2011–2012. Lynx populations have followed similar patterns. Only six lynx were harvested in 2013–2014 and all were adults. Lynx season was closed to both hunting and trapping from RY14–RY18 due to low population estimates. Observations indicate that both snowshoe hare and lynx populations are beginning to increase, however hunting and trapping seasons for lynx will remain closed for RY19.

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