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PRESS RELEASE

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Baranof Island Mt. Goat Hunting New Management Strategy Implemented

(Sitka) – A new management strategy for mountain goats on Baranof Island begins with the fall 2017 season. Managers have developed 34 small hunt zones. Dividing Baranof Island into more zones allows biologists to manage at the subpopulation level, afford hunters more opportunity, and reduces risk of localized overharvest. Under the previous management strategy, quotas in a larger zone could be reached after several goats were taken from a small area around a single access point. That resulted in the entire large zone closing while additional harvest opportunity might remain in more remote portions of that zone. This new strategy should provide more opportunity for hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access close.

Emergency Order 01-01-17 was issued to close the mt. goat season in 13 of 34 zones on Monday, July 31, 2017 @ 11:59 pm.

Zones closed by this emergency order lack enough goats to support a sustainable harvest as determined by surveys in 2015 and 2016. Any harvest in these zones could have long term negative impacts on the health of these subpopulations.

Those portions of Unit 4 not affected by this emergency order will remain open until harvest quotas are reached or the season concludes.

For zone maps, quotas, FAQ's and other information please contact the Sitka area office at (907) 747-5449.

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