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PRESS RELEASE

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Baranof Island Mt. Goat Hunting

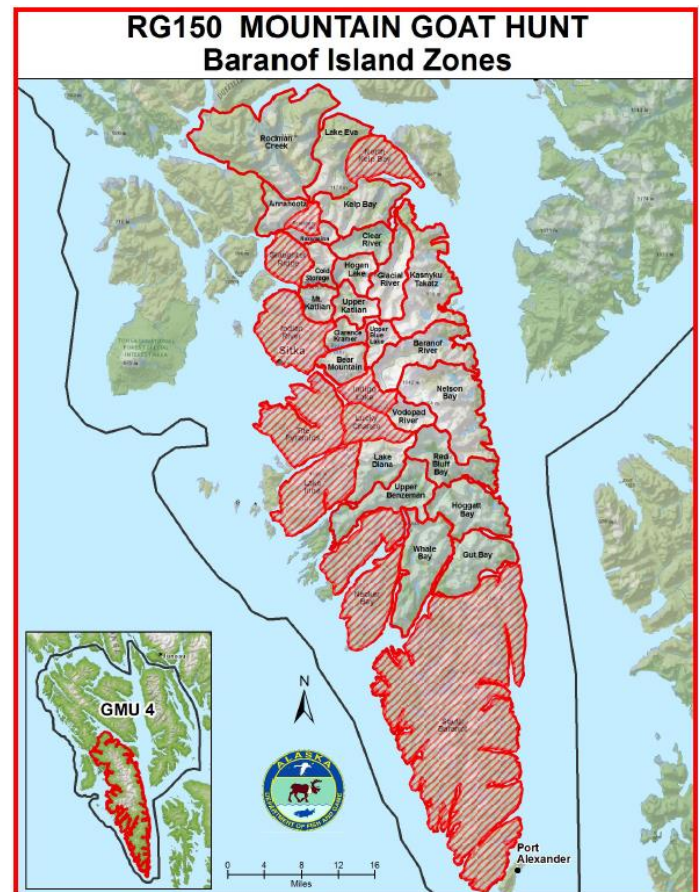
(Sitka) – The Unit 4 2018 mountain goat season begins August 1st. A new management strategy for mountain goats on Baranof Island was initiated for 2017 and will continue this season. Managers developed 34 small hunt zones, which allowed biologists to manage at the subpopulation level, reducing the risk of localized overharvest and providing more opportunity to hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access closed.

Emergency Order 01-01-18 was issued to close the mt. goat season in 10 of 34 zones on Monday, July 31, 2018 @ 11:59 pm.

Zones closed by this emergency order lack enough goats to support a sustainable harvest as determined by surveys in 2016 and 2017. 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.

New this season, ADF&G is requesting hunters bring in the entire head (caped or not) of their harvested goat so staff can collect nasal mucosa swabs as part of a statewide surveillance plan in light of recent detection of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) in Alaskan ungulates. Movi is a bacteria that can lead to respiratory disease and is linked to large scale die-offs of bighorn sheep in the lower 48.



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

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