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## **ADVISORY ANNOUNCEMENT**

*For Immediate Release: July 16, 2020*

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### **Lynx Hunting and Trapping Seasons Will Open in Unit 14C and on the Kenai Peninsula For 2020-2021 Season**

(SOLDOTNA) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces the opening of lynx hunting and trapping seasons in Game Management Unit 14C and the opening of the lynx trapping season in Units 7 and 15 for the 2020-2021 regulatory year. Lynx hunting and trapping had been closed in Unit 14C since 2014 due to low population estimates. A lynx hunting season on the Kenai Peninsula (Units 7 and 15) has been open since the winter of 2015, however trapping in these units had been closed since 2014.

Based on information collected during the past season, the lynx trapping season will open January 1 through February 15 in Units 7, 14C, and 15, with no bag limit. In Unit 14C, lynx hunting season is scheduled to open November 10 through February 28 with a bag limit of two lynx. The lynx hunting season will open in Units 7 and 15 with season dates of January 1– February 15, also with a bag limit of 2 lynx.

Lynx seasons in Units 7, 14C, and 15 are managed using a harvest tracking strategy. When snowshoe hare populations (the major food source for lynx) are low, hunting and/or trapping seasons are closed. As snowshoe hare populations increase, so do lynx numbers and harvest is allowed. Snowshoe hare populations eventually peak and then decline. Lynx populations follow a similar pattern, lagging behind by a few years. Currently, the hare cycle is at a point that justifies both lynx hunting and trapping opportunities in these units.

This emergency order applies to all lands (state, federal, and private) currently open to hunting or trapping in Units 7, 14C, and 15.

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