In spring 1992, the Alaska Board of Game adopted a lynx harvest tracking 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 2021–2022 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 trapping season will open January 1 through February 15 in Units 7, 14C, and 15 with no limit. The lynx hunting season will be open from January 1 through February 15 in Units 7 and 15, and November 10 through February 28 in Unit 14C, with a hunting bag limit of 2 lynx.

Therefore, the following regulations in 5 AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping, and 5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for lynx hunting and trapping:
2

Unit Open Season Bag limit

5AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping

(5) Lynx

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

5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals

(4) Lynx

Units 7 and 15 Jan. 1 – Feb. 15 2 lynx
Unit 14C Nov. 10 – Feb. 28 2 lynx

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 and lynx populations have increased on the Kenai Peninsula to a level that justifies opening a lynx trapping season this year in Units 7 and 15 and to open lynx hunting and trapping seasons. Kitten production and survival is expected to continue to increase during RY21 as the hare population increases.

Units 14C Anchorage and Chugach State Park
Snowshoe hare populations peaked throughout most of Unit 14C around 2000 to 2001, again in 2011–2012, and are currently at or approaching another peak. Lynx populations have followed similar patterns. Lynx season was closed to both hunting and trapping from RY14–RY19 due to low population estimates. Observations indicated that both snowshoe hare and lynx populations had increased to a level that would support hunting and trapping seasons for lynx during RY20, so both hunting and trapping seasons were opened, and will remain open in RY21.
DISTRIBUTION:

This emergency order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from Department of Fish & Game offices in Anchorage, Palmer, Soldotna, Homer, and Fairbanks.

1. The Honorable Lieutenant Governor
2. Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison) Anchorage
3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
4. Division of Wildlife Conservation
   Director
   Deputy Director
   Regional Supervisors
   Region II Area Biologists
   State-Federal Regulations Coordinator
   Webmaster
5. Division of Boards Executive Director
   Board of Game members
6. Division of Subsistence
   Director
7. Public Communications Nancy Long, ADF&G, Juneau
8. Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
   Director
   Detachment Commanders (Kenai, Palmer)
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9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
   Regional Director, Anchorage
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   Kenai National Refuge Manager
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12. Local Magistrates
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