Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. R2-4-24

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska August 23, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 AM

August 26, 2024

Expiration Date: June 30, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. unless superseded by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

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 2024–2025 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 and 15 with no bag limit. The lynx hunting season will be open from January 1 through February 15 in Units 7 and 15 with a bag limit of two 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84.270(5)**, **Furbearer trapping**, and **5 AAC 85.060(4)**, **Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals** are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for lynx hunting and trapping:

Unit Open Season Bag limit

5AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping

(5) Lynx

Units 7 and 15

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

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 sealing records indicate lynx populations have increased on the Kenai Peninsula to a level that justifies continued opening of lynx trapping and hunting season this year in Units 7 and 15. Kitten production and survival is expected to continue to increase during RY24 as the hare population increases.

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.

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- 2. Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison) Anchorage
- 3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
- 4. Division of Wildlife Conservation

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Deputy Director

Regional Supervisors

Region II Area Biologists

State-Federal Regulations Coordinator

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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

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Detachment Commanders (Kenai, Palmer)

Field Offices

9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Regional Director, Anchorage

Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage

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- 10. U.S. Forest Service, Regional Forester, Juneau
- 11. U.S. National Park Service, Regional Director, Anchorage
- 12. Local Magistrates
- 13. Advisory Committee Chairs
- 14. Trapper Organizations