

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order

Issued at Utqiagvik, Alaska
August 29, 2025

Effective Date: 12:00 p.m.
August 29, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. October 31, 2025
unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order opens hunting for muskoxen from August 29, 2025, to October 31, 2025, in portions of Units 24B and 26A in the vicinity of Anaktuvuk Pass. The hunt is open to residents only by registration permit and the bag limit is one (1) bull muskox per hunter with a total quota of up to 2 bulls. All other muskox seasons and bag limits in the remainder of Units 24B and 26A are not affected by this Emergency Order.

REGULATION:

The provisions of **5 AAC 92.046, PERMITS FOR TAKING INCIDENTAL OR STRANDED MUSKOXEN**, are being implemented in portions of Units 24B and 26A. Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.050(3), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSKOXEN**, are superseded as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident | Nonresident |
|----------------------|---|-------------|
| | Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Open Season |

(3)

In Game Management Unit 24(B), state managed lands within 20 miles of Anaktuvuk Pass, and that portion of Unit 26(A) within 20 miles of Anaktuvuk Pass.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull musk ox by registration permit only. The season will be closed when up to 2 bull musk oxen have been taken.

Aug. 29-Oct 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season

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All other muskox hunting regulations in Units 24B and 26A remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carmen Daggett
GMU 26A Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In 5AAC 92.046, the Board of Game authorized the Commissioner to open a season for muskoxen in portions of Unit 24 and 26A. The Board adopted this regulation based on testimony from local subsistence hunters that muskoxen have been observed to interfere with caribou movements, adversely affecting subsistence hunting for caribou. The Board of Game left it to the Commissioner to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether hunting of muskoxen should be used to prevent potential competition with caribou or interference with caribou hunting.

The Commissioner has determined that a bull muskox has recently moved into the Anaktuvuk Pass Area. A portion of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and Teshekpuk Caribou Herd migrate through this pass during its annual migration. Residents in the village of Anaktuvuk Pass rely on caribou harvested from this area and have testified that local hunters believe muskoxen would likely divert caribou from their normal migration path. Accordingly, the Commissioner has determined that muskox hunting by permit should be allowed on state managed lands within 20 miles of Anaktuvuk Pass with a bag limit of one bull muskoxen per Alaskan resident hunter. The season will be closed when up to two bull muskoxen are taken.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copies are available from Department of Fish and Game offices in Barrow, Kotzebue and Nome.

1. 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
 - Assistant Director
 - Regional Supervisors
 - Regulation Coordination Team
 - Area Offices Statewide
 - Information Management Section, Anchorage, Juneau
 - Web-page Manager, Juneau (electronic copy)
 - Public Information Centers, Anchorage, Fairbanks
5. Division of Boards
 - Boards Support Section, Executive Director
 - Field Offices: Kotzebue
6. Division of Subsistence
 - Assistant Director
 - Program Director, Fairbanks
 - Field Offices: Fairbanks, Kotzebue
7. Public Communications Section, Juneau
8. Department of Public Safety, Fish and Wildlife Protection
 - Director
 - Detachment Commander, Soldotna
 - Field Offices: Coldfoot, Kotzebue, Nome
9. U. S. Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Land Management, State Director
 - Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field Office
 - Bureau of Land Management, Arctic Team: Fairbanks
 - Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Team: Fairbanks, Kotzebue
 - Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Director
 - Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Federal Subsistence Management
 - Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement, Fairbanks
 - Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Advisory Councils
 - North Slope, Chairman
 - National Park Service, Regional Director
 - National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
10. Clerk of the Court or Magistrate: Barrow
11. Regional Native Corporations /I.R.A. Councils/Traditional Village Councils/Other Gov't
 - Anaktuvuk Pass
 - Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
 - Atkasuk
 - Northwest Arctic Borough, Lands Office
 - North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management
 - Point Lay, Native Village of
 - Wainwright, City of

12. News Media:

Statewide: APRN

Anchorage: Anchorage Daily News, KTUU

Barrow: KBRW Radio; Arctic Sounder

Fairbanks: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, KUAC

Kotzebue: KOTZ Radio, Arctic Sounder

NEWS For Immediate Release NEWS**Limited hunt for muskoxen in GMU 26A & 24B near Anaktuvuk
opened by emergency order by the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency opening of a Muskox hunting season in the portion of Game Management Units 24B and 26A near Anaktuvuk Pass. This Emergency Order is authorized under a special provision authorized by the Alaska Board of Game. The season will be open to resident hunters by permit only from August 29, 2025 until October 31, 2025. The bag limit is 1 bull muskox per hunter. All hunters must have a valid state hunting license and a registration permit. Permits will be issued in Anaktuvuk Pass beginning August 29th. The season will be closed on October 31, 2025, or when up to 2 bull muskoxen in this area have been harvested.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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