

HUNTING-TRAPPING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. R1-2-26

Issued at Douglas, Alaska
July 31, 2026

Effective Date: July 31st, 2026

Expiration Date: 30 June 2026 (unless
superseded by a subsequent emergency
order)

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the state of Alaska resident and nonresident mountain goat hunting season for that portion of Unit 5 on the west shore of Harlequin Lake and the western edge of the Yakutat Glacier; then west of Harlequin Lake and Yakutat Glacier to Yakutat Bay and Disenchantment Bay; and south of Russell and Nunatak Fjords. Hunters are reminded that the Nunatak Bench north of the RG170 boundary remains closed to mountain goat hunting as well. This order takes effect at 11:59 pm, Friday, July 31, 2026.

REGULATORY TEXT:

Therefore, the provisions of 5 AAC 85.040, HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting mountain goats in Unit 5(A):

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

(1)

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Unit 5(A), that portion bounded on the west shore of Harlequin Lake and the western edge of the Yakutat Glacier; then west of Harlequin Lake and Yakutat Glacier to Yakutat Bay and Disenchantment Bay; and south of Russell and Nunatak Fjords

No Open Season
(General hunt only)

No Open Season

1 goat by registration permit only,
the taking of nannies with kids is
prohibited

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The remainder of Unit 5(A) mountain goat seasons, other than those previously closed by emergency order, are not affected by this emergency order.

Douglas Vincent-Lang

Commissioner

By delegation to:

Carl Koch

Area Management Biologist



JUSTIFICATION:

Aerial surveys conducted during 2006-2011 in this area indicate a significant decline in goat numbers. The following are survey results by year: 2006 (122 goats), 2007 (66 goats), 2008 (57 goats), 2009 (48 goats), 2010 (12 goats), and 2011 (38 goats) observed between Harlequin Lake and the Hubbard Glacier. The department and the US Forest Service conducted a survey September 2016 and observed 19 total goats (16 adults, 3 kids) and August 2019 observed 46 goats (39 adults and 7 kids) were observed using fixed-wing aircraft. On September 23, 2025, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe conducted an aerial survey using an A-Star helicopter and counted 75 goats (66 adults, 9 kids; 12% kids), but those observations are not directly comparable to past fixed-wing surveys and may not indicate a change in the population trend. More data is needed to ensure the population has recovered and that harvest would be sustainable over time. Harvest of goats in this area could hinder recovery of this population. Due to the vulnerability of goats in the area, an emergency order (R1-2-26) has been issued closing the season on Friday, July 31, 2026 at 11:59 P.M.