

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order 05-03-26

Issued at Nome, Alaska July 1, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 am July 1, 2026

Expiration Date: June 30, 2027

EXPLANATION

This Emergency Order closes caribou hunting in that portion of 22B west of the Golovnin Bay; west of the west banks of Fish and Niukluk rivers below the Libby River (excluding the Libby River drainage and Niukluk River above the mouth of the Libby River); and in that portion of 22D in the Pilgrim River Drainage for residents and nonresidents. This change is due to the active reindeer herding operation occurring in these areas and subsequent presence of reindeer in areas currently open to caribou hunting under the RC800 permit for residents and harvest ticket for nonresidents. Caribou have not been documented in these portions of Unit 22B and Unit 22D areas since 2015.

All other caribou hunting regulations remain unchanged in Unit 22.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.025 (a) (17), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, are superseded by this emergency order and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou populations in those portions of Unit 22B and Unit 22D:

Units and Bag Limits

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

(17) ...

Unit 22(B), that portion west of Golovnin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

15 bulls total, up to 5 per day, No open season.
by registration permit only

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull No open season.

Unit 22(D), that portion in the
Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS

15 bulls total, up to 5 per day, No open season.
by registration permit only

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull No open season.

...

All other caribou hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: Sara Henslee
Sara Henslee
Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION

The Alaska Board of Game (BOG) established the resident RC800 caribou hunting permit in Regulatory Year (RY) 2016 to allow for caribou hunting in Unit 22 while also preventing hunting in areas where active reindeer herding operations occur. These areas are noted in the regulations as “May Be Announced” seasons for residents under the RC800 permit and nonresidents hunting under the general season harvest ticket (HT) to allow the Department to open these areas to caribou hunting by Emergency Order if caribou are observed in active reindeer ranges to minimize conflicts with the Seward Peninsula reindeer herding.

Caribou from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH) have not been documented in these two portions of Unit 22 since 2015. If caribou are later confirmed to be in the area, the Department could open the hunting season for residents and nonresidents at that time.

Because caribou are not present in the western portions of Units 22B and 22D identified in this emergency order, hunting is being restricted to prevent the harvest of reindeer that may be mistakenly identified as caribou. If caribou were to enter areas of active reindeer herding, hunting seasons will be opened by the Department to provide caribou harvest opportunity; however, hunters are cautioned to identify their targets carefully to avoid the take of reindeer which are herders’ private property. Reindeer are private property and are not subject to harvest

as game animals managed by the department. If reindeer are accidentally harvested, hunters should contact the local herder.

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