

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order R5-4-26

Issued at Bethel, Alaska
July 21, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
July 22, 2026

Expiration Date: June 30, 2027

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order opens hunting for muskoxen from July 22, 2026 to December 1, 2026 on Paamiut Island to the southeast of Nunivak Island, located at 59° 53' 07.59 N, 165° 42' 28.40 W in GMU 18. The hunt is open to residents by registration permit only and one muskox per hunter may be taken. All other muskox seasons and bag limits in GMU18 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 a portion of Unit 18. Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.050 (a) (1), HUNTING SEASON AND BAGLIMITS FOR MUSKOXEN, ARE SUPERSEDED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

(2)
Unit 18, Island located at
59° 53' 07.59 N, 165° 42' 28.40

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 muskox by registration
permit only

July 22-Dec. 1

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season

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All other muskox hunting regulations in Unit 18 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Patrick Jones
Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In 5 AAC 92.046, the Board of Game has authorized the Commissioner to open a season for muskoxen if they are stranded on an island and the Commissioner determines that there are inadequate food and water resources for survival, and after all reasonable effort has been made to remove them by non-lethal means.

Reports of at least 5 muskox stranded on an unnamed island (locally known as Paamiut Island) located to the south of Nunivak Island, approximately 15 acres in size located less than a mile south of Nunivak Island, were received on July 15, 2026. There are no sources of fresh water and forage is limited on the island. Long term survival of these muskox is unlikely. Non-lethal removal is impractical due to cost.

Permits for Unit 18 islands located to the south of Nunivak Island will be issued to resident hunters online only beginning 9am, July 22, 2026.

DISTRIBUTION:

This Emergency Order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Bethel.

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, Douglas, Juneau
 - Public Communication/Information, Anchorage, Fairbanks

- Federal Subsistence Liaison
- 5. Division of Boards
 - Boards Support Section, Executive Director
 - Field Offices: Dillingham, Kotzebue
 - Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Chair
 - Unit 18 AC, Central Bering Sea
 - Unit 18 AC, Lower Kuskokwim
 - Unit 18 AC, Lower Yukon
- 6. Division of Subsistence
 - Assistant Director
 - Program Director, Fairbanks
 - Field Offices: Fairbanks
- 7. Public Communications Section, Juneau
- 8. Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
 - Director
 - Detachment Commander
 - C Detachment, Western
 - D Detachment, Northern
 - Field Offices:
 - Unit 18: Aniak, Bethel, Dillingham, McGrath, St. Mary's
- 9. U. S. Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - BLM, State Director
 - BLM, Anchorage District
 - Unit 18/22 Anchorage, Mgr.
 - Unit 18/22 Anchorage, Subsistence
 - Unit 18/22 Anchorage, Wildlife
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - FWS, Regional Director
 - FWS, Office of Federal Subsistence Management
 - FWS, OSM Regional Advisory Councils, Coordinators
 - FWS RAC Unit 18, Yukon-Kuskokwim
 - FWS, Refuges
 - FWS, Togiak NWR, Refuge Mgr.
 - FWS, Yukon Delta NWR, Refuge Mgr.
 - FWS, Law Enforcement, Bethel
 - National Park Service
 - NPS, Regional Director
 - NPS, Subsistence
 - NPS, Park Unit, Superintendent
 - Bering Landbridge, Nome
 - Gates of the Arctic, Fairbanks
 - Western Parklands, Kotzebue
- 10. Clerk of the Court or Magistrate
 - Unit 18: Aniak, Bethel, Chevak, Emmonak, St. Mary's
- 11. I.R.A./Traditional Village Councils/Regional Native Corporations
 - Unit 18:
 - Association of Village Council Presidents
 - Calista

Akiachak	Andreafsky	Bethel
Akiak	Aniak	Chefornak
Alakanuk	Atmautluak	Eek

Emmonak
Goodnews Bay
Hooper Bay
Kalskag, Lower
Kalskag, Upper
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok

Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mountain Village
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Oscarville
Pilot Station

Pitka's Point
Platinum
Quinhagak
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Toksook Bay
Tuluksak
Tuntutuliak
Tununak

12. Statewide Media