

98-124-508
FINDING OF EMERGENCY

The Alaska Board of Game finds that an emergency exists and the attached regulations are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency include the following:

Low salmon runs in the Yukon River have resulted in food shortages and imminent widespread threats to health and safety to individuals and communities throughout the disaster area. The board has received information that hunters in the communities in a portion of Unit 18, west of but not including the Andreafsky River drainage and north and west of a line from Mountain Village to Kuzilavak Mountain and then to Cape Romanzoff, need to begin hunting as quickly as possible in order to ensure affected villages of adequate supplies of meat given current shortages of fish and uncertain weather conditions. At this time the department is assessing the 1998 fall chum salmon run as very low in abundance and late in timing. The chinook and summer chum salmon runs were also late and low in numbers. All species of salmon arriving in the river have shown signs of stress, such as low weight, small size, parasites and fungus. Restrictions in subsistence fishing time were recently implemented in this area, and emergency food drops have occurred under the governor's declaration of a disaster emergency.


Providing traditional alternatives to local wild food scarcity is preferred in responding to the disaster emergency. Moose harvest necessary to cope with the disaster emergency is within sustained yield guidelines for the harvestable surplus of the relevant moose populations. The moose population along the lower Yukon River has been increasing during the past several years. The department does not believe that opening the season four days earlier than in the past will have any noticeable effect on the moose population and will likely not result in a marked increase in the number of bull moose harvested during the 1998-99 season. The department will continue to monitor the hunts in accordance with its sustained yield obligations.

ADOPTION ORDER

Under the authority of AS 16.05.255, AS 16.05.258, and under a delegation of authority from the Board of Game under AS 16.05.270, the attached regulations are therefore adopted as emergency regulations to take effect immediately as provided in AS 44.62.180 (3).

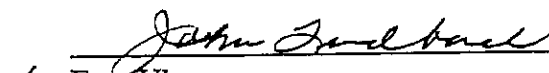
This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: 8.31.98
Juneau, Alaska


Robert Bosworth, Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

FILING CERTIFICATION

John Lindback, for
I, Fran Ulmer, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on Aug. 31, 1998, at 4:50 p.m., I filed the attached regulations according to the provisions of AS 44.62.


for Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor

Effective August 31, 1998
Register 14th October 1998

Expires December 28, 1998
unless made "permanent"
by the adopting agency.