

HUNTING-TRAPPING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 01-22-20

Issued at Juneau, Alaska

Effective Date: 6 November, 2020

Expiration Date: 30 June 2021
(unless superseded by a subsequent
emergency order)

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the state resident and nonresident wolf trapping and hunting seasons in Game Management Unit 2. This order is effective at 11:59 PM, 5 December, 2020.

REGULATORY TEXT:

Therefore, the provisions of 5 AAC 84.270 (13), TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF and of 5 AAC 85.045, HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for trapping and hunting wolves in Unit 2:

Unit and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 2		
No limit wolves per regulatory year by trapping only:	Nov. 15-Dec. 5	Nov. 15-Dec. 5
5 wolves per regulatory year by hunting only;	Dec. 1-5	Dec. 1-5
.....		

All other hunting and trapping regulations in Unit 2 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Tom Schumacher
Regional Supervisor

JUSTIFICATION:

Through the Board of Game process in January 2019, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) changed the harvest management strategy for wolves in Game Management Unit 2 (Unit) from one based on a harvest objective to one based on a population objective. ADF&G worked with the Forest Service, Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Alaska Board of Game, the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, and trappers to develop this new strategy that provides trappers with the flexibility and responsibility they desired while sustainably managing harvest of this wolf population. The Alaska Board of Game adopted a Unit 2 fall population objective range of 150 to 200 wolves. ADF&G's fall 2019 estimate of the Unit 2 wolf population is 316 wolves with a plausible range of 215–398. This is the most recent population estimate.

Trapping effort during fall 2019 was much higher than anticipated and resulted in an unsustainable level of harvest. The reported fall 2019 harvest of 165 wolves from a population estimated at 316 wolves results in a harvest rate >50%. We believe this high harvest resulted from much greater trapping effort than has been typical in recent years. The maximum sustainable harvest rate for a productive wolf population is generally considered to be about 30%. However, a single year of high harvest did not threaten the long-term viability of this population. Fall 2020 harvest management will focus on preventing overharvest through a shortened season. We also ask trappers to promptly seal wolves as they are harvested and report the date (dd/mm/yyyy) and location of harvest for each wolf as accurately as possible. More precise information on date and location of harvest can improve the precision of ADF&G's population estimates.

To ensure harvest during the fall 2020 hunting and trapping seasons remains sustainable and the population remains within the objective range, ADF&G will limit state wolf trapping season in Unit 2 to 21 days. The state trapping season will open on November 15, 2020, and close on December 5, 2020. The state Unit 2 wolf hunting season opens on December 1, 2020 and closes December 5, 2020. Hunters and trappers are reminded that the goal of this Unit 2 wolf harvest management strategy is to maintain the estimated fall wolf population within the range of 150-200 wolves as established by the Alaska Board of Game.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of this emergency order is to the attached listing. Copies are available from Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices in Juneau, Douglas, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Sitka, Yakutat, Haines, Anchorage, Nome, and Fairbanks.

Lieutenant Governor's Office
Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison)
Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
 Director
 Deputy Director
 Assistant Director
 Regional Supervisors
 Region 1 Area Biologists
 Region 1 Wildlife Conservation Program Technicians
 Marie Lam, HQ, Juneau
 Webmaster HQ, Juneau
Section of Boards
 Director
Division of Subsistence
 Southeast Alaska Subsistence Resource Specialist
Fish and Game Advisory Committee Chairpersons
 Craig
 East Prince of Wales
 Petersburg
 Ketchikan

Sitka

Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection

Director

Ketchikan Field Office

Prince of Wales Field Office

Petersburg Field Office

Sitka Field Office

U.S. Forest Service

Craig Ranger District

Thorne Bay Ranger District

Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Law enforcement

Native Corporations

Sealaska, Assistant Lands Manager

Municipal

City of Craig

City of Hydaburg

City of Wrangel

Craig City Clerk

Ketchikan City Clerk

Ketchikan Mayor

Klawock City Clerk

Thorne Bay City Clerk

Ketchikan Daily News

KCAW Radio, Sitka

KRBD Radio, Ketchikan

KSTK Radio, Wrangell

KFSK Radio, Petersburg

KFMJ Radio, Ketchikan

Petersburg Pilot, Petersburg

Sitka Sentinel, Sitka

SitNews website, Ketchikan

Prince of Wales License Vendors