

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-02-21

Issued at: Glennallen, Alaska
January 8, 2021

Effective Date: 12:00 a.m.
Monday, January 11, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
June 30, 2021 unless
superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order changes the season closure date for the draw hunt for the Nelchina caribou herd (DC485). Winter harvest for Nelchina hunts is approaching the winter quota for harvestable surplus. Subsistence hunts for the Nelchina caribou herd (RC561, RC562, CC001) are not affected by this change.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the provisions of **5AAC 85.025 (a)(8)(B), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(8) (B)		
Unit 13		
1 caribou per harvest report per regulatory year by community harvest permit only; up to 400 caribou may be taken; or	Aug. 10–Sept. 30 (Subsistence Hunt only) Oct. 21–March 31 (Subsistence Hunt only)	No open season
1 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 31 (Subsistence Hunt only) Sept. 21–Sept. 30 (Subsistence Hunt only)	No open season

	Oct. 21–March 31 (Subsistence Hunt only)	
1 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (Subsistence Hunt only) Oct. 21–Mar. 31 (Subsistence Hunt only)	No open season
1 caribou every regulatory year by youth hunt drawing permit; up to 200 permits may be issued; or	Aug. 1–Aug. 5 Sept. 21–Sept. 30	No open season
1 caribou every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 5,000 permits may be issued; or	Aug. 20–Sept. 30 <u>Oct. 21–January 10</u>	No open season
1 bull every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 200 permits may be issued when the herd is at or above population objectives;		Aug. 20–Sept. 30

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All other caribou hunting regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Heidi Hatcher
Glennallen Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

To maintain the herd within the population objective of 35,000–40,000 Nelchina caribou, harvest quotas are modified annually based on the harvestable surplus of the herd. For regulatory year 2020/21, more than 3,800 animals were available for state harvest from the Nelchina herd and more than 400 animals were expected to be harvested in federal hunts. During the fall hunting season, the herd remained scattered and difficult to access which resulted in lower than typical harvest rates. The state fall seasons for all Unit 13 caribou hunts were extended providing additional opportunity from September 21–30. Less than 2,500 caribou were harvested during the fall hunts.

Fall composition surveys indicated that calf survival in the spring/early summer was low in the 2020 season. Low calf numbers reduced the fall population estimate to the lower end of the population objectives, but a surplus of adult caribou remained in the herd. As planned, subsistence hunts and DC485 reopened on October 21st with an overall winter quota of 1,100 caribou for state harvest. Harvest is quickly approaching the winter quota. The draw hunt DC485 will need to close to allow subsistence hunts to harvest the remaining quota.

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