

HUNTING-TRAPPING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. R1-14-23

Issued at Douglas, Alaska
October 17, 2023

Effective Date: October 18, 2023

Expiration Date: 30 June 2024
(unless superseded by a subsequent
emergency order)

EXPLANATION:


This emergency order (R1-14-23) closes the resident and nonresident RB050 Brown bear hunting seasons in Unit 1D. This order takes effect at **11:59 pm, Wednesday, October 18, 2023**. As of October 17, 2023, a total of three brown bears have been harvested (one male and one female in the spring season, and one male in the fall season). Four additional bears (one female, one cub, one male, and one unconfirmed sex) were killed in defense of life and property along with one illegally harvested male for a total mortality of eight bears. Because the total mortality has reached eight brown bears (including at least two females) and due to the vulnerability of brown bears in this area to overharvest, this emergency order is being issued.

REGULATORY TEXT:

Therefore, the provisions of 5 AAC 85.020, HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting brown bear in Unit 1(D):

Unit and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) ...		
All of Unit 1(D)	Sept. 15–Oct.18 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct. 18
1 brown bear by registration permit.		

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Carl H Koch
Wildlife Biologist II

JUSTIFICATION:

During 2020, forty-nine brown bears (24F: 23M: 2 Unk) were killed in GMU 1D including 19 harvested by hunters (9F: 10M) and 30 non-hunt kills (15F: 13M: 2 Unk; agency kills, defense of life and property, and vehicle collisions). This record high mortality event resulted in an estimated 16-20% reduction in the population and prompted the development of a new brown bear management plan for GMU 1D which the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) presented (via Zoom) at the March 4, 2021, meeting of the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The goal of this new plan is to recover the brown bear population and preserve future sustainable hunting opportunity. The plan does that by temporarily reducing hunting mortality through a harvest cap and by seeking to reduce human-bear conflict that results in bear mortalities through educational outreach by ADF&G and our partners. We anticipate this plan being in effect for about five years.

Beginning in spring 2021 ADF&G limited hunter harvest of brown bears in GMU 1D to five total brown bears including no more than two females in a calendar year.

Because other human caused mortality (DLP, etc.) reduces the population, hunting will also be closed when total brown bear mortality for the calendar year reaches seven total bears or two female bears. Human-caused mortality in excess of seven bears may be deducted from the hunting harvest quota for the following hunting season (i.e., the next calendar year).