

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-01-11

Issued at Palmer, Alaska
March 31, 2011

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
April 1, 2011

Expiration Date: June 30, 2011
unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Game Management Units 9 and 10 and is consistent with the Board of Game's intent.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.056, Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Wolf(a)(2)**, and **5 AAC 84.270, Furbearer Trapping(13)**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 85.056(a)(2). Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for wolf.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3)		
...		
Units 9 and 10, Unimak Is	Aug. 10 - <u>June 30</u>	Aug. 10 - <u>June 30</u>
10 wolves per day		
...		

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
(13) Wolf		
...		
Units 6, 7, [10,] 11, 14A, 15, and 18	Nov. 10 - Mar. 31	No limit
Unit 9	Aug. 10 - <u>June 30</u>	No limit.
<u>Unit 10</u>	Nov. 10 - <u>June 30</u>	<u>No limit</u>
...		

All other hunting and trapping regulations in Units 9 and 10 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to: *Lem Butler*
Lem Butler
Management Supervisor
Region IV

JUSTIFICATION:

The wolf season extensions are intended to provide additional opportunity for hunters and trappers to take wolves in Game Management Units 9 and 10. Wolves are one of the primary predators for moose and caribou in Southwest Alaska and predation by wolves has been identified as a primary factor limiting caribou population growth. Caribou herds in Unit 9 have declined below intensive management population size objectives and harvest objectives and will remain below those objectives for the foreseeable future if management action is not taken to increase the herds. Caribou in Unit 10 have declined to extremely low numbers with very few bulls remaining in the herd and the viability of the population may be compromised if management actions are not taken to reduce predation on that herd. The decrease in bull numbers observed in Unit 9 and 10 is not the result of human harvests. This condition is commonly observed in caribou populations that are experiencing poor

calf recruitment, and bull numbers continue to decrease after hunting has been closed. The caribou population declines in Units 9 and 10 have resulted in caribou hunting closures throughout the area and an inability to provide caribou for subsistence needs.

The Alaska Board of Game adopted Intensive Management Plans to reduce wolf predation on caribou and restore the herds, but the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has deemed that the implementation of the aerial wolf control component of the plans is incompatible with refuge purposes on Unimak Island in Unit 10 and has not been approved by federal land managers in Unit 9.

Consequently, during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting in Wasilla, the Board adopted regulations to extend wolf hunting and trapping in Game Management Units 9 and 10 in a further attempt to allow affected users to try to reduce wolf predation in these Units. The Board also requested that the regulations be expedited by the Department of Law. In recognition of the need to reduce wolf predation on caribou in Units 9 and 10, this emergency order uses the Commissioner's authority to extend wolf hunting and trapping seasons until June 30 and eliminates the delay in the implementation of the Board's regulations. This emergency order is being implemented with the knowledge and concurrence of the Alaska Board of Game.

DISTRIBUTION:

This emergency order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from Department of Fish and Game offices in Juneau, Palmer, and King Salmon.

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