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PRESS RELEASE

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Baranof Island Mt. Goat Hunting

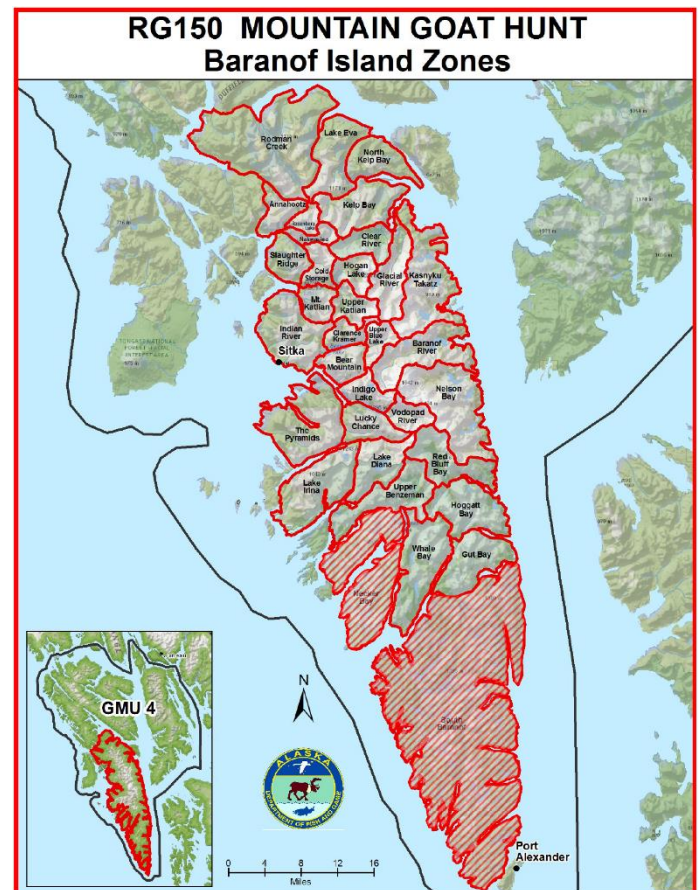
(Sitka) – The 2019 mountain goat season begins August 1st. A new management strategy for mountain goats on Baranof Island was initiated in 2017 and will continue this season. Managers developed 34 small hunt zones, which allows biologists to manage at the subpopulation level, reducing the risk of localized overharvest and providing more opportunity to hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access close.

Emergency Order (EO) 01-02-19 was issued to close the mt. goat season in 2 of 34 zones on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 @ 11:59 pm.

Zones closed by this EO (South Baranof and Necker Bay) lack enough goats to support a sustainable harvest as determined by surveys in 2017 and 2018. Accessibility also contributes to potential for over-utilization in these zones.

Those portions of Unit 4 not affected by this emergency order will remain open until harvest quotas are reached or the season concludes.

ADF&G is again requesting hunters bring in the entire head (caped or not) of their harvested goat so staff can collect nasal mucosa swabs as part of a statewide surveillance plan in light of recent detection of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) in Alaskan ungulates. Movi is a bacteria that can lead to respiratory disease and is linked to large scale die-offs of bighorn sheep in the lower 48.



For maps, quotas, FAQ's and other information, contact the Sitka area office at (907) 747-5449.

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