



Doug Larsen, Region I Supervisor
Division of Wildlife Conservation
P. O. Box 110024
Juneau, AK 99811-0024
(907) 465-4265

Contact: Phil Mooney, Area Management Biologist
Division of Wildlife Conservation
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-5449

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Baranof Island and Adjacent Smaller Islands Closed to Brown Bear Hunting

Biologists have set a maximum guideline harvest objective of 8 males or 2 female brown bears allowed for the Baranof Island portion of the Unit 4 registration brown bear hunt (RB077). High harvest of female bears in this area in previous years has prompted this harvest strategy. As of Tuesday, October 4, 2011, five female bears have been harvested. Because the guideline harvest for sows has been exceeded in this area, an emergency order is being issued to close the brown bear hunting season at 11:59 pm, Thursday, October 6, 2011. The emergency order action is necessary to restrict the harvest to the guideline level and prevent overharvest in this area. Any additional harvest could have long term negative effects on this bear population.

An Emergency Order (01-10-11) was issued to close the brown bear season in this area on Thursday, October 6, 2011 @ 11:59 pm.

All other Unit 4 brown bear regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this Emergency Order. For additional information, please contact the Sitka area office at (907) 747-5449.

