

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-03-16

Issued at Dillingham, Alaska
March 2, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
March 4, 2016

Expiration Date: June 30, 2016
unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the RC501 registration permit hunt for caribou in portions of Game Management Units 17(A) and 17(C) at 12:01 a.m., March 4, 2016. The season will run through March 31, 2016. The bag limit for caribou under the RC501 permit is two caribou. Hunters are reminded that under a state permit they can only take two caribou per regulatory year in Unit 17.

Permits will be available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or in person at department offices in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Homer, King Salmon, Palmer, and Soldotna.

All other caribou regulations for Unit 17 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(12), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective: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 General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(12)

Unit 17(A), all drainages that
Terminate east of Right Hand
Point

Resident Hunters:

2 caribou may be taken during the season to be announced by emergency order by registration permit only

March 4 – March 31

Nonresident Hunters:

No Open Season

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Remainder of Unit 17(C)

Resident Hunters:

March 4 – March 31

2 caribou may be taken during the season to be announced by emergency order by registration permit only

Nonresident Hunters:

No Open Season

...

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

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Neil Barten
Dillingham Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The caribou hunting season in this area remained closed for many years to allow caribou from the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd (NPCH) to increase in number and provide a harvestable surplus of animals. Harvest has occurred under federal registration permit hunt FC1702. However, a June 2015 photo census estimated the NPCH numbered about 1,400 caribou, far exceeding the optimal population size of 750. Recent low-snow winters have prevented hunters from accessing this herd on its traditional winter range under the federal registration permit hunt (FC1702), and thus the population has increased far beyond the optimal size. The RC501 hunt

will offer hunters a chance to harvest caribou that are dispersing from the Nushagak Peninsula federal hunt area into areas more accessible even without adequate snow cover for snowmachine travel.

DISTRIBUTION:

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5. Boards Support Section, Executive Director Board of Game
 - Field Offices: Bethel, Dillingham
 - Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Chairman
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6. Division of Subsistence, Anchorage Regional Supervisor
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