

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order 05-03-19

Issued at Bethel, Alaska
March 15, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
March 16, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2019
unless superseded by subsequent
Emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the winter season for muskox hunting on Nunivak Island in Unit 18. The season will be extended until March 31, 2019. The extended season will allow hunting opportunity for drawing and registration permittees who were unable to access the hunt area due to poor weather in the months of February and March 2019.

All other muskox seasons and bag limits in Unit 18 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.050 (a) (1) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSK OXEN** pertaining to Unit 18 are superseded by this emergency order, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) Unit 18, Nunivak Island		
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 110 permits may be issued; or 1 musk ox by registration permit only	Sept. 1-Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Feb. 1-Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1- Sept. 30 Feb. 1-Mar. 31
...		

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Keith Oster
Assistant Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

A series of storm events has prevented some hunters from traveling to Mekoryuk, the only access point for Nunivak Island, to participate in the Nunivak Island spring muskox hunt which occurs from Feb. 1 – March 15. During the muskox season, the weather has been very poor for travel to the island from Bethel and conditions for travel on the island have been hazardous with heavy wind, flat light and often less than one quarter mile visibility. While winter weather and delays in travel can be expected this time of year, the number of commercial flights from Bethel to Mekoryuk that have been cancelled is abnormally high this year.

The current population of muskox on the island is approximately 950 animals, significantly above the population management goal of 590-640 animals. This regulatory year we issued 95 bull drawing permits and 80 cow registration permits and need high hunter success rates to cap the population growth. Extending the season could allow the harvest of an additional 20 animals for a season total harvest of up to 160 animals.

Extending the Nunivak Island hunting season by 16 days will not result in overharvest of muskox because total harvest is regulated by the limited number of permits issued by the department. In addition, reaching annual harvest objectives is necessary to incrementally reduce the herd to the management objective.

DISTRIBUTION:

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3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
4. Division of Wildlife Conservation
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 - Deputy Director
 - Assistant Director
 - Regional Supervisors
 - Regulation Coordination Team
 - Federal Subsistence Coordinator, Fairbanks
 - Area Offices Statewide
 - Information Management Section, Anchorage, Juneau
 - Web-page Manager, Juneau (electronic copy)
 - Public Information Centers, Anchorage, Fairbanks
5. Division of Boards
 - Boards Support Section, Executive Director
 - Field Offices: Dillingham

Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Chairman
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6. Division of Subsistence

Director
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9. U. S. Department of the Interior

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 Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Federal Subsistence Management
 Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta NWR
 Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuge Manager, Togiak NWR
 Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement, Yukon Delta NWR, Togiak NWR
 Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Advisory Councils
 Yukon-Delta Regional Advisory Council, Chairman
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10. Clerk of the Court or Magistrate: Aniak, Bethel, Nome, St. Marys, Emmonak, Chevak

11. I.R.A./Traditional Village Councils/Regional Native Corporations

Akiachak	Kasigluk	Oscarville
Akiak	Kipnuk	Pilot Station
Alakanuk	Kongiganak	Pitkas Point
Andreafsky	Kotlik	Platinum
Aniak	Kwethluk	Quinhagak
Atmautluak	Kwigillingok	Russian Mission
Bethel	Marshall	Scammon Bay
Chefornak	Mekoryuk	Saint Marys
Chevak	Mountain Village	Toksook Bay
Eek	Napakiak	Tuluksak
Emmonak	Napaskiak	Tuntutuliak
Goodnews Bay	Newtok	Tununak
Hooper Bay	Nightmute	
Lower Kalskag	Nunam Iqua	
Upper Kalskag	Nunapitchuk	

Association of Village Council Presidents
 Calista

12. News Media:

Statewide: APRN
 Bethel: KYUK Radio, KYKD Radio, Tundra Drums, Delta Discovery
 Chevak: KCUK Radio