

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order 05-02-21

Issued at Nome, Alaska
April 27, 2021

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m.
April 29, 2021

Expiration Date: June 30, 2021

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order closes the State of Alaska resident season for brown bears by registration permit hunt RB670 and the nonresident season for brown bears by drawing permit DB685 in Unit 22(C) at 11:59 p.m. on April 29, 2021. The combined fall and spring harvest of bears from Unit 22(C) has reached historic levels and no further harvest is warranted.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.020 (a) (20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BEAR** are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting bear in Unit 22(C):

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20)		
...		
Unit 22(C)		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year
by registration permit; or

Aug. 1 – Oct. 31
Apr. 1 – June 30
(Subsistence Hunt only)

1 bear every regulatory year
by registration permit only

Aug. 1 – Oct. 31
Apr. 1 – Apr. 29

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year
by drawing permit only; up to
27 permits may be issued in
Combination with Unit 22(B)

Aug. 1 – Oct. 31
Apr. 1 – Apr. 29

...

All other bear hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Bill Dunker
Area Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Brown bear harvest in Unit 22(C) has steadily increased in response to regulatory changes adopted by the Board of Game that increased brown bear hunting opportunity through the liberalization of brown bear hunting regulations.

Prior to the adoption of these liberalizations, the average annual Unit 22(C) brown bear harvest was 8 bears per year RY1990-RY1997. This increased to an average annual harvest of 16 bears per year RY1998-RY2011 in response to regulatory liberalizations adopted by the board.

More recent changes to season dates and bag limits further liberalized hunting regulations in the area and are believed to have resulted in an increase in the Unit 22C brown bear harvest. During RY2012-RY2018 Unit 22C bear harvest ranged from 17-38 bears annually with an average annual harvest of 25 bears.

In 2020, the Board of Game adopted regulations to implement a registration permit in Unit 22(C) in order to monitor harvest and hunting effort more closely and allow the department to close the Unit 22(C) brown bear season when harvest meets or exceeds historic harvest levels.

As of April 27, 2021 the combined fall and spring reported harvest of brown bears from Unit 22(C) is 27 bears. This emergency closure is intended to maintain the harvest at the level observed RY2012-RY2018 and will allow the department to continue to evaluate the effect of the increased Unit 22(C) harvest.

DISTRIBUTION:

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 - Area Offices Statewide
 - Information Management Section, Anchorage, Douglas, Juneau
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 - Federal Subsistence Liaison
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 - Field Offices: Dillingham, Kotzebue
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6. Division of Subsistence
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9. U. S. Department of the Interior
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 - Unit 22/23 Central Yukon, Mgr
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 - FWS, Refuges
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 - Kawerak, Inc., Reindeer Herders Association
 - Sitnasuak Native Corporation
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