

# Hunting and Trapping

## Emergency Order

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order 05--11-20**

Issued at Barrow, Alaska  
September 16, 2020

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m.  
September 17, 2020

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. October 31, 2020  
unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order opens hunting for muskoxen from September 17, 2020 to October 31, 2020 in a portion of Unit 26A in the vicinity of Atqasuk and Point Lay. The hunt is open to residents only by registration permit and the bag limit is one (1) bull muskox per hunter with a total quota of to 2 bulls. All other muskox seasons and bag limits in the remainder of Unit 26A are not affected by this Emergency Order.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of **5 AAC 92.046, PERMITS FOR TAKING INCIDENTAL OR STRANDED MUSK OXEN**, are being implemented in a portion of Unit 26A. Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.050(3), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MUSK OXEN**, are superseded as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(3)

In Game Management Unit 26A, state  
managed lands within 20 miles of Point  
Lay and within 20 miles of Atqasuk

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull muskox by registration permit only. The season will be closed when 2 bull muskox have been taken.

September 17-October  
31

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

No open season

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All other muskox hunting regulations in Unit 26(A) remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Carmen Daggett  
North Slope Area Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

In 5AAC 92.046, the Board of Game has authorized the Commissioner to open a season for muskoxen in Unit 26A and portions of Unit 24. The Board adopted this regulation based on testimony from local subsistence hunters that muskoxen have been observed to interfere with caribou movements, adversely affecting subsistence hunting for caribou. The Board of Game left it to the Commissioner to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether hunting of muskoxen should be used to prevent potential competition with caribou or interference with caribou hunting.

Residents have informed the Department that several muskox have recently moved into the Atqasuk area and Point Lay areas. A portion of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and Teshekpuk Caribou Herd migrates through this pass during its annual migration. Residents in the village of Atqasuk and Point Lay rely on caribou harvested from this area and have testified that local hunters believe muskox would likely divert caribou from their normal migration path. The Department has determined that muskox hunting by permit may be allowed on state managed lands near Atqasuk and Point Lay with a bag limit of one bull muskoxen per Alaskan resident hunter. The season will be closed when two bull muskox are taken.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Copies are available from Department of Fish and Game offices in Barrow, Kotzebue and Nome.

1. Lieutenant Governor
2. Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison, Anchorage)
3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
4. Division of Wildlife Conservation
  - Director
  - Deputy Director
  - Assistant Director
  - Regional Supervisors
  - Regulation Coordination Team
  - 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: Kotzebue
6. Division of Subsistence
  - Assistant Director
  - Program Director, Fairbanks
  - Field Offices: Fairbanks, Kotzebue
7. Public Communications Section, Juneau
8. Department of Public Safety, Fish and Wildlife Protection
  - Director
  - Detachment Commander, Soldotna
  - Field Offices: Coldfoot, Kotzebue, Nome
9. U. S. Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management, State Director
  - Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field Office
  - Bureau of Land Management, Arctic Team: Fairbanks
  - Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Team: Fairbanks, Kotzebue
  - Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Director
  - Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Federal Subsistence Management
  - Fish and Wildlife Service, Law Enforcement, Fairbanks
  - Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Advisory Councils
    - North Slope, Chairman
  - National Park Service, Regional Director
  - National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
10. Clerk of the Court or Magistrate: Barrow
11. Regional Native Corporations /I.R.A. Councils/Traditional Village Councils/Other Gov't
  - Anaktuvuk Pass
  - Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
  - Atkasuk
  - Northwest Arctic Borough, Lands Office
  - North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management
  - Point Lay, Native Village of
  - Wainwright, City of
12. News Media:

Statewide: APRN  
Anchorage: Anchorage Daily News, KTUU  
Barrow: KBRW Radio; Arctic Sounder  
Fairbanks: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, KUAC  
Kotzebue: KOTZ Radio, Arctic Sounder