

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

Release - Immediate

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 26, 1938

NEW RULES MAKE ALASKA SANCTUARY FOR MARTENS

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In 90 days Alaska will become in effect a sanctuary for one of the North American mammals threatened with extinction.

New hunting and trapping regulations published today (April 26) provide a close season throughout the Territory on the marten. The regulations, signed by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, take effect 90 days after publication.

Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, has advocated a five-year breathing spell for martens throughout the United States in order to prevent their extermination.

Regulations governing fur animals are State rather than Federal concerns, but Territorial regulations for Alaska are made by the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with the Alaska Game Commission.

Following a recommendation of the Commission, the regulations have been entirely revised and rearranged as to form, but few changes have been made as to content. In addition to closing the season on marten, the changes include the following:

A close season is provided on all fur animals in southeastern Alaska.

The seasons for taking mountain sheep and mountain goats have been shortened by one month, beginning on August 20 as formerly, but ending November 30, instead of December 31.

The number of caribou permitted residents north of the Yukon River has been increased from 20 to 5, while the limit allowed residents south of the Yukon has been dropped from 5 to 3.

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