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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release To PM's, JULY 12, 1956

ALASKA GAME REGULATIONS ARE REVISED

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today that the first complete revision of the Alaska Game Law regulations since 1949, governing the taking of game and fur animals, game and nongame birds, and game fishes in Alaska, has been approved and will be published July 13, 1956, in the Federal Register.

The revision includes the changes recommended by the Alaska Game Commission in the season dates, bag limits, and other conditions which will be in effect during the 1956-57 hunting and fishing season. For the most part, these conform to last year's regulations.

This year, however, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service has been given the authority to close any area temporarily to the hunting of big-game animals whenever it appears likely that lives and property may be seriously endangered through such hunting or that excessive killing of these animals may result from hunting them while they are concentrated near highways.

The need for emergency action of this nature was demonstrated last year when large numbers of caribou concentrated near a highway during their annual migration. Careless and indiscriminate hunting of these animals in the vicinity of the highway resulted in a significant crippling loss and jeopardized the lives of many of the hunters in the area.

The complete text of the Alaska Game regulations was last published in the Federal Register on May 11, 1949. Since then substantial portions of the regulations have been amended at least once a year. This newly approved revision of the regulations combines in a single document the numerous amendments made since 1949.

One of the most significant changes in the regulations is the establishment of 26 wildlife management units, to provide area management of game and fur animals, game birds, and game fishes in the future. These units were established during the annual meeting of the Alaska Game Commission held last February.

In establishing the units, Alaska Game Commission members and key Fish and Wildlife Service personnel gave consideration to wildlife habitat, proximity and density of population centers, normal occurrences of game in given areas, and probable hunting pressures.

As an aid to the interested hunting and fishing public, a map showing the boundaries of the new units is being printed and will be distributed along with a pamphlet which will contain the text of the newly revised regulations. Requests for copies should be addressed to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C., or the Administrator, Alaska Wildlife Resources, Fish and Wildlife Service, Juneau, Alaska.

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