

Game Board's emergency meeting to start July 23

JUNEAU — The Alaska Board of Game has set an emergency meeting for July 23 in Anchorage to determine regulatory actions governing the fall hunts which begin Aug. 10, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The meeting will start at 9 a.m. at the Anchorage International Airport Inn and will be open to the public, though no public testimony will be taken. The regulatory actions will be promulgated as emergency regulations.

Officials said the meeting has been called out of concern for the wildlife resources after a recent Superior Court ruling determined that any Alaska hunter is potentially eligible for subsistence hunting.

The ruling, by Superior Court Judge Beverly Cutler, followed the Alaska Supreme Court ruling in December that the state subsistence law was unconstitutional.

A recent special session of the Alaska Legislature failed to reach a solution to the state's subsistence crisis.

"Our concern is for the resource," said Norman Cohen, deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "With a much larger group of potential subsistence hunters, the Board of Game will have to adopt regulations to provide for the conservation of the resource and to make sure there is enough game available for this larger group."

At the emergency meeting, the Board of Game also will discuss its long-range, practical approach to full implementation of the court's recent decisions.

In the meantime, hunters will have to continue to wait to obtain the 1990-91 hunting regulations booklets, usually available by July 1, until after the emergency board meeting.