

Hunters With Snow Machines Molest Game.

With the advent of the snow machine, a new dimension in outdoor recreation and hunting has recently arrived on the Alaska scene. These machines, both powerful and fast, come in a variety of styles, shapes, and colors.

Many hunters have adopted them as a means of securing their winter's supply of game meat, and they are proving quite successful.

W. N. Bellingar, Senior Protection Officer, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, suggests a word of caution, however.

"The Department has received numerous complaints recently on the use of these machines involving game," he said. Apparently some hunters and snow machine enthusiasts are using machines to herd, molest, or actually shoot at game from them.

The Department certainly wants the hunter to have good success and take what game he needs, but it must be done in a lawful manner as prescribed in the current Alaska Game Regulations."

"The regulations prohibit the use of motor-driven vehicles in the "taking, molesting, driving, or herding" of game, Bellingar continued. This does not mean that the hunter may not lawfully use the snow machine to travel to and from the hunting area, or attempting to herd, drive, or molest the game with it, is strictly prohibited. Under certain conditions, especially those involving rather deep snow, animals such as moose and caribou often find traveling difficult.

"It is during these periods that they are particularly susceptible to pursuit by motor-driven vehicles. Under these circumstances, the animals are at a distinct disadvantage; and if the hunter is attempting to shoot from his machine, he may well be off balance and in an unsafe position."

During the remainder of the moose and caribou seasons, Protection Officers will be in the field and using snow machines in their patrol work. The necessary enforcement action will be taken on any violations of this nature.

"Let's all use good common sense in our hunting and recreational activities. Know the regulations and abide by them. You'll be assured of a safer, more productive trip, if you do," Bellingar concluded.