

Sealing program for lynx started, export permits still needed

JUNEAU--A new game regulation requiring sealing of all lynx and land otter taken in Alaska was recently adopted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, acting for the Alaska Board of Game. The emergency regulation, similar to existing regulations for wolf and wolverine, became effective on December 9.

"Recent action by the Federal Government made it mandatory that we initiate a sealing program on lynx and land otter pelts," said Bob Rausch, director of the Game Division. He continued, "The Endangered Species Scientific Authority (ESSA), which has authority over the export of several species, stated that no export quota would be imposed in Alaska if the State adopted a sealing program." Earlier, according to Rausch, ESSA said that it would allow the export of on-

ly 2,114 Alaskan land otter, and no Alaskan lynx.

"In addition to meeting the ESSA requirements, the sealing program will give us much better harvest data," added Rausch.

Seals for lynx and land otter are available at all Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices. All lynx and land otter pelts must be sealed prior to their sale, including those taken

in previous years.

Rausch also pointed out that a Federal permit is required in addition to seals if the furs are to be entered into international trade. Trappers selling

furs to fur buyers in Alaska would not need the Federal permits, but anyone sending furs directly to Canadian fur auctions or to any other countries would be obligated to obtain one.