



# United States Department of the Interior



## KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Temporary Closure of Sport Hunting of Brown Bears on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) today announced a temporary closure of sport hunting of brown bears on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The closure is effective September 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015.

The temporary closure to sport hunting of brown bears on the Refuge is being implemented as a resource protection measure and to ensure consistency with Refuge purposes. The Service believes that documented levels of human-caused mortality of brown bears in 2014, combined with those of recent years, are causing the Kenai brown bear population to decline. Allowing additional mortality through sport hunting on the Refuge would conflict with its statutory purposes to conserve all wildlife in their natural diversity and to provide opportunity for visitors to hunt, view and photograph wildlife.

Notice of the temporary closure and maps will be posted throughout the Refuge. Hunters may also contact the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge office during regular business hours at (907) 262-7021 for information. Additional information is available on the following website:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kenai>

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov), or connect with us through any of these social media at <http://www.fws.gov/home/socialmedia/index.html>.*