

Alaska Trappers Association Official Position Statement Minimum Trap Check Period

The Alaska Trappers Association does not support the implementation of a minimum trap check period anywhere in Alaska. The primary basis for this position is that a requirement to check traps within a set time window could force a trapper to be out in hazardous weather conditions. If a trapper were facing a man-made deadline for checking traps, he could be faced with the severe cold of arctic winter or intense storms of coastal Alaska. These conditions (and others) could be life-threatening.

Another scenario could involve a trapper suffering from illness or injury. Facing an artificial deadline, the trapper could once again be forced to venture out under circumstances which could lead to further injury or even death.

In addition, low population densities of many furbearer species do not justify checking traps frequently. The number of animals caught under this scheme would not cover the trapper's expenses. Trappers must make a profit to justify the time and effort they invest. Trapping systems in Alaska have evolved over decades to be as efficient as possible. Trappers have learned that allowing several days to pass between trap checks allows for efficient harvest of the renewable fur resource.

A minimum trap check period would place an unnecessary burden on law-abiding trappers, with no benefit to the furbearer resources.

The Alaska Trappers Association does not support the implementation of a minimum trap check period.

Adopted this 28th day of April, 2015

ATA president