

Finding of Emergency

The Board of Game finds that an emergency exists and that the attached regulations are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency are as follows:

The Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH) numbers over 450,000 and is increasing in size. Harvest of the WAH is low, only about 4% of the herd annually. The department and the Board of Game's conservation and management goals for the WAH include maximizing use of this herd during highs in population cycles. The population is expanding into new ranges as it grows and its traditional ranges become overused.


Large numbers of WAH caribou have moved into the western Seward Peninsula. There are currently about 80,000 caribou in GMU 22D which are poised to move into GMU's 22C and 22E in the near future, a movement that was not predicted by the Department of Fish and Game. There are no caribou season in GMU 22C, D, or E because caribou have not occurred in significant numbers in these subunits for many years. There is no biological reason to prohibit the harvest of caribou in these subunits. The population is very large and residents of these subunits have requested the season be opened so they can harvest caribou for subsistence and personal use. An important opportunity to harvest caribou and to achieve conservation and management goals will be foregone without an open season in these subunits. Due to caribou mobility and unpredictability, there is insufficient time to use the normal regulations process, which includes a 30-day public notice requirement, in order to make the necessary regulatory changes. Unless a season is opened immediately, the caribou may have left the area before a harvest can occur.

ADOPTION ORDER

Under the authority of AS 16.05.255 and AS 16.05.258, the attached regulations are therefore adopted as emergency regulations to take effect immediately as provided in AS 44.62.180(3).

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: 10/29/96
Sitka, Alaska


Larry Holmes, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

FILING CERTIFICATION

I, Fran Ulmer, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on _____, 1996, at _____ .m., I filed the attached regulations according to the provisions of AS 44.62.

Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor

Effective _____

Register _____