Proposal 102:
Evaluate a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Proposal 102

- Proposal submitted by the North Slope Regional Advisory Council
- Requests the board evaluate a separate Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for the Teshekpuk caribou herd.
- Teshekpuk range includes parts of Region V – Proposal also was before the board in Bethel in January 2017 as Proposal 1.

Department Recommendation: Neutral
Background

- Board made a positive C&T determination for Teshekpuk caribou in January 2014.
- In 2014, board presumed that 1992 board had included Teshekpuk caribou in their Nov. 13, 1992 deliberations in reconfirming the 1987 C&T finding for Western Arctic caribou and setting the ANS at 8,000 – 12,000 caribou.
- As a result, board concluded ANS for Western Arctic herd included the Teshekpuk herd.
- The board took no action on this proposal at the Region V meeting in Bethel, January 2017.

Background

- ADF&G recognized TCH as a management population in 1978.
- TCH recognized as important for providing high levels of human harvest under the Intensive Management law with a population objective of 15,000 – 28,000 and harvest objective of 900 – 2,800 Teshekpuk caribou.
Background: Subsistence Procedures

Figure 1. Potential Regulatory Approach for Management of Species With C&T Use and a Variable Harvestable Surplus

Subsistence and general hunt range: Board may provide additional opportunity for non-subsistence uses

Tier I Subsistence Priority: Board must restrict all other consumptive uses.

Tier II: Harvestable surplus is not sufficient for all subsistence uses. Board must distinguish between subsistence users.

Harvest Data Limitations

- 2 sources of harvest information, including new information obtained since 2014:
  - Community household harvest surveys
  - Harvest ticket database
- Both data sources are associated with significant limitations to developing ANS options:
  - Household survey data is limited to a small number of community harvest estimates annually
  - Harvest tickets do not capture harvests by residents living within the range of the WAH and TCH.
Arctic Caribou

- Four caribou herds on the North Slope
- Primary harvesters of TCH are Utqiagvik (Barrow), Atqasuk, Nuiqsut.
- Substantial caribou harvests documented. In some years, can apportion harvest by herd (see written report).
- Harvest data, options presented at Bethel meeting Jan. 2017
- Mean harvest, all Alaskans, between 2002-2014 is 3,018 caribou
- Mean value ± 25% results in range of 2,200 to 3,800 caribou

Options 1 – 3 overview

- Option 1: Single ANS
  Add a Teshekpuk ANS to existing 8,000-12,000 WAH ANS
- Option 2: Separate ANS
  Find a separate Teshekpuk ANS.
- Option 3: Take no action
Option 1

*Single ANS for WAH/Teshekpuk caribou*

**Option 1: One ANS for WAH and TCH combined = 10,200-15,800 caribou**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean harvests of Teshekpuk caribou</th>
<th>Mean ± 25%</th>
<th>ANS Range option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bounded by</strong></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,018</td>
<td>2,264</td>
<td>3,773</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, 8,000-12,000 WAH caribou + 2,200-3,800 TCH caribou = 10,200-15,800 caribou

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Option 2

*Separate ANS Teshekpuk caribou*

**Option 2: Separate ANS for TCH = 2,200 - 3,800 caribou**

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Thus, 2,200 - 3,800 TCH caribou
Option 3

Take no action

Key considerations

Implications and scenarios of various structural approaches

- Option 1 – Combine herds
  - May need additional regulations or harvest management plan to ensure sustained yield and reasonably opportunity.

- Option 2 – Similar to other herds.
  - In the event of herd declines, may need regulations or harvest management plan to ensure sustained yield and reasonable opportunity.
Finding?

- What amounts are reasonably necessary for customary and traditional uses of Teshekpuk caribou?