

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Reduce the caribou bag limit for residents in Unit 23 from five caribou per day to four caribou total, only one of which may be a cow as follows:

5 AAC 85.025(18).

Unit 23 caribou.

RESIDENT HUNTERS: **Four caribou** [FIVE CARIBOU PER DAY], **however, no more than 1 cow may be taken** by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or in person in Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, and at license vendors in Units 23 and 26A beginning June 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

The continuous decline of the Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH) and the need to address harvest levels of bulls and in particular cows, to try and halt the decline and allow the population to begin to recover. Currently, the bag limit is five per day during the open periods for bulls and cows. We are proposing a change to four caribou per regulatory year, with no more than one being a cow. We believe a severe reduction is called for under the preservation status of the WACH in the WACH Working Group guidelines for the current population level of 160,000 with year after year declines being observed.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Advisory Committee

(HQ-F23-030)
