

Proposal 36

• **PROPOSAL 36** Caribou/Unit 23

- **Reduce the Unit 23 resident bag limit to 4 caribou annually, of which only 1 may be a cow**
- **Proposed by**
 - Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee
- **Department Recommendation**
 - Support
- **AC Recommendations**
 - Kotzebue Sound AC- Support 8-0 Unanimous

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Proposal 36

• **Current Regulations** Caribou/Unit 23

- Unit 23
- **Four caribou per year only one of which may be a cow** *[Five caribou per day], by registration permit only; however, calves may not be taken.*
- Resident Hunting Season
 - *Bulls: no closed season*
 - *Cows: Sept 1 - Mar 31*

2

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Proposal 36

- **Effects of the Proposal** Caribou/Unit 23

- Harvest in general, and cow harvest specifically, may be reduced
- High harvesters and the households they provide for would be impacted

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Proposal 36

- **Background** Caribou/Unit 23

- Harvestable surplus of cows is likely being exceeded
- Harvestable surplus for cows under current conditions is likely near zero
- Unit 23 bag limit has been 5 caribou per day for 30+ years
- Harvest up to 15 caribou per day has been allowed under federal regulations
- RY15 the board adopted an annual bag limit of 20 caribou in Unit 22

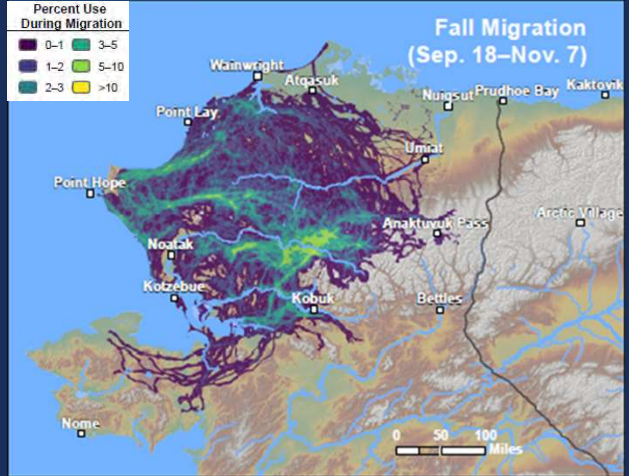
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• Background

Caribou/Unit 23

Fall Migration
2017-2021



- Harvest is largely based on availability, which is limited by access
- High harvest is likely to occur when caribou are accessible

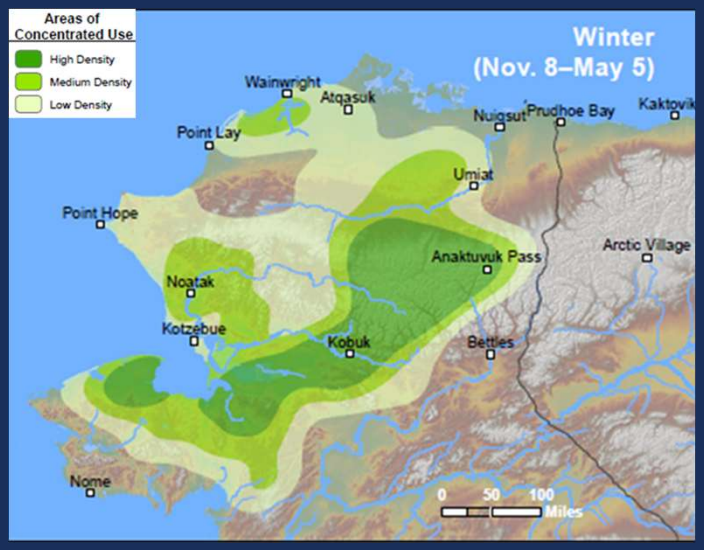
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• Background

Caribou/Unit 23

Winter Range
2017-2021



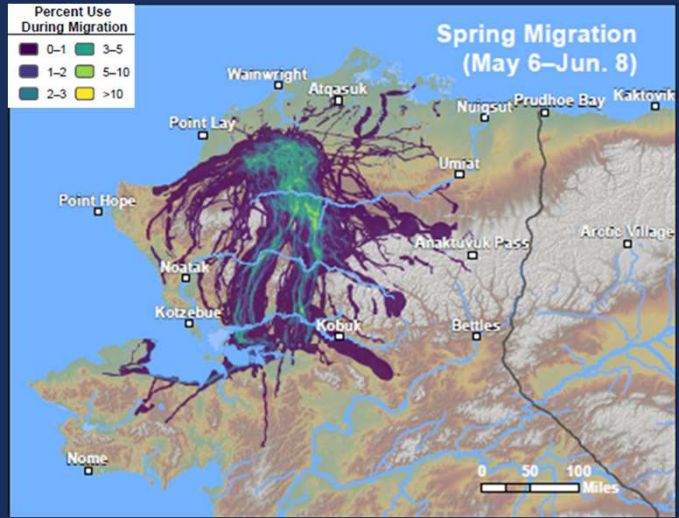
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• Background

Caribou/Unit 23

Spring Migration
2017-2021



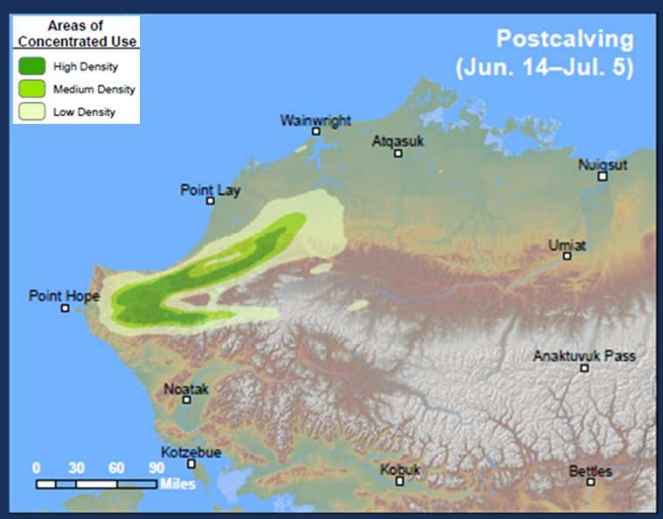
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• Background

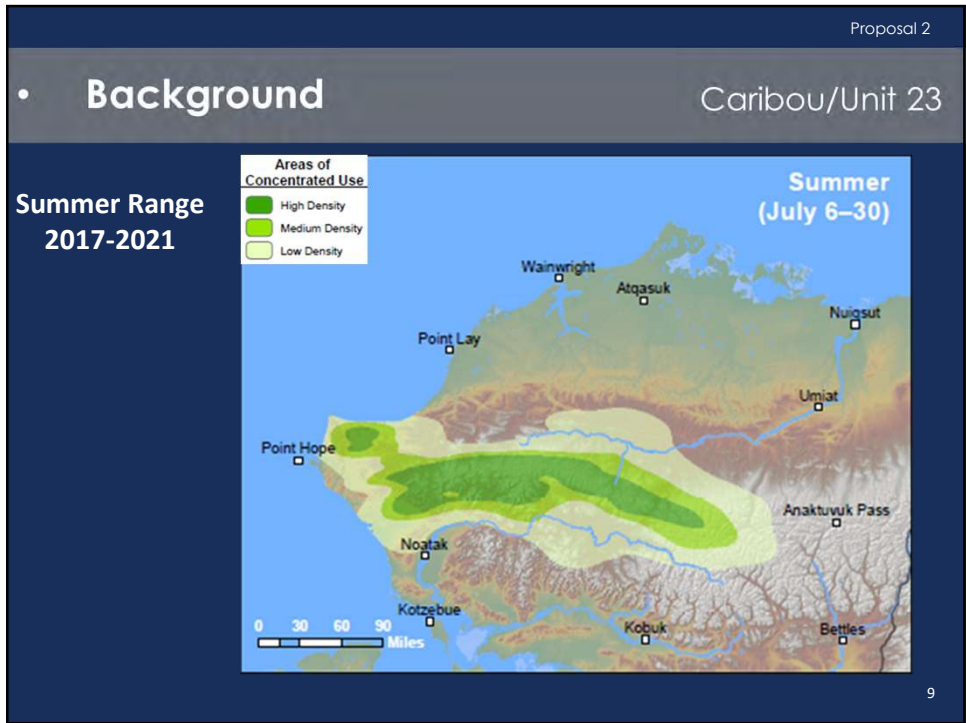
Caribou/Unit 23

Postcalving
2017-2021

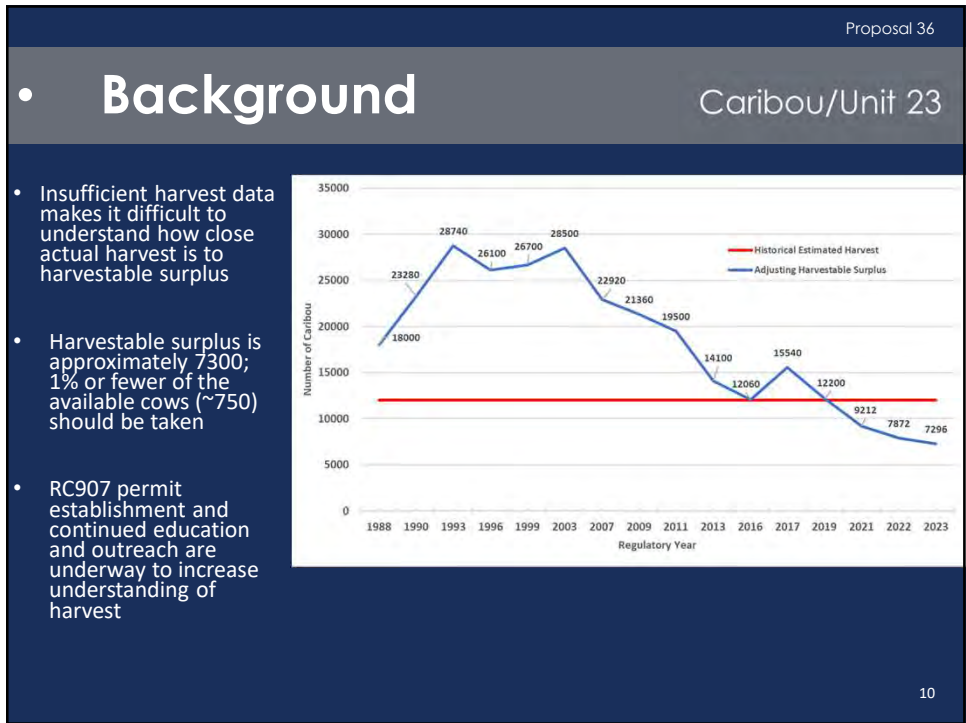


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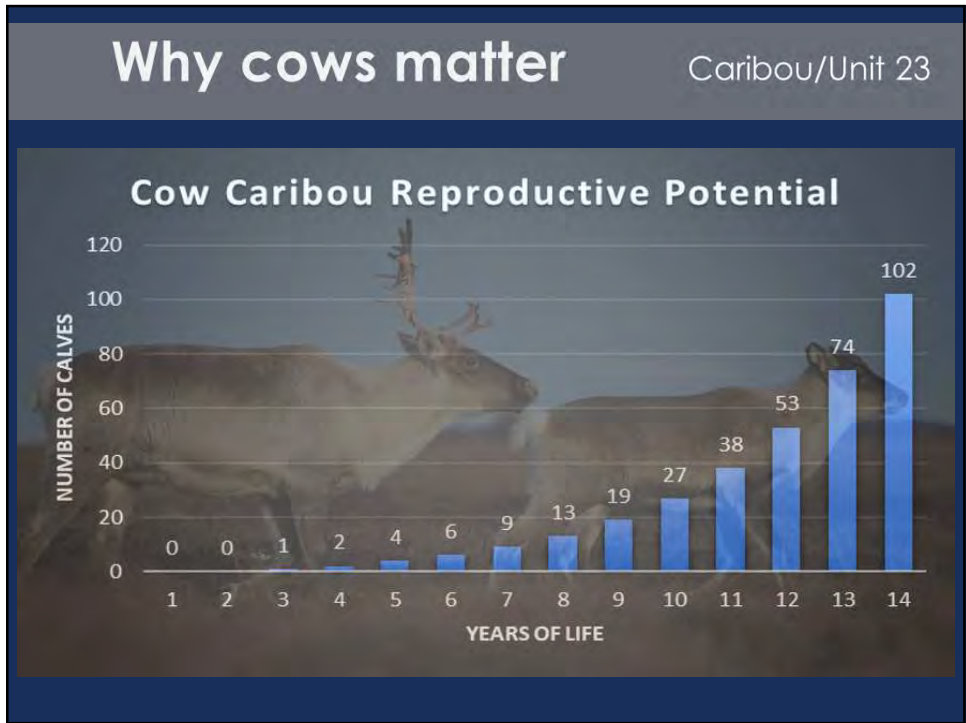
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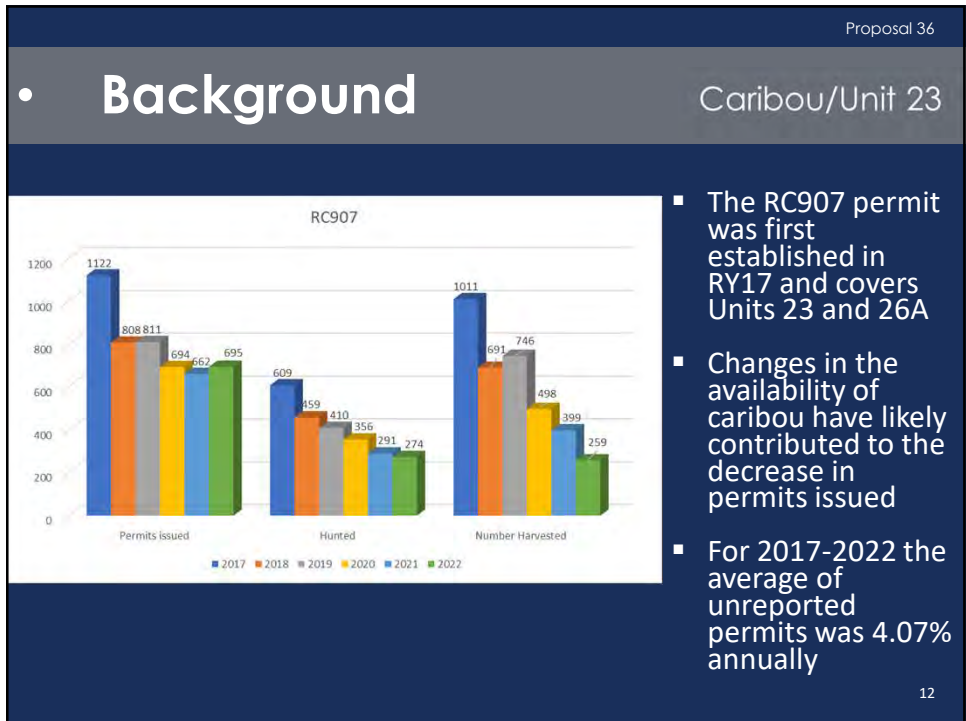
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Proposal 36

Background Caribou/Unit 23

- Household harvest data from 1998-2013 suggests:
- Hunters harvesting >25 caribou take approximately 19% of the harvest
- Roughly 75% of harvesters took <5 per year

Caribou Harvested per Household	Percent of Total Harvest	Percent of Households
No Caribou	0%	48%
1-5	24%	30%
6-10	28%	13%
11-15	17%	5%
16-20	12%	2%
21 or more	19%	2%

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Proposal 36

Background Caribou/Unit 23

PERSON 1
(in household 1)
got
34 CARIBOU
for
21 HOUSEHOLDS

Magdanz (2015)

14

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Proposal 36

- **Department Position** Caribou/Unit 23

- *Support*
 - Cow harvest may continue to exceed surplus if reductions are not taken
 - The proxy hunting system will continue to allow users to harvest for qualified beneficiaries.
 - Refined harvest information is necessary to provide a better understanding of harvest

15

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Proposal 36

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 - **Proposed by**
 - Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee
 - **Department Recommendation**
 - Support
 - **AC Recommendations**
 - Kotzebue Sound AC- Supported 8-0 Unanimous

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Proposal 37

PROPOSAL 37

Caribou/Unit 23

Reduce the Unit 23 resident bag limit to 4 caribou annually, of which only 1 may be a cow

Proposed by
Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council

Department Recommendation
Support

AC Recommendations
Pending

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Proposal 37

• Current Regulations

Caribou/Unit 23

- Unit 23
- **Four caribou per year only one of which may be a cow** *[Five caribou per day], by registration permit only; however, calves may not be taken.*
- Resident Hunting Season
 - *Bulls: no closed season*
 - *Cows: Sept 1 - Mar 31*

18

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Proposal 37

- **Effects of the Proposal** Caribou/Unit 23

- Harvest in general, and cow harvest specifically, may be reduced
- High harvesters and the households they provide for would be impacted

19

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Proposal 37

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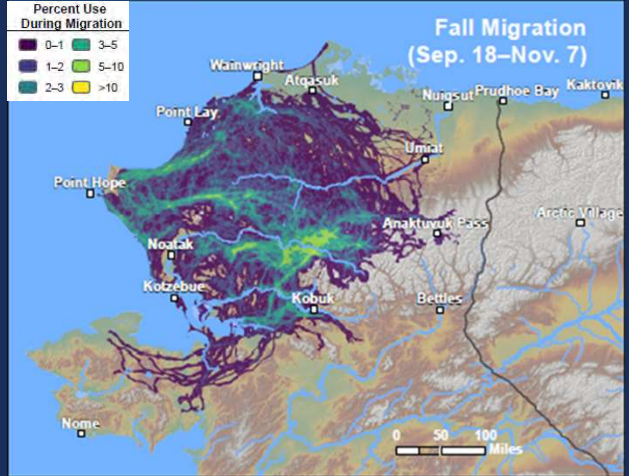
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Caribou/Unit 23

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2017-2021



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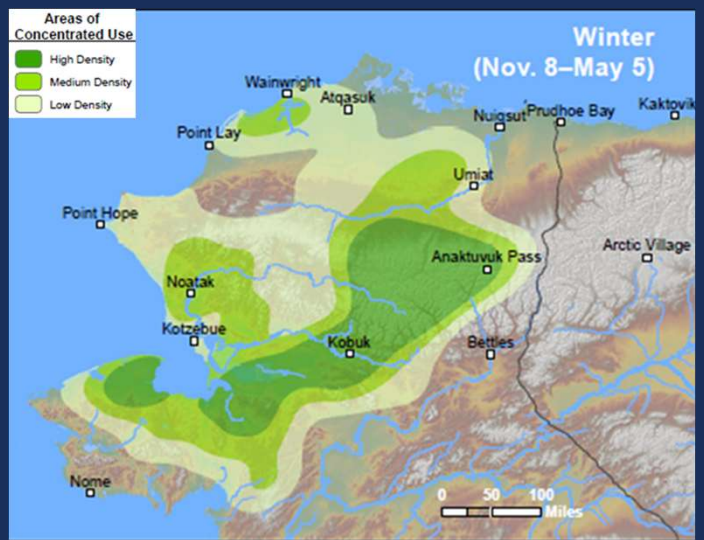
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• Background

Caribou/Unit 23

Winter Range
2017-2021



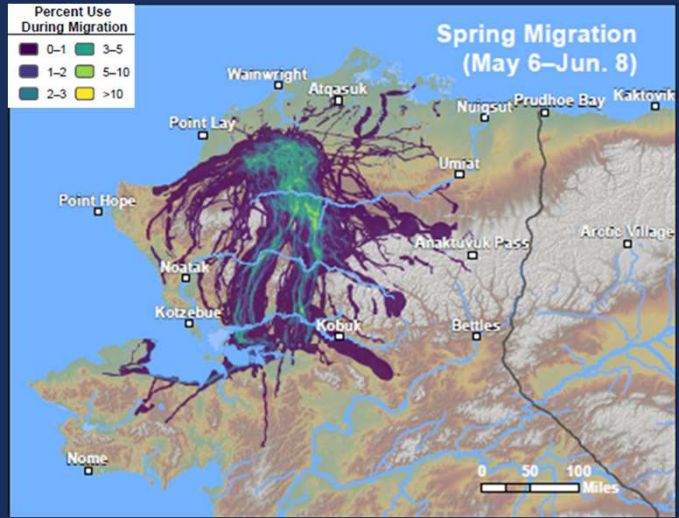
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• Background

Caribou/Unit 23

Spring Migration
2017-2021



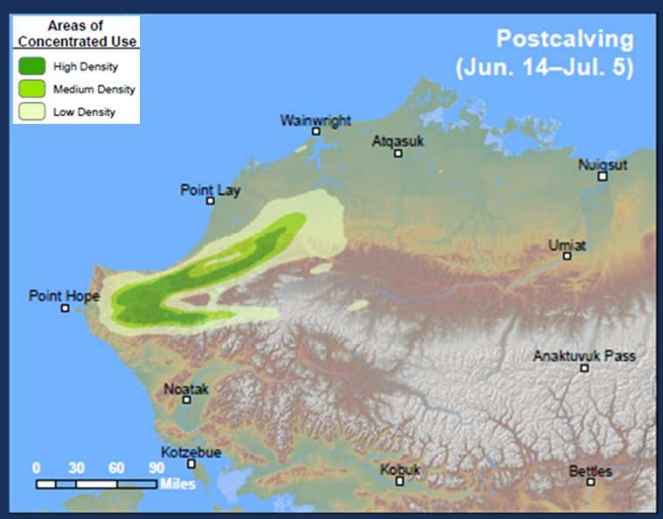
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23

• Background

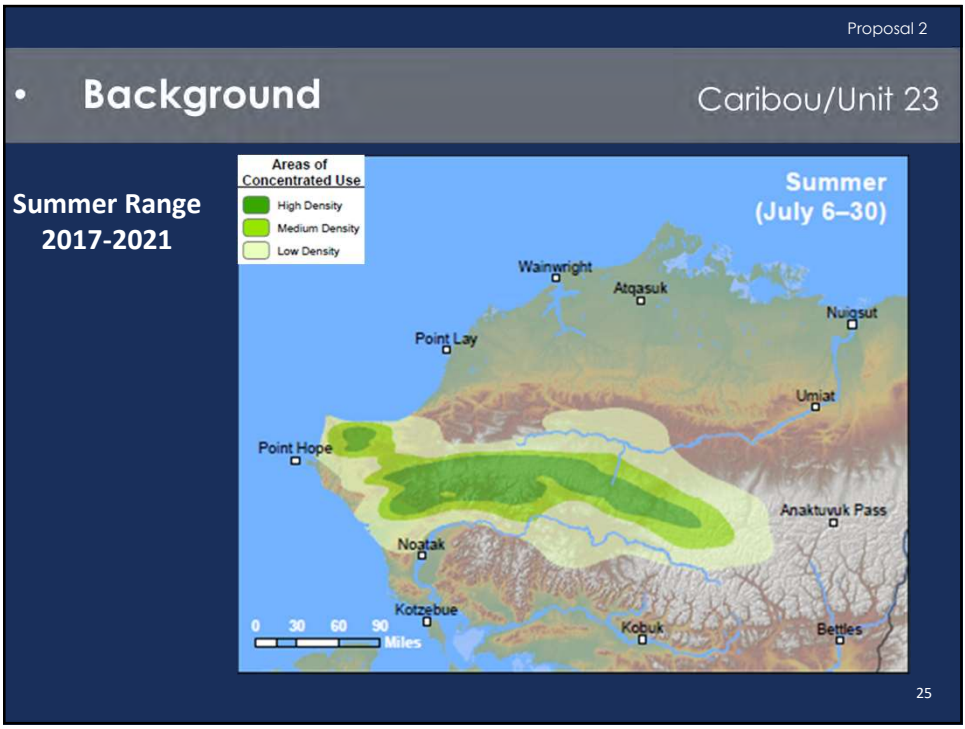
Caribou/Unit 23

Postcalving
2017-2021

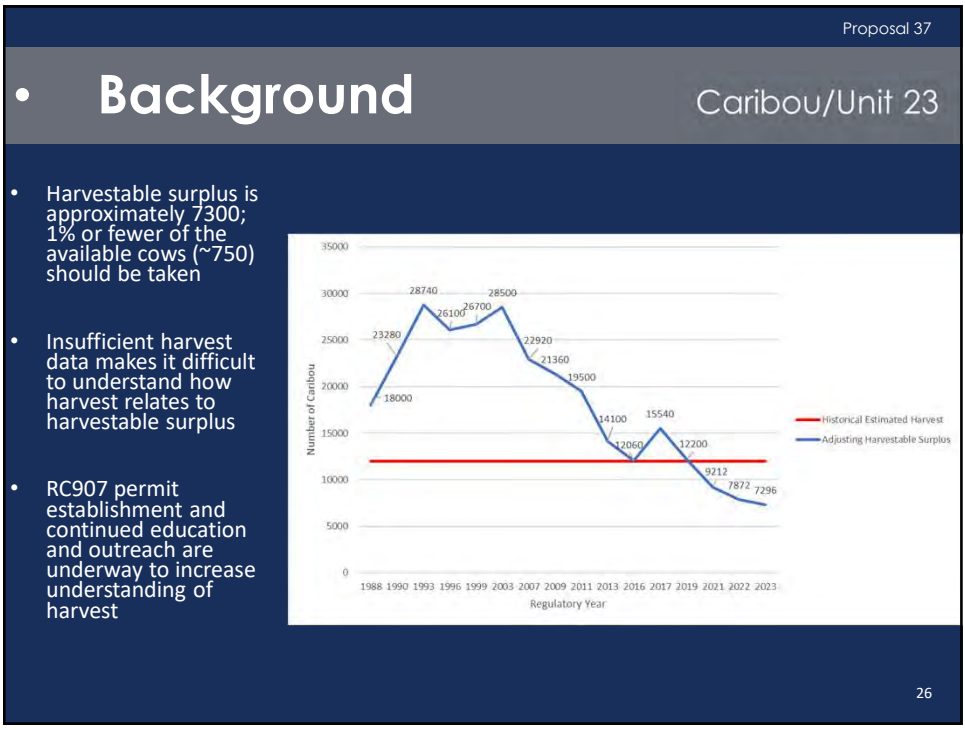


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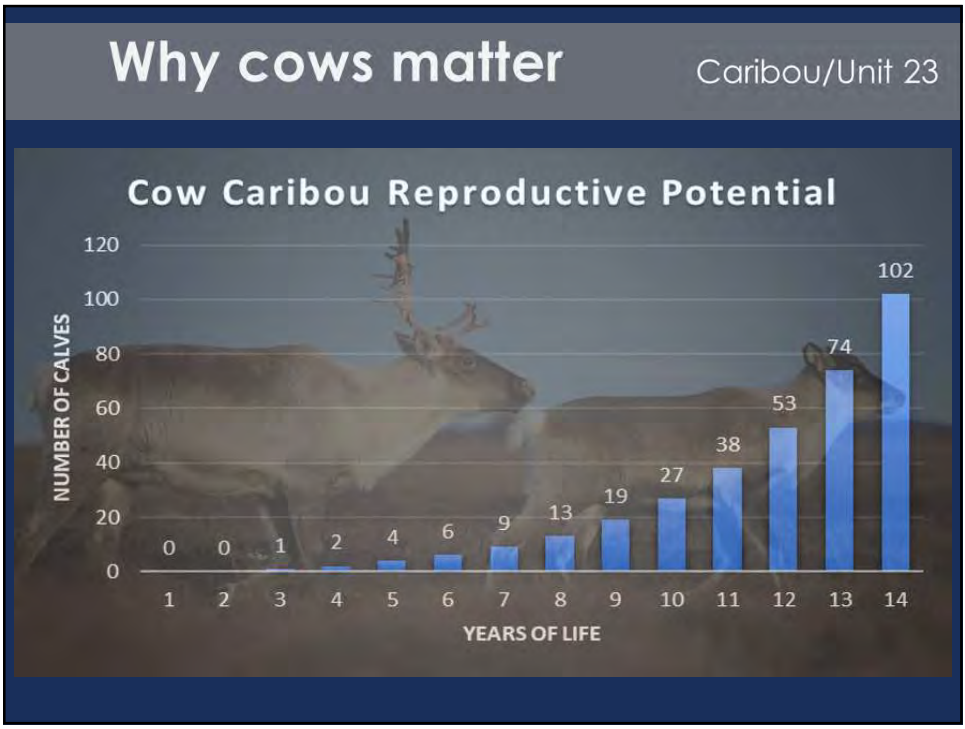
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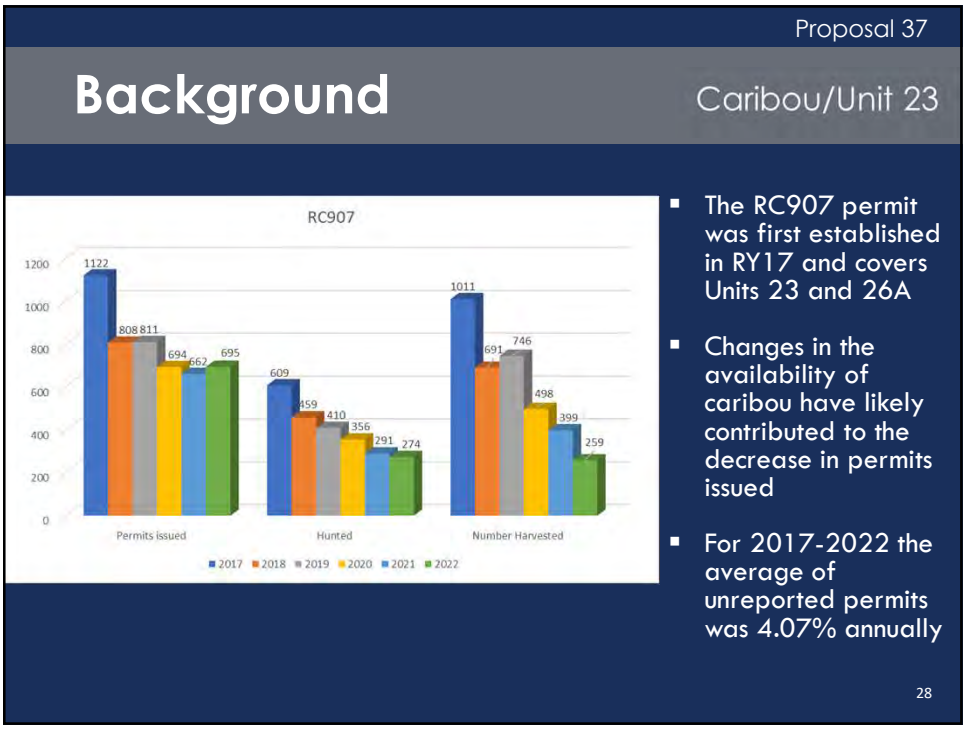
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Proposal 37

Background Caribou/Unit 23

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Proposal 37

Background Caribou/Unit 23

Magdanz (2015)

30

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Proposal 37

• **Department Position** Caribou/Unit 23

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 - Cow harvest may continue to exceed surplus if reductions are not taken
 - The proxy hunting system will continue to allow users to harvest for qualified beneficiaries.
 - Refined harvest information is necessary to provide a better understanding of harvest

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Proposal 37

PROPOSAL 37 Caribou/Unit 23

Reduce the Unit 23 resident bag limit to 4 caribou annually, of which only 1 may be a cow

Proposed by
Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council

Department Recommendation
Support

AC Recommendations
None

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Proposal 38

- **PROPOSAL 38** Caribou/Unit 23

Close all nonresident caribou hunting in Unit 23

- **Proposed by**
 - Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council
- **Department Recommendation**
 - Neutral
- **AC Recommendations**

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Proposal 38

- **Current Regulations** Caribou/Unit 23

- Unit 23
 - **No Open Season** [*One bull*]
- Nonresident Hunting Season
 - *Bulls: No Season* [*Aug 1- Sept 30*]
 - *Cows: No season*

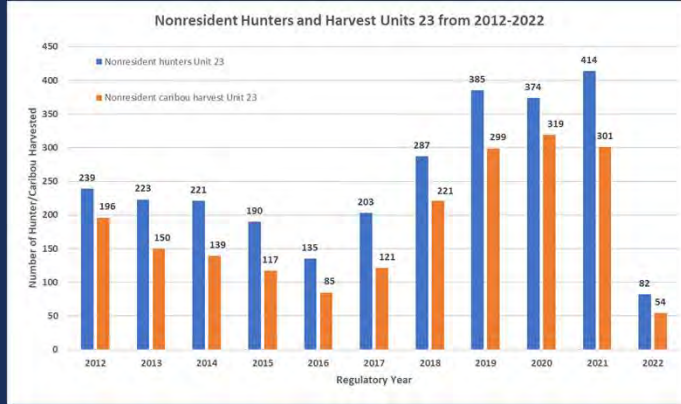
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Effects of the Proposal

Caribou/Unit 23

- Harvest may be reduced by 50-350 caribou annually
- Hunters will be reduced by 80-415 annually



Background

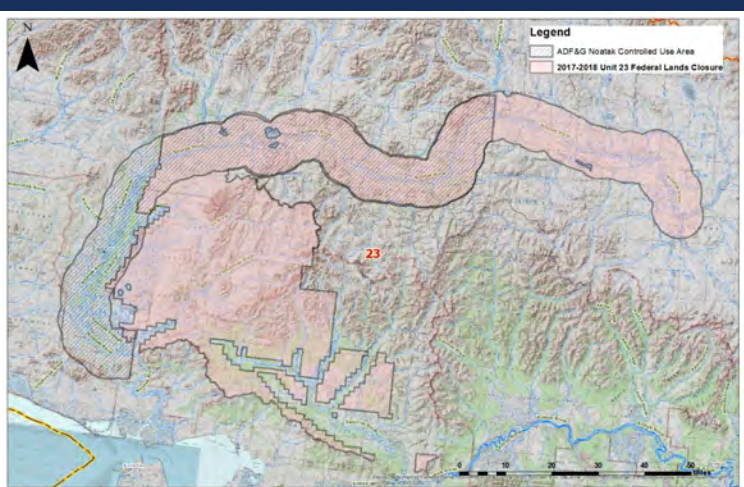
Caribou/Unit 23

- Unit 23 nonresident bag limit has been 1 bull, Aug 1- Sep 30 since RY 15
- In RY17 the nonresident locking tag price was increased from \$350 to \$650
- Annual NR harvest has averaged ~178 bulls, 4 cows, 182 caribou overall (2012-2022)
- Annual NR hunters average 250 (2012-2022)
- The closure of federal lands under WSA21-01 has resulted in limited access for NFQSU

Background

Caribou/Unit 23

- User conflict issues have been identified since at least the 1980's
- BOG established Noatak CUA in 1988
- Various adjustments have been made through the years

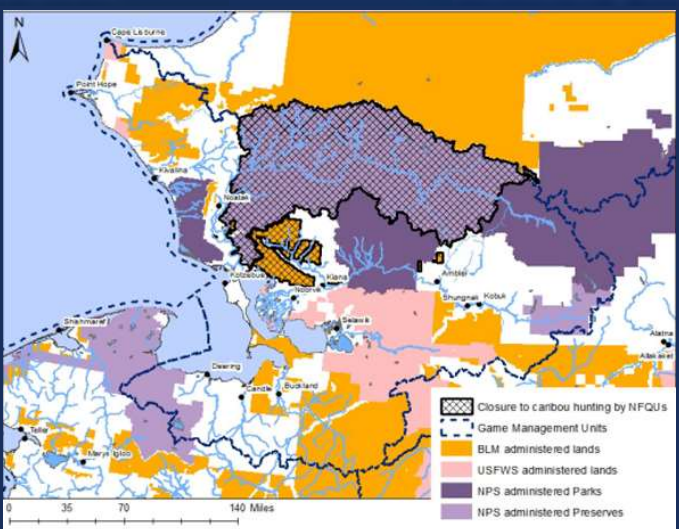


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Background

Caribou/Unit 23

- Unit 23 Federal land closure to NFQU's in 2016
- 2017 targeted closure (previous map)
- WSA 21-01a closure (map) 2022 & 2023 NR seasons



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Proposal 38

Background Caribou/Multi-Unit

- Harvestable surplus is approximately 7300; 1% or fewer of the available cows (~750) should be taken
- Average NR harvest is less than 4% of the harvestable surplus
- Nonresident cow harvest was closed in RY15-16

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Proposal 38

Background Caribou/Unit 23

WAH Range Use 2017-2021

Areas of Concentrated Use		Percent Use During Migration			
■	High Density	■	0-1	■	3-5
■	Medium Density	■	1-2	■	5-10
■	Low Density	■	2-3	■	>10

Summer (July 6-30)

Fall Migration (Sep. 18-Nov. 7)

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Proposal 38

Background Caribou/Unit 23

- Harvest by nonresidents is estimated to represent ~3% of overall Harvest
- Unit 23 residents have expressed concern that nonresidents harvest and associated aircraft traffic are responsible for the WAH population decline and limited the availability of caribou for local hunters

Total WAH Harvest

Category	Percentage
Resident Harvest	97%
Nonresident Harvest	3%

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Proposal 38

Background Caribou/Unit 23

- Harvest by nonresidents in GMU 23 has averaged 97.82% bulls since 2012
- Bull:cow ratios have remained above the WAHWG goal of 30:100

Fall Bull: Cow Ratio 1995-2023

Regulatory Year	Bulls:100 Cows
1995	58
1996	51
1997	49
1998	54
1999	49
2000	38
2001	48
2002	42
2003	45
2004	49
2005	42
2006	39
2007	41
2008	54
2009	47
2010	50

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Proposal 38

• PROPOSAL 38 Caribou/Unit 23

Close all nonresident caribou hunting in Unit 23

- **Proposed by**
- Northwest Arctic Advisory Council

- **Department Recommendation**
- Neutral

- **AC Recommendations**

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Proposal 39

PROPOSAL 39 Brown Bear/Unit 23


Lengthen the Unit 23 resident brown bear hunting season to no closed season

Proposed by: Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council (NWARAC)

Department Recommendation:
Support

AC Recommendations:
Kotzebue Sound AC- Support (Proposal 40)

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Proposal 39

Current Regulations Brown Bear/Unit 23

<p>Resident Hunter</p> <p><i>2 bears per regulatory year by registration permit; or</i></p> <p><i>2 bears per regulatory year</i></p> <p>Nonresident Hunter</p> <p>1 bear every regulatory year by drawing permit; or</p> <p>1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only</p>	<p>Open Season</p> <p><u>No closed season</u> [Aug 1 – May 31] (subsistence hunt)</p> <p><u>No closed season</u> [Aug 1 – May 31]</p> <p>Aug 1 – Oct 31 April 15 – May 31</p> <p>Aug 1 – Oct 31 April 15 – May 31</p>
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Proposal 39

Effects of the Proposal Brown Bear/Unit 23

- Provide additional harvest opportunity
- Potentially reduce brown bear killed in Defense of Life or Property (DLP)
- Align state and federal seasons



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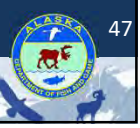


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Background Brown Bear/Unit 23

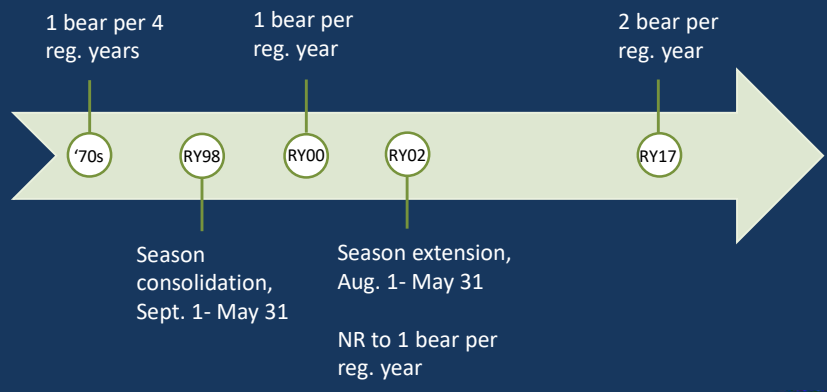
Incremental Liberalization

- Perceived increase in bear abundance
- Declining ungulate populations
- Desire to minimize human-bear conflicts



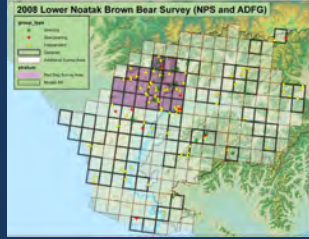
Background Brown Bear/Unit 23

Regulatory Changes



Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23



2008 Lower Noatak area survey
 • 41 bears per 1,000 km² (386mi²)



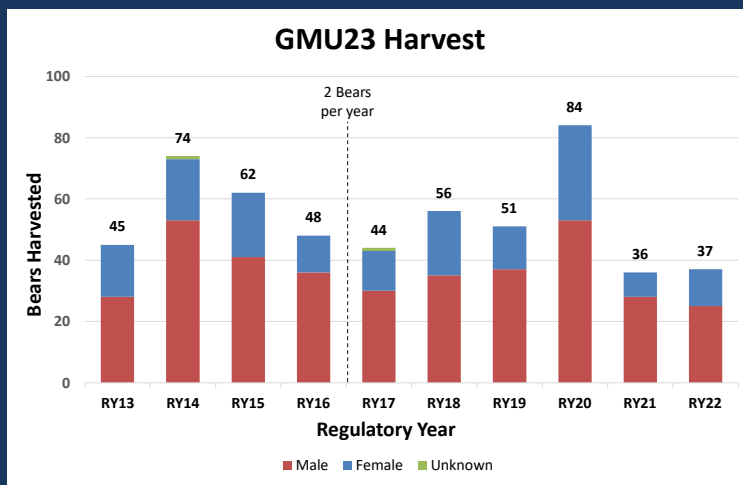
2016 Lower Noatak area survey
 • 49 bears per 1,000 km² (386mi²)

2017 Upper Noatak area survey
 • 25 bears per 1,000 km² (386mi²)



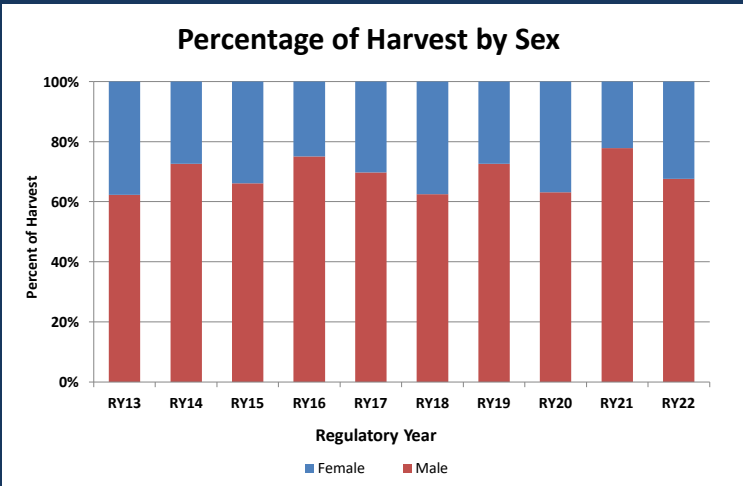
Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23



Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23

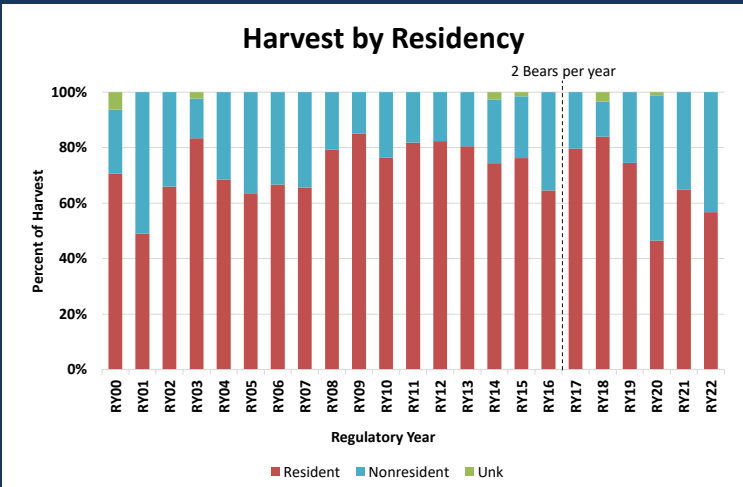


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Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23



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Proposal 39


PROPOSAL 39 Brown Bear/Unit 23


Lengthen the Unit 23 resident brown bear hunting season to no closed season

Proposed by: Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council (NWARAC)

Department Recommendation:
Supports

AC Recommendations:
Kotzebue Sound AC- Support (Proposal 40)


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Proposal 40


PROPOSAL 40 Brown Bear/Unit 23

Lengthen the Unit 23 resident brown bear hunting season to no closed season

Proposed by: Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department Recommendation:
Support

AC Recommendations:
Kotzebue Sound AC- Support


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Current Regulations Brown Bear/Unit 23

Resident Hunter

2 bears per regulatory year by registration permit; or

2 bears per regulatory year

Nonresident Hunter

1 bear every regulatory year by drawing permit; or

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only

Open Season

No closed season
[Aug 1 – May 31] (subsistence hunt)

No closed season
[Aug 1 – May 31]

Aug 1 – Oct 31
April 15 – May 31

Aug 1 – Oct 31
April 15 – May 31



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Effects of the Proposal Brown Bear/Unit 23

- Provide additional harvest opportunity
- Potentially reduce brown bear killed in Defense of Life or Property (DLP)
- Align state and federal seasons



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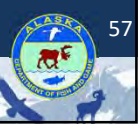


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Background Brown Bear/Unit 23

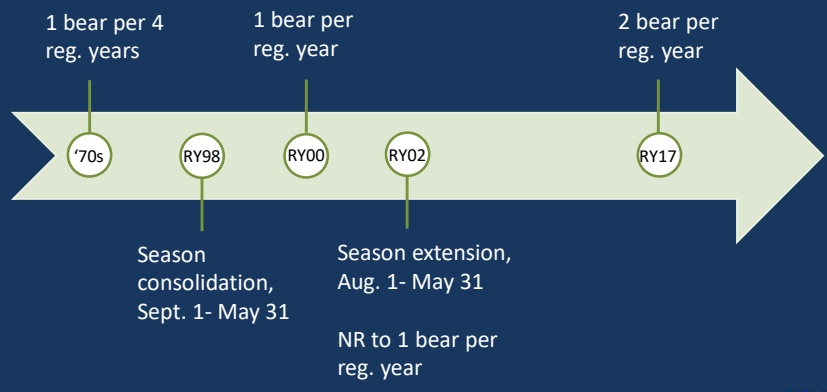
Incremental Liberalization

- Perceived increase in bear abundance
- Declining ungulate populations
- Desire to minimize human-bear conflicts



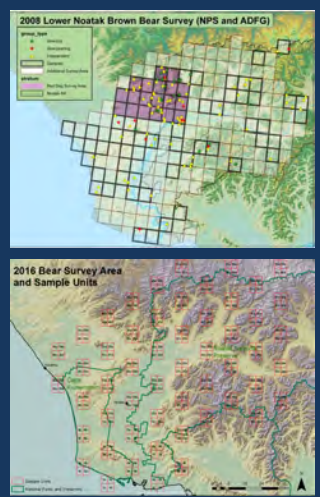
Background Brown Bear/Unit 23

Regulatory Changes



Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23



2008 Lower Noatak area survey

- 41 bears per 1,000 km² (386mi²)

2016 Lower Noatak area survey

- 49 bears per 1,000 km² (386mi²)

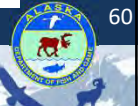
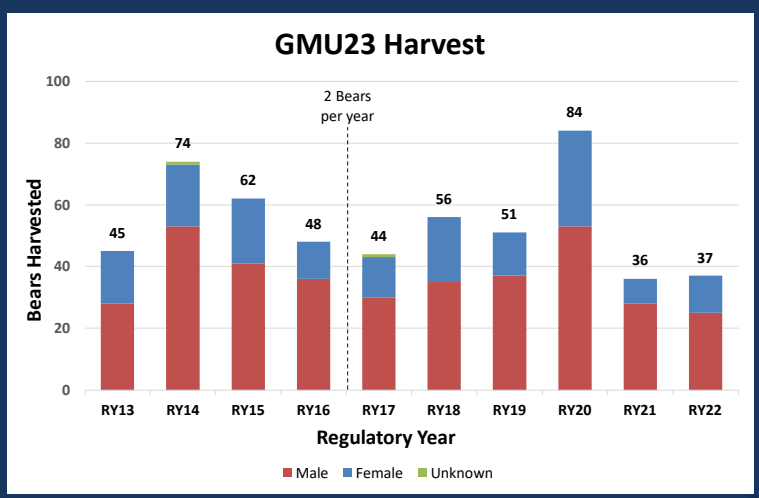
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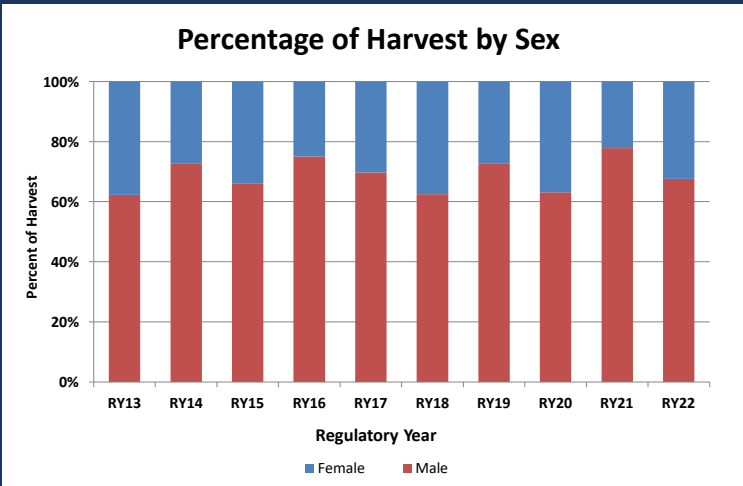
Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23



Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23

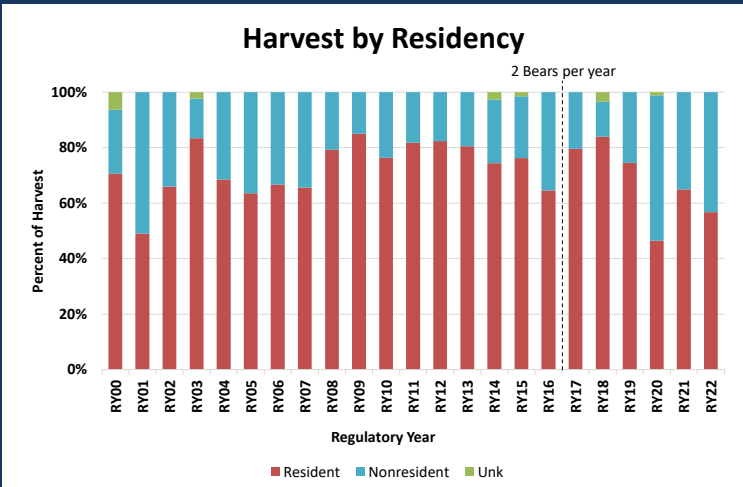


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Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23



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Proposal 40


PROPOSAL 40 Brown Bear/Unit 23


Lengthen the Unit 23 resident brown bear hunting season to no closed season

Proposed by: Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department Recommendation:
Supports

AC Recommendations:
Kotzebue Sound AC- Support


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Proposal 41


PROPOSAL 41 Brown Bear/Unit 23


Lengthen the Unit 23 resident brown bear hunting season to no closed season

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation:
Support

AC Recommendations:
Kotzebue Sound AC- Support (Proposal 40)


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Current Regulations

Brown Bear/Unit 23

Resident Hunter

2 bears per regulatory year by registration permit; or

2 bears per regulatory year

Nonresident Hunter

1 bear every regulatory year by drawing permit; or

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only

Open Season

No closed season
[Aug 1 – May 31] (subsistence hunt)

No closed season
[Aug 1 – May 31]

Aug 1 – Oct 31
April 15 – May 31

Aug 1 – Oct 31
April 15 – May 31



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Effects of the Proposal

Brown Bear/Unit 23

- Provide additional harvest opportunity
- Potentially reduce brown bear killed in Defense of Life or Property (DLP)
- Align state and federal seasons



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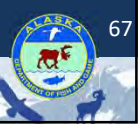


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Background Brown Bear/Unit 23

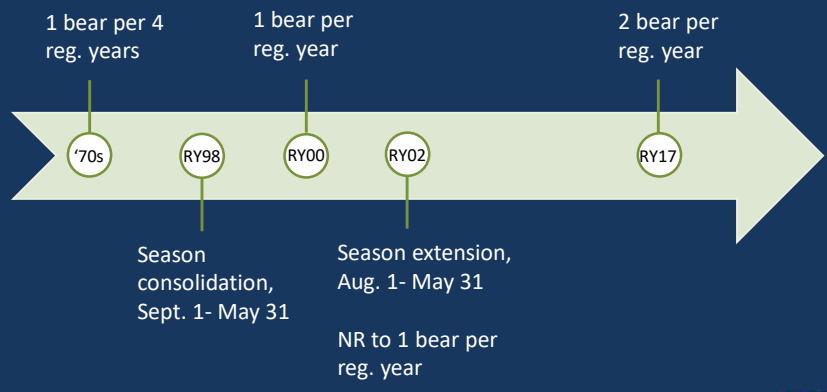
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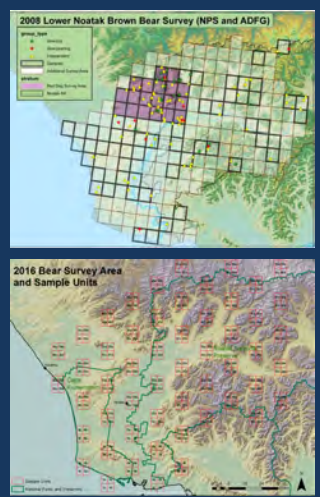
Background Brown Bear/Unit 23

Regulatory Changes



Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23

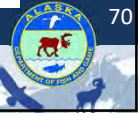
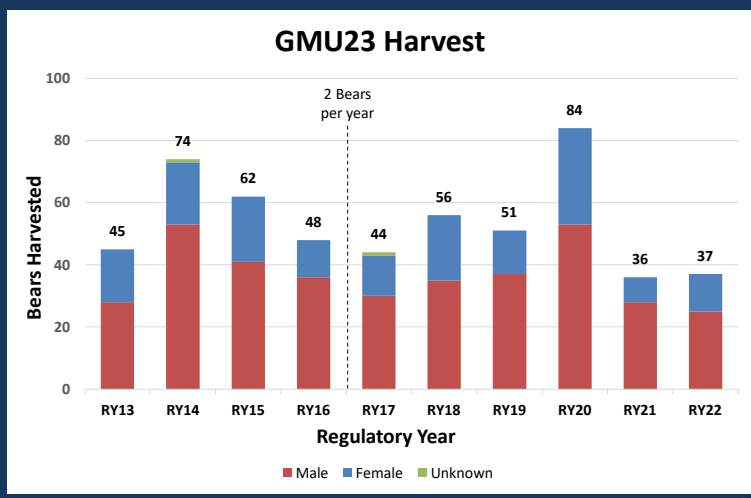


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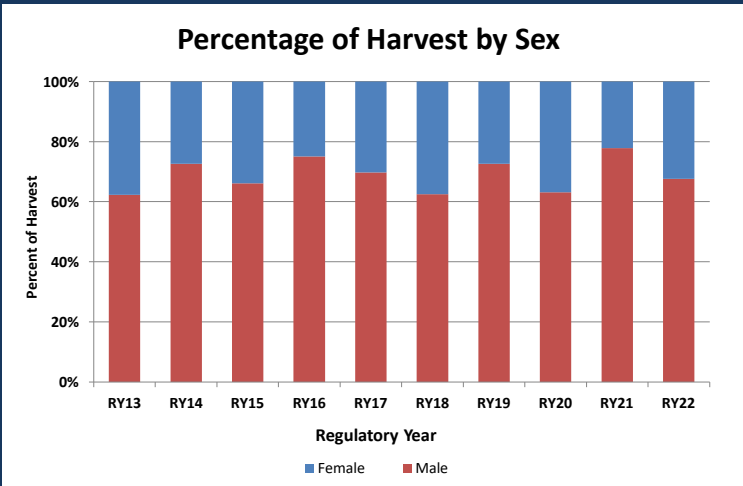
Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23



Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23

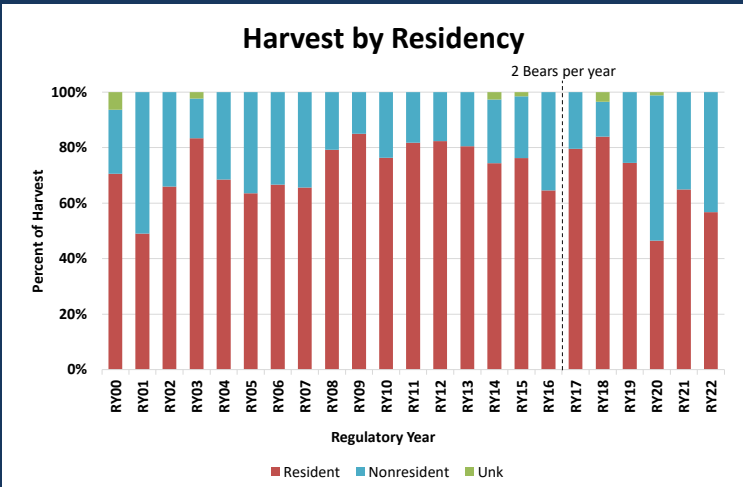


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Background

Brown Bear/Unit 23



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Proposal 41



PROPOSAL 41 Brown Bear/Unit 23

Lengthen the Unit 23 resident brown bear hunting season to no closed season

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation:
Supports

AC Recommendations:
Kotzebue Sound AC- Support (Proposal 40)

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Proposal 42



PROPOSAL 42 Brown Bear/Unit 23

Consolidate nonresident brown bear hunts into a single, unit-wide fall registration permit and a single, unit-wide spring registration permit

Proposed by:
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Department Recommendation:
Support

AC Recommendations:
Not yet addressed

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Current Regulations Brown Bear/Unit 23

Unit 23

One bear every regulatory year by permit (RB761-767) available online or in person at Kotzebue, Nome, and Galena beginning July 1

Or

One bear every regulatory year by permit (RB771-777) available online or in person at Kotzebue, Nome, and Galena beginning March 30

Nonresident Hunting Season

RB761-767: Aug. 1 – Oct. 31 **RB771-777:** Apr. 15 – May 31



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Background Brown Bear/Unit 23



Currently 14 nonresident registration hunts:

- 7 fall (RB761-767)
- 7 spring (RB771-777)

Correspond with the 7 Guide Use Areas (GUAs)



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Proposal 42


Background Brown Bear/Unit 23

A horizontal timeline arrow pointing right, divided into three segments by circles. The first segment is labeled 'RY07 Draw permits implemented'. The second segment is labeled 'RY14 Registration permits added'. The third segment is labeled 'RY19 Registration permits only, no limit'.


RY07 Draw permits implemented

RY14 Registration permits added

RY19 Registration permits only, no limit



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Proposal 42


Challenges Brown Bear/Unit 23

Hunters acquire multiple permits for several GUAs

- Hunters often don't know which GUA they hunt in.
- Additional documents for the hunter to carry in the field.
- Confuses hunt reporting for hunter and Department staff.



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Proposal 42

Effects of the Proposal Brown Bear/Unit 23

- Consolidate hunts into two, unit-wide registration permits; one for the fall season and one for the spring season.
- Functionally no change to current hunting.
- Reduce and simplify the permitting and required reporting.

RB781: Aug. 1 – Oct. 31
 RB791: Apr. 15 – May 31

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Proposal 42


PROPOSAL 42 Brown Bear/Unit 23


Consolidate nonresident brown bear hunts into a single, unit-wide fall registration permit and a single, unit-wide spring registration permit

Proposed by
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Department Recommendation
Support

AC Recommendations
Not yet addressed

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Proposal 209

PROPOSAL 209 Muskox/Unit 23

Create a bull-only, targeted muskox hunt for Sisualik Spit

Proposed by:
Native Village of Kotzebue and the Kotzebue Elders Council

Department Recommendation:
Neutral

AC Recommendations:
Not yet addressed


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Proposal 209

Current Regulations Muskox/Unit 23



TX107 Muskox Tier II Permit Hunt


AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 23, that portion north and west of the Kobuk River drainage.
Cape Krusenstern National Monument is BCC included in this Unit.


State subsistence Tier II hunt permit- TX107

- One bull
- Aug. 1st- Mar. 15th
- North and west of the Kobuk River drainage
- 3 Permits issued

Federal subsistence permits

- One bull
- Aug. 1st-Mar. 15th
- Cape Krusenstern National Monument
- Federal lands north and west of the Kobuk River drainage
- 3 permits issued

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Background

Muskox/Unit 23



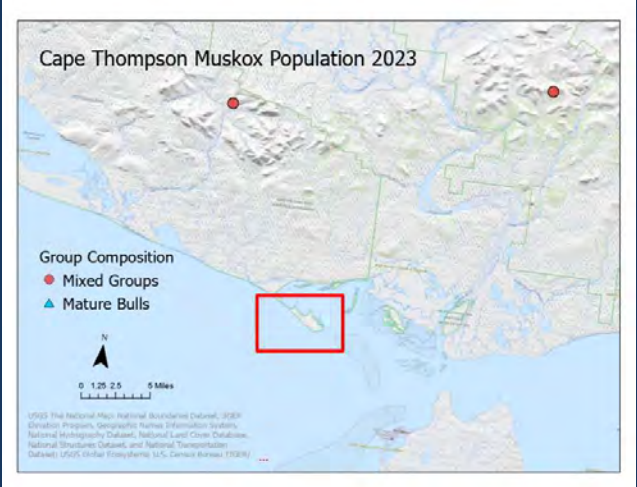
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Background

Muskox/Unit 23



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Proposal 209

Background Muskox/Unit 23

Current tools for muskox conflict

Exclusionary Fencing



Hazing/ Public Safety



DLP



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Proposal 209

Targeted Hunt Muskox/Unit 23

5 AAC 92.990 “targeted permit” means a permit issued on short notice and a lottery basis to an applicant who has previously registered and is willing to participate in a hunt under short notice.

- ➔ **reduce vehicle collisions**
- ➔ **pose a threat to public safety**
- ➔ **injured animals**

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Hunt Requirements

Muskox/Unit 23

Hunter application requirements:

- Alaskan residency
- Online application
- Valid hunting license

Hunter requirements if selected:

- Valid hunting license
- Unfilled bag limit
- No Failure to Report



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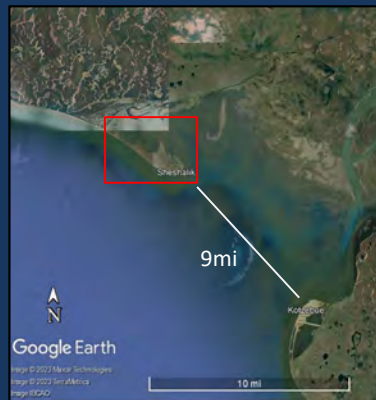
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Considerations

Muskox/Unit 23

- Timing and number of muskox in the local area is unpredictable
- Area is 9mi from Kotzebue, requires aircraft or boat access across Kotzebue sound
- Challenging for staff to access
- Hunters would need to quickly obtain permission to access privately owned land
- Animal may be DLP'd before permitted hunter arrives



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Proposal 209

Possible Alternative MuskoX/Unit 23

Create a new Tier II hunt area for Sisualik Spit

- Season dates of Jun. 1 — Oct. 31
- Bag limit of one bull
- Up to 4 permits may be issued

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Proposal 209

PROPOSAL 209 MuskoX/Unit 23

Create a bull-only, targeted muskoX hunt for Sisualik Spit

Proposed by:
Native Village of Kotzebue and the Kotzebue Elders Council

Department Recommendation:
Neutral

AC Recommendations:
Not yet addressed

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