

I am Jenysa Ahmaogak, from Wainwright, Alaska and I represent the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management for the record. I work with the NSBDWM (North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management) to collect subsistence surveys within my community of approximately 700 people. My concerns are mainly with Proposal 4.

In my community, we have a few super hunters who gather larger amounts of game than the average household. These hunters share their catches with elders, widows, and those who are disabled. Given the circumstances of the declining Western Arctic Caribou, we understand that being sustainable is important to the conservation of the WACH (Western Arctic Caribou Herd); but we also cannot deny the elderly, the widows, and the disabled of the caribou that was caught for them. Considering the hunter to non-hunter households ratio is 20:30 in my community, with more non-hunters than hunters. To further clarify, the hunter to super hunter ratio is 1:10. The average hunting household only hunts an amount that is enough for their household and the elder(s) within their immediate family.

Proposals made to limit the amount of caribou harvested per year, can make it harder for the entire community to get through the long winters. They can also cause repercussions including: more households to face food insecurity, lesser caribou furs for whaling tent insulation, and a higher demand of other animals. This is not an effective proposal for those who face food insecurity and rely on hunters outside of their household to gather their food for them.

To mitigate this issue, a proposition can be made specifically for these super hunters. This can be done by gathering the super hunters and calculate how much of their catches stay with them at home and how much is given to those who cannot hunt. Then we can calculate the amount given to those who cannot hunt and we can find a baseline of how many caribou are shared among these people to create a reasonable quota on the super hunter proposal. This would help the community be sustainable without facing food insecurity among the households that cannot hunt for themselves.

Caribou is an important staple to our lifestyle; our people rely on it for nourishment for the soul and to keep us fed during the long winters. To compare and give some perspective, an average meat box in my village stores are \$400. This \$400 meat box can feed an average household of seven people for a week, at longest. The same amount of money can be put towards gas, bullets, and grub for hunters. On a good day, this \$400 invested in hunting and gathering can bring us 5 to 6 caribou. These 5-6 caribou can feed the same average household of seven for a month to two months. This is a huge difference, especially for the households who are on a fixed income and cannot afford to survive off of food from the stores.

Overall, Proposal 4 is a great step forward to protect our caribou, but it overlooks the way our community's work together to keep each other fed.