

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

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



Alaska Board of Game, Fairbanks, February 17-25, 2017
ADF&G Division of Subsistence

1

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

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2

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.

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3

Background

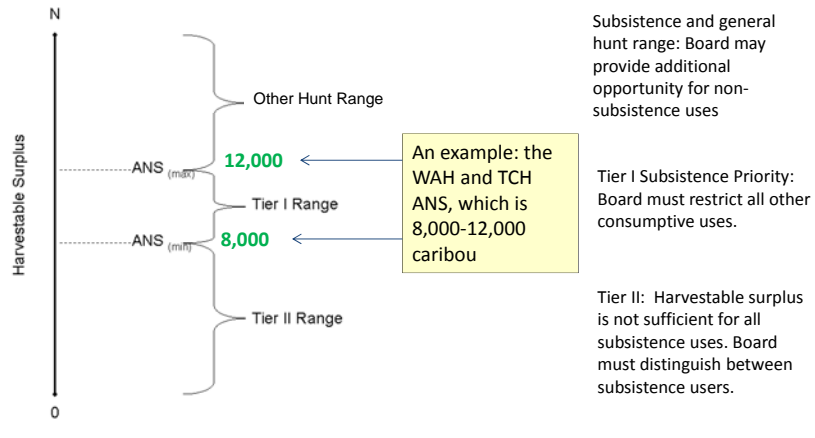
- ADF&G recognized TCH as a management population in 1978.
- TCH recognized as important for providing high levels of human harvest under the Intensive Management law with a population objective of 15,000 – 28,000 and harvest objective of 900 – 2,800 Teshekpuk caribou.

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4

Background: Subsistence Procedures

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



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5

Harvest Data Limitations

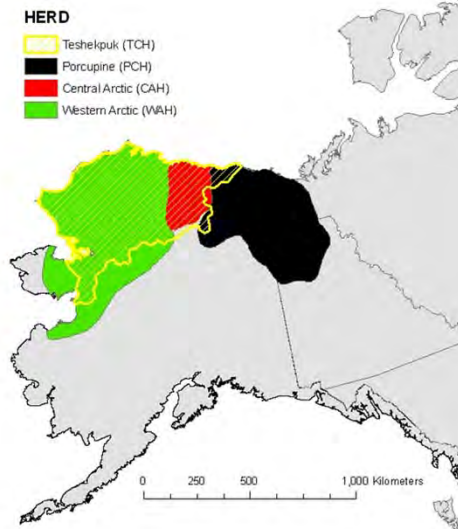
- 2 sources of harvest information, including new information obtained since 2014:
 - Community household harvest surveys
 - Harvest ticket database
- Both data sources are associated with significant limitations to developing ANS options:
 - Household survey data is limited to a small number of community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

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6

Arctic Caribou

- Four caribou herds on the North Slope
- Primary harvesters of TCH are Utqiagvik (Barrow), Atkasuk, 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 \pm 25% results in range of 2,200 to 3,800 caribou



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7

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

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8

Option 1

Single ANS for WAH/Teshekpuk caribou

Option 1: One ANS for WAH and TCH combined = 10,200-15,800 caribou						
Mean harvests of Teshekpuk caribou	<i>Bounded by</i>	Mean ± 25%			ANS Range option	
		Low	High	<i>Equals</i>	Low	High
3,018		2,264	3,773		2,200	3,800
Thus, 8,000-12,000 WAH caribou + 2,200-3,800 TCH caribou = 10,200-15,800 caribou						

Option 2

Separate ANS Teshekpuk caribou

Option 2: Separate ANS for TCH = 2,200 - 3,800 caribou						
Mean harvests of Teshekpuk caribou	<i>Bounded by</i>	Mean ± 25%			ANS Range option	
		Low	High	<i>Equals</i>	Low	High
3,018		2,264	3,773		2,200	3,800
Thus, 2,200 - 3,800 TCH caribou						

Option 3

Take no action

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11

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 reasonable 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.

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12

Finding?

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