

Note: Proposal 269 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 2022.

PROPOSAL 269

5 AAC 85.025(a)(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Create a tiered hunt structure and open a hunt for the Unimak Island caribou herd as follows:

Establish a hunt for caribou in Unit 10. The Department of Fish and Game recommends a tiered hunt structure, with specific allocations to be determined pending the outcome of Proposal 26 scheduled for the January 2022 Board of Game meeting.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(5)		
Unit 10, Unimak Island only	[NO OPEN SEASON.]	[NO OPEN SEASON.]

**If the harvestable portion is
XX caribou or less:**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

**If the harvestable portion is
greater than XX, but less
than XX caribou:**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

Nov. 15–Dec. 31

**If the harvestable portion is
greater than XX, but less
than XX caribou:**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 caribou

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 caribou

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

Nov. 15–Dec. 31

**If the harvestable portion is
greater than XX:**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 caribou

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 caribou

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

Nov. 15–Dec. 31

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

Pending board action on Proposal 26 regarding a customary and traditional use determination for the Unimak Island caribou herd, this proposal, if passed, will provide an opportunity to increase caribou harvest on Unimak Island (Unit 10) and should not be delayed. High bull to cow and calf to cow ratios and an annual increase in the population by 10% annually can immediately provide a harvestable surplus of 10–25 bulls. Historically, the remoteness of the herd and small human population has not provided the level of harvest necessary to contain the herd within carrying capacity, which has led to declines in population and habitat quality.

A harvestable surplus exists on the UCH for the first time in a number of years and this opportunity should be taken advantage of to provide hunting opportunities while controlling the trajectory of an increasing herd.

If the problem is not solved prior to the regular cycle, state harvest opportunity would be lost but federal opportunity would remain or increase since most Unimak Island is federal land. This proposal seeks to arrest growth of the herd.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game

(HQ-F21-ACR6)
