

PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 85.025 Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Modify the Unit 8, caribou hunting season from a general season harvest ticket to a registration hunt as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
Unit 8	Aug. 1–Jan. 31	Aug. 1–Jan. 31

1 caribou **by registration permit only**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal changes the Kodiak Island Unit 8 caribou hunt from a general season harvest ticket hunt to a registration hunt. Administering the hunt as a registration permit allows the department to utilize its discretionary permit authority to maintain harvest at sustainable levels. If passed, the department will establish an annual harvest quota and implement a 5-day reporting requirement (in person or by phone) to the ADF&G Kodiak office following the completion of the hunt. Implementation of a 5-day reporting requirement will provide the department near real time harvest information and provide the opportunity to close the hunt promptly when the harvest quota is reached. The Kodiak Island caribou herd has been consistently estimated at 300-400 animals since the late 1990s'. Caribou harvest was relatively consistent between 2000-2014 with an average annual harvest of approximately 18 animals per year. However, beginning in 2015 the interest and resulting harvest of caribou on Kodiak has increased significantly to an average annual harvest of 43 caribou per year. The widespread interest in hunting caribou on Kodiak continues to increase as documented by the increased number of hunters participating in the hunt. The average number of hunters participating in the caribou hunt annually from 2000-2013 was 34. The average number of hunters participating in the caribou hunt annually from 2014-present was 73, more than double the previous average. Modifying the caribou hunt from a general season harvest ticket to a registration hunt will aid the department in achieving and maintaining the caribou herd at a management objective of 350-500 animals.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-060)
