

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Reduce the caribou bag limit for residents in Unit 23 from five caribou per day to four caribou total, only one of which may be a cow as follows:

5 AAC 85.025(18).

Unit 23 caribou.

RESIDENT HUNTERS: **Four caribou per regulatory year** [FIVE CARIBOU PER DAY], **however, no more than 1 cow may be taken** by permit available online at [http:// hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) or in person in Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, and at license vendors in Units 23 and 26A beginning June 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the caribou harvest limit in all of Unit 23 to four caribou (either four bulls or three bulls and one cow) per regulatory year. The Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH) has continued to decline with the most recent estimate being 164,000 caribou. The Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council (NWARAC) is greatly concerned about the precipitous decline of the WACH and feel that this action is needed to slow the decline and prevent the herd from reaching a point of no return. The NWARAC feels that the harvest recommendations set forth by the WACH working group would be a starting point for the conservation of the WACH while still allowing some harvest. The NWARAC recognizes that subsistence users are already facing food insecurities, but this drastic reduction of caribou harvest is a means to help protect the caribou herd while still allowing some harvest.

The NWARAC also submitted a proposal to eliminate nonresident caribou harvest in Unit 23.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council (NWARAC) (HQ-F23-009)
