

PROPOSAL 4

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

Align caribou seasons in Unit 26A and Unit 23, and reduce the bag limit as follows:

Align caribou harvest and seasons with Unit 26A remainder to reduce cow harvest in southern Unit 26A and Unit 23 north of and including Singoalik River Drainage as follows:

Five caribou per day **3 of which may be cows, cows with calves may not be taken; July 16-Oct. 15.**

[FIVE] **Three cows per day, cows with calves may not be taken. Oct. 16-Dec. 31.**

Five caribou per day **3 or which may be cows, no calves may be taken Jan. 1- March 15.**

[FIVE] **Three caribou per day cows only Jan. 1-Mar 15.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Western Arctic caribou herd has been in decline since its population peaked in 2003. In 2022 its population was estimated to be 164,000 which is below the ADF&G's population objective of over 200,000 animals. To address this decline we suggest reducing the harvest of cows in Unit 26A despite the understanding that the majority of harvest occurs on the Teshekpuk herd in northern and eastern Unit 26A. The Teshekpuk herd is stable to increasing based on the last photo census which enumerated 61,500 caribou in 2022.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F23-191)
