

Proposal 9

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

Modify the current caribou bag limit in Units 22, 23, and the southwestern portion of 26A to four bulls per regulatory year and close the cow caribou hunt as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

5 AAC 85.025, Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the current resident caribou hunting season in Units 22, 23, and 26A as follows:

Unit 22A, North of the Golsovia River drainage

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, ONLY 1 OF WHICH MAY BE A

COW] by permit available online at [http:// hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

Unit 22A, Remainder

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, UP TO 5 PER DAY]. Bulls may not

be taken Oct 15-Jan 31. [COWS MAY NOT BE TAKEN APR 1-AUG31] Permits available online at [http:// hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

Unit 22B, West of Golovnin Bay, west of the west banks of Fish and Niukluk rivers below the Libby River (excluding the Libby River drainage and the Niukluk River drainage above, the mouth of the Libby River)

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, ONLY 1 OF WHICH MAY BE A

COW] by permit available online at [http:// hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, UP TO 5 PER DAY. COWS MAY

NOT BE TAKEN APR 1-AUG31] Permits available online at [http:// hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

Unit 22B, Remainder

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, ONLY 1 OF WHICH MAY BE A

COW] by permit available online at [http:// hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

Unit 22C

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, UP TO 5 PER DAY]. Bulls may not

be taken Oct 15-Jan 31. [COWS MAY NOT BE TAKEN APR 1-AUG 31] Permits available online at [http:// hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

Unit 22D, Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, ONLY 1 OF WHICH MAY BE A

COW] by permit available online at [http:// hunt.alaska.gov](http://hunt.alaska.gov) or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, UP TO 5 PER DAY. COWS MAY

NOT BE TAKEN APR 1-AUG 31] Permits available online at <http:// hunt.alaska.gov> or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

Unit 22D, in the Kuzitrin River drainage (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage) and the Agiapuk River drainage

RESIDENTS ONLY: Four bulls [FIFTEEN CARIBOU TOTAL, UP TO 5 PER DAY]. Bulls may not

be taken Oct 15-Jan 31. [COWS MAY NOT BE TAKEN APR 1-AUG 31] Permits available online at <http:// hunt.alaska.gov> or in person in Nome and license vendors within Unit 22 beginning June 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

The Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) is undergoing an alarming and ongoing decline, with the most recent population estimate at 120,618 animals representing a significant drop from prior years. This trend underscores the urgent need to implement harvest restrictions across the range of the WACH to ensure the long-term viability of the herd.

The Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (SPRAC) proposes to modify the current caribou bag limit in Units 22, 23, and the southwestern portion of 26A to four bulls per regulatory year and to close the cow caribou hunt. The SPRAC firmly believes that the herd, at current population levels, does not have a harvestable surplus of cows and that this regulatory restriction is necessary to support the herd's recovery. The Council also supported a parallel Federal special action request to reduce the harvest limit and eliminate cow harvest under Federal regulations.

In addition to regulatory changes, non-regulatory measures—such as increased enforcement and enhanced hunter education—will also be essential to improving compliance and promoting sustainable harvest practices.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

The proposal was developed during the March 2026 Seward Peninsula Council meeting at the request of Council members who reside in the region.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (OI-F26-047)
