

PROPOSAL 126 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Increase the bag limit for the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP) in Unit 9D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
Caribou		
Unit 9D		
If the harvestable portion is greater than 150:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>2 caribou</u> [1 caribou]	Aug. 1–Sept. 30 Nov. 15–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>2 caribou</u> [1 caribou]		Aug. 1–Sept. 30
If the harvestable portion is greater than 250:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>3 caribou</u> [1 caribou]	Aug. 1–Sept. 30 Nov. 15–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>3 caribou</u> [1 caribou]		Aug. 1–Sept. 30
If the harvestable portion is greater than 450:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>4 caribou</u> [1 caribou]	Aug. 1–Sept. 30 Nov. 15–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>4 caribou</u> [1 caribou]		Aug. 1–Sept. 30
If the harvestable portion is greater than 550:		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The growing SAP herd has likely exceeded 2,200 caribou, has high bull and calf ratios, and low reported harvest under a one caribou bag limit. Historically, the remoteness of the herd and small human population has not provided the harvest necessary to contain the herd within objectives which led to declines in population and habitat quality. Increasing the bag limit will allow the Department of Fish and Game the discretion to proactively manage the rapidly growing population by increasing harvest commensurate with population levels to maintain it at or near the upper end of the objective of 4,000 caribou without having to propose Board of Game changes out of cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-038)
