

PROPOSAL 25

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

Remove the restriction on caribou calf harvest in Unit 23 as follows:

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Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS: that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage:
5 caribou per day, by registration permit only, as follows: up to 5 bulls per day; July 1 – Oct. 14, Feb. 1 – June 30; [HOWEVER CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN]; up to 5 cows per day; July 15 – April 30, [HOWEVER CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN].

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 caribou per day, by registration permit only, as follows:
up to 5 bulls per day; July 1 – Oct. 14, Feb. 1 – June 30; [HOWEVER CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN]; up to 5 cows per day; Sept. 1 - Mar. 31, [HOWEVER CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At its meeting on December 13, 2018, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group (WACHWG) voted unanimously to support a proposal by the Kotzebue Advisory Committee (AC) to remove the restriction on caribou calf harvest in Unit 23.

The following responses to questions were provided by the Kotzebue AC regarding this proposal:

What is the problem you would like the Board to address? “Removing the calf harvest prohibition would allow for calves to be harvested in those circumstances where they have lost their mothers and are wandering unattached to the herd or where their mother may have been accidentally harvested. Nobody is targeting calves, but there are rare circumstances where it may make sense to harvest a calf and there is no reason to prohibit this, since making rules based on the exception is not good policy making.”

What will happen if this problem is not solved? “Abandoned/orphaned calves will continue to become food for predators, instead of being able to be used for human consumption.”

What solution do you prefer? “Removal of calf harvest prohibition.”

Does your proposal address improving the quality of the resource harvested or the products produced? “It allows for abandoned calves to be utilized for human food instead of feeding predators.”

Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted? “Those who come across abandoned calves and would otherwise have to leave them for the predators.”

Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted? “None.”

List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them. “None.”

PROPOSED BY: Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group

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