

Note: This proposal is also scheduled for the Western Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 27.

PROPOSAL 81

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

Increase the nonresident bag limit for caribou in Unit 26 as follows:

I propose reinstating the caribou harvest limit for nonresident hunters in the Game Management Unit 26A, B, and C of the North Slope, from the current harvest limit of one bull to two bulls, as it was prior to 2016.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As one of the predominant air-taxi operators conducting in these units consistently for over ten years, flying an average of 150 flight hours during the month of August, we have not observed a substantial fluctuation in the caribou numbers. Arrowhead Outfitters, LLC (AOLLC) has observed a drastic decline in the general hunter participation on the Dalton Highway Corridor. Along with a dramatic drop in hunter inquiries and bookings after the harvest limit was decreased to one bull caribou in 2016.

By using the data from the ADF&G area biologist, provided in the table below, the harvest numbers are WELL BELOW ALLOWABLE HARVEST and the current caribou population is stable.

CAH HARVEST Reported harvest from the general harvest ticket:

	males	females	Total harvest	Total hunters
2010	978	234	1238	1622
2011	814	346	1172	1401
2012	726	275	1007	1430
2013	729	135	868	1462
2014	720	196	916	1433
2015	530	225	756	1256
2016	316	268	585	1063
2017	223	7	230	619
2018Prelim	146	3	149	317

	Resident hunters	<u>Resident harvest</u>	Nonresident hunters	<u>Nonresident harvest</u>
2010	1201	953	371	280
2011	1045	935	264	228
2012	1126	773	295	235
2013	1014	530	441	331
2014	987	555	442	358
2015	807	414	449	342
2016	705	403	358	183
2017	348	109	268	118
2018Prelim	181	71	136	78

Prior to 2016, when nonresident hunters were allowed to purchase the second caribou tag, according to ADF&G only 17 percent used the tag. All the nonresident hunters AOLLC has had contact with, would prefer to at LEAST have the option to PURCHASE a second caribou tag. Using ADFG estimated 17 percent additional harvest, THE TOTAL ESTIMATED HARVEST WOULD ONLY BE APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST OF 680 CARIBOU.

In conclusion the total harvest by resident and nonresident hunters was 149 caribou for 317 hunters. With a native local harvest estimated at 100 animals for a total harvest of 249 caribou. This is far below the ADF&G allowable harvest of 680 caribou, set by the 2016 population estimate of 22,630 caribou. Please refer to data above. I see no biological data to keep the nonresident hunters in Unit 26 to the one caribou limit, and respectfully request that the ADF&G to reinstate the possibility of nonresident hunters to purchase two bull caribou licenses in the 2020 hunting season.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter

PROPOSED BY: Howard Tieden

(HQ-F19-146)
