

Units 23, 26A and 22 Discussion Notes on Proposal 202
Submitted by: ADFG

Parties Present:

AC Members: Warren Lampe (North Slope AC Point Lay), William Hopson (North Slope AC Barrow)

Enoch Oktolik (North Slope AC Wainwright), Atamuk Sheidt (Kotzebue Sound AC), Wanda Kippi (North Slope AC Atqasuk), Eli Nukapigak (North Slope AC Nuiqsut), George Kingnik (North Slope AC Point Hope), Joseph Leavitt (North Slope AC Barrow), Charlie Lean (Northern Norton Sound AC), Glenn Miller (Lower Kobuk AC), Jacob Ivanoff (Southern Norton Sound AC), John Horner Sr. (Upper Kobuk AC), Enoch Mitchell (Noatak and Kivalina AC)

Agency Staff:

Harry Brower (Department of Law North Slope Borough), Brian Person (North Slope Borough), Taqulik Hepa (North Slope Borough), Mike Pederson (North Slope Borough), Billy Adams (North Slope Borough)

ADFG Staff:

Jim Dau (Caribou Biologist Kotzebue)

Geoff Carroll (Area Biologist Barrow)

Peter Bente (ADFG)

Lincoln Parrett (ADFG)

Steve Machida (ADFG)

Carmen Daggett (ADFG Boards)

Passed out summaries of advisory committee comments, written comments and RAC comments, in visual and written formats.

Harry Brower: Suggested a regional approach to caribou hunting seasons and bag limits and wants the North Slope regulations to be pertinent to be in line with 26A

Charlie Lean: Explains we thought Unit 22 should be separate from Unit 23 and 26A. If we are to do any hunting at all it has to be done in the winter. We prefer to see annual harvest limited not the hunting seasons.

Jim Dau: Explains the value of explanation of the consistency of the dates, these dates came from the Advisory Committees

Taqulik Hepa: Page 3 of the packet, the submitted calendar, we are good with this. As we move through the different geographic areas have to make sure Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope are included in regulation with 26A.

Anaktuvuk Pass explained that they wanted zero non-resident harvest RC 68.

Glenn Miller: The rapid decline of the caribou herd of the Northwest Arctic Herd. Explains the declines of caribou herd we need to decrease the predators. We have to look at predator control.

Jim Dau: Explains the variability of recommendations from advisory committees. Explains the average of all of the closures of dates.

Jim Dau: Explains the agreement about bulls close Oct 11th-Jan 26th. Do these average dates make sense?

Joseph Leavitt: Explains the average dates it would work for the North Slope Region for bulls. I think it will work.

Charlie Lean: It is very hard to get around in early winter the first caribou show up in unit 22 in October you can look at a bull with a distinctive white strip down the side are good that aren't fully mature. The number of animals that are taken between October through the winter are quiet few. There are a few people that take some animals. Late Jan-spring is the best time to hunt for us. Unit 22 takes 15% of time. Would like a quota. There are few communities that would have a problem with permits.

Jim Dau: Explains a permit hunts and the potential for using permits for reducing take.

Charlie Lean: Annual personal bag limit in Unit 22 was suggested a way to deal with Unit 22.

Jim Dau: Explains the need to reduce cow take and increase the survival in calves.

Harry Brower: Explains the boundaries and the impacts on Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope. I only feel I can speak for Unit 26.

Jim Dau: Explains cow closures close April 4th-September 2nd was the average closure dates. If they adopted these dates, there is no time where there was a complete closure for caribou.

Taqulik Hepa: Explains how their plan for 26A also allows for a time to take either bull or cow caribou throughout the year.

John Horner: Explains natural oscillations in caribou herd numbers. We need to take care of the predator problem to protect these herds.

Eli: Explains the role of transporters in the distribution of the caribou.

Unit 22 (Charlie Lean and Jacob Ivanoff): Is happy with going with the average dates closures. We considered doing a quota.

John Horner: Our falls are getting later and the springs are getting earlier. Someday we are not going to have a winter.

Taqulik: We from the North Slope communities, we supported the proposal 202 as it was, if we are forced to decide. We are ok with the average bull date. Closed April 16-July 14, Open July 15th -would be a better date for Unit 24 for cows. March-April is the spring migration for cows. Closure cows May 1st-July 14th. Open July 15-April 30th. Anaktuvuk Pass is having a hard time getting caribou in the fall so they need to get caribou in the spring migration and need to be able to take cows during that time period. The bulls that pass through the fall time. We need to talk to Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope. (please defer any North Slope closures to North Slope Borough submitted RC).

Jim Dau: Explains that Anaktuvuk Pass Unit 24 could have these dates. 26A and Unit 24 the mean dates are ok with the averages for bulls.

Jacob Ivanoff: Explains I am ok with the bull's season and the cows as long as the spring modification is only for Unit 24.

George: Point Hope needs to be included in the Unit 23 working group. Point Hope Needs to be included in Unit 24-26A regulations even though they are technically in Unit 23.

Game management Units 22 and 23 (besides that portion of Unit 23 that includes Point Hope) agreed on the following average dates for seasons, though it should be noted that Norton Sound AC's all agreed in their minutes and during the discussion that they would prefer to have an annual quota than be limited by seasons.

Bulls Closed: Oct 15-Jan 31, Open from July 1 to Oct 14th; Feb 1-June 30th regulatory year

-Reasoning bulls should not be allowed to be taken during the rut when the meat is not good.

Cows: closed April 1-August 31; Open Sept 1-March 31st

-To decrease the impact on cows and cows that might be carrying calves.