

# Proposal 22

## 5 AAC 99.025

### Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Determine customary and traditional uses of the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd

**Proposed by:** ADF&G  
**Department Recommendation:** Neutral



# Division of Subsistence

## CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE WORKSHEET Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd Game Management Units 17A and 17C

Prepared by:  
Division of Subsistence  
Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game



## 1. Proposed by ADF&G

## 2. What Would this proposal do?

- Make a customary and traditional use (C&T) determination for the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd (NPCH).

## 3. Overview of the current C&T status:

- Under 5 AAC 99.025, the Board of Game (the board) determined that the caribou in Game Management Units (GMUs) 9A, 9B, 17, and 18, defined as the Mulchatna herd, are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence. A positive C&T finding for Mulchatna caribou in GMUs 9A, 9B, 17, and 18 was established; the board also established that the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (ANS) was 2,100–2,400 caribou. There is no C&T finding for the separate Nushagak Peninsula herd.

## 1. 1988

- a) Positive C&T Mulchatna caribou herd
- b) Caribou transplanted from the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd to the Nushagak Peninsula (southern portions of GMUs 17A and 17C), establishing the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd

## 2. Currently

- a) No C&T finding for the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd



## 1. 1988

- Caribou reintroduction
  - Agreement between the USFWS, ADF&G, and local communities
  - Goal to provide hunting opportunities

## 2. 1994–1995

- Federal Subsistence Board found that residents of Aleknagik, Clarks Point/Ekuk, Dillingham, Manokotak, Togiak, and Twin Hills have a positive customary and traditional use for caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula
- Federal hunt was established

## 3. NPCH Population

- Experienced substantial fluctuations in population size
- Population objective: 400–900 caribou



# Background: Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd

## Nushagak Peninsula caribou reported harvest by community, regulatory years 1994–2020.

| Regulatory year        | Community  |            |            |           |            |          | Clarks Point | Other        | Total |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-------|
|                        | Aleknagik  | Dillingham | Manokotak  | Togiak    | Twin Hills |          |              |              |       |
| 1994–1995              | 3          | 5          | 25         | 1         | 1          | 0        | ---          | 35           |       |
| 1995–1996              | 0          | 2          | 50         | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 52           |       |
| 1996–1997              | 1          | 10         | 9          | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 20           |       |
| 1997–1998              | 4          | 38         | 25         | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 67           |       |
| 1998–1999              | 0          | 45         | 10         | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 55           |       |
| 1999–2000              | 1          | 40         | 16         | 6         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 63           |       |
| 2000–2001              | 0          | 107        | 19         | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 126          |       |
| 2001–2002              | 5          | 76         | 46         | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 127          |       |
| 2002–2003              | 0          | 0          | 3          | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 3            |       |
| 2003–2004              | 0          | 7          | 27         | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 34           |       |
| 2004–2005              | 0          | 2          | 7          | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 9            |       |
| 2005–2006              | 1          | 0          | 10         | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 11           |       |
| 2006–2007              | ---        | ---        | 0          | ---       | ---        | ---      | ---          | 0            |       |
| 2007–2008              | ---        | ---        | 0          | ---       | ---        | ---      | ---          | 0            |       |
| 2008–2009              | ---        | ---        | 8          | ---       | ---        | ---      | ---          | 8            |       |
| 2009–2010              | 1          | 6          | 11         | ---       | ---        | ---      | ---          | 18           |       |
| 2010–2011              | 11         | 10         | 24         | ---       | ---        | ---      | ---          | 45           |       |
| 2011–2012              | 17         | 22         | 32         | 15        | 0          | ---      | ---          | 86           |       |
| 2012–2013              | 26         | 38         | 37         | 4         | 4          | ---      | ---          | 109          |       |
| 2013–2014              | 9          | 52         | 41         | ---       | ---        | ---      | ---          | 102          |       |
| 2014–2015              | 4          | 8          | 4          | ---       | ---        | ---      | ---          | 16           |       |
| 2015–2016 <sup>b</sup> | 6          | 33         | 23         | ---       | ---        | 2        | 2            | 64           |       |
| 2016–2017 <sup>c</sup> | 40         | 241        | 87         | 8         | ---        | ---      | ---          | 378          |       |
| 2017–2018 <sup>d</sup> | 0          | 61         | 39         | 0         | 0          | 0        | ---          | 100          |       |
| 2018–2019 <sup>e</sup> | 1          | 5          | 8          | ---       | ---        | ---      | 0            | 14           |       |
| 2019–2020 <sup>f</sup> | 34         | 191        | 55         | 17        | 4          | 0        | 6            | 307          |       |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>164</b> | <b>999</b> | <b>616</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>9</b>   | <b>2</b> | <b>8</b>     | <b>1,849</b> |       |
| %                      | 8.9        | 54.0       | 33.3       | 2.8       | 0.5        | 0.1      | 0.4          | 100.0        |       |



# Criterion 1: Length and Consistency of Use

## Documented oral history regarding traditional uses of caribou.

- Food source
- Clothing
- Fashioning tools

## Estimated Nushagak Peninsula caribou harvests by community and study year

| Community    | Study year | Percentage of households |           |           |           |        | Harvest amount (ind) | 95% confidence limit (±) | Harvest weight (lb) |                    |           |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|
|              |            | Use %                    | Attempt % | Harvest % | Receive % | Give % |                      |                          | Total               | Mean per household | Percapita |
| Aleknagik    | 1989       | 84.2%                    | 60.5%     | 55.3%     | 60.5%     | 60.5%  | 57                   | 0.1                      | 8,621               | 205.3              | 60.5      |
|              | 2001       | 88.9%                    | 55.6%     | 47.2%     | 27.8%     | 52.8%  | 48                   | 0.2                      | 7,200               | 150.0              | 45.8      |
|              | 2008       | 12.5%                    | 6.3%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      | 12.5%  | 0                    | 0.0                      | 0                   | 0.0                | 0.0       |
| Clarks Point | 1989       | 76.5%                    | 52.9%     | 41.2%     | 47.1%     | 64.7%  | 18                   | 0.0                      | 2,700               | 158.8              | 48.2      |
|              | 2001       | 85.7%                    | 71.4%     | 57.1%     | 57.1%     | 42.9%  | 28                   | 0.0                      | 4,200               | 200.0              | 71.2      |
|              | 2008       | 36.4%                    | 54.5%     | 9.1%      | 9.1%      | 18.2%  | 2                    | 2.2                      | 245                 | 13.6               | 6.5       |
| Dillingham   | 1984       | 69.9%                    | 26.8%     | 22.2%     | 15.0%     | 54.9%  | 379                  | 0.3                      | 56,904              | 82.4               | 27.9      |
|              | 2001       | 13.5%                    | 10.2%     | 6.3%      | 6.8%      | 7.7%   | 344                  | 0.3                      | 51,622              | 58.9               | 21.1      |
|              | 2010       | 35.8%                    | 14.8%     | 5.1%      | 9.2%      | 28.7%  | 63                   | 0.5                      | 9,495               | 13.1               | 4.1       |
| Manokotak    | 1985       | 88.9%                    | 42.6%     | 31.5%     | 46.3%     | 64.8%  | 44                   | 0.1                      | 6,638               | 112.5              | 21.5      |
|              | 1999       | 87.7%                    | 56.8%     | 49.4%     | 63.0%     | 65.4%  | 130                  | 0.1                      | 19,500              | 216.7              | 49.3      |
|              | 2001       | 88.3%                    | 41.7%     | 41.7%     | 31.7%     | 53.3%  | 68                   | 0.2                      | 10,270              | 130.0              | 27.9      |
| Togiak       | 2008       | 49.2%                    | 13.1%     | 8.2%      | 6.6%      | 44.3%  | 20                   | 0.1                      | 3,069               | 32.0               | 8.1       |
|              | 1999       | 70.6%                    | 55.6%     | 47.4%     | 40.6%     | 45.0%  | 178                  | 0.2                      | 26,635              | 151.3              | 36.6      |
|              | 2001       |                          |           |           |           |        | 106                  | 0.3                      | 15,840              | 102.9              | 22.6      |
| Twin Hills   | 2008       | 82.5%                    | 38.8%     | 30.0%     | 36.3%     | 65.0%  | 136.3                | 0.2                      | 20,445              | 108.8              | 25.5      |
|              | 1999       | 91.7%                    | 83.3%     | 75.0%     | 66.7%     | 66.7%  | 25                   | 0.3                      | 3,738               | 162.5              | 54.2      |
|              | 2001       |                          |           |           |           |        | 8                    | 0.3                      | 1,141               | 45.7               | 15.9      |

Source ADF&G Division of Subsistence CSIS

Note Blank cells indicate the survey did not collect percentage of households that use, attempt, harvest, receive, or give caribou.



## 1. Residents of western GMU 17A and 17C communities:

- Caribou hunting in conjunction with moose hunting during late fall and mid-winter.
- Seasonal conditions in February and March tend to be good for travel by snow machine.





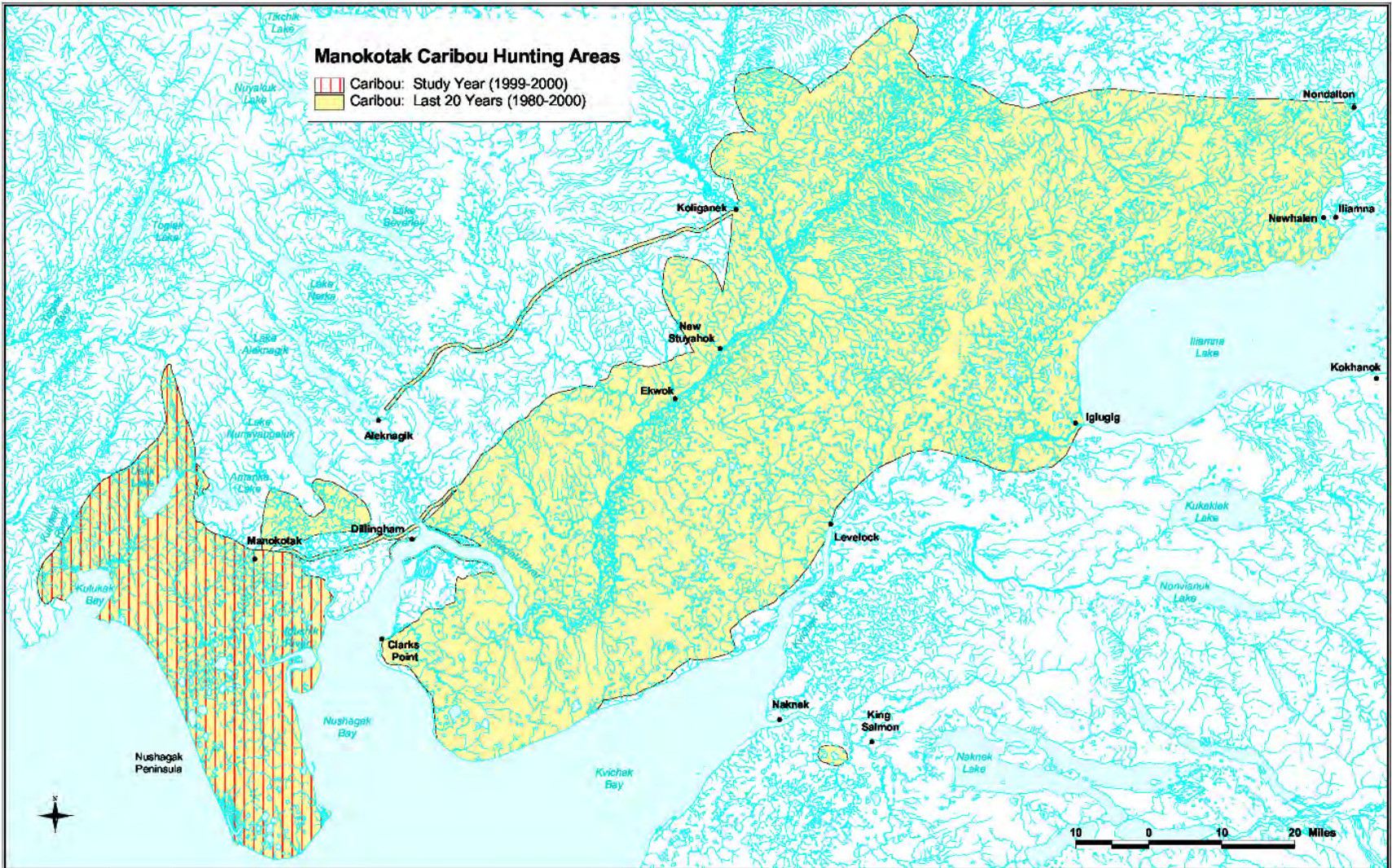
# Criterion 3: Efficient Means and Methods of Harvest and Economy of Cost

## 1. Residents of western GMU 17A and 17C communities:

- Use snow machines near community for travel; often opportunistically taking caribou while moose hunting



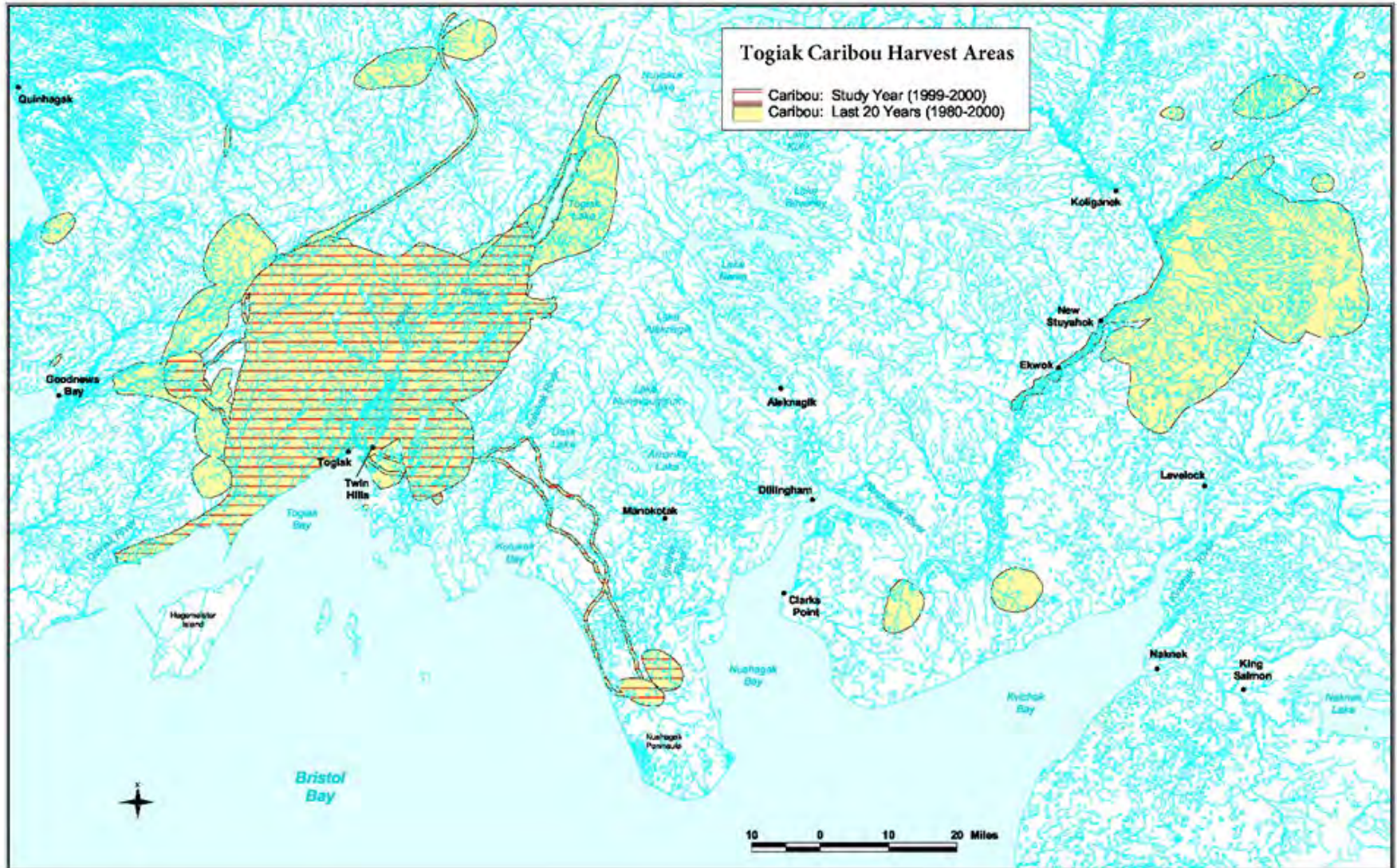
# Criterion 4: Geographic Areas



Manokotak caribou hunting areas, 1980–2000.



# Criterion 4: Geographic Areas



Togiak caribou harvest areas, 1980–2000

# Criterion 5: Means of Handling, Preparing, Preserving and Storing<sup>12</sup>

## 1. Residents of western GMU 17A and 17C communities:

### a) In the past:

- Fresh
- Hung in caches and preserved out-of-doors in cold
- Stripped and dried; eaten with seal oil

### b) Today:

- Fresh
- Most frozen.
- Some dried; eaten with seal oil
- Some canned or jarred



# Criterion 6: Intergenerational Transmission of Knowledge, Skills, Values, and Lore

## 1. Transmission of hunting skills

- a) The elders' council bestowed Traditional Ecological Knowledge

## 2. Hunting groups

- a) Include members from different households and extended family groups.
- b) Cross-generational hunting groups

## 3. Kinship

- a) Extensive kinship networks within and between communities



Group of Togiak men and women, ca. 1895. Photograph from the Revenue Cutter *Bear*. Alaska and Polar Regions Dept., Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

# Criterion 7: Distribution and Exchange

## Extensive sharing networks exist throughout Nushagak Peninsula communities

Estimated Nushagak Peninsula caribou harvests by community and study year

| Community    | Study year | Percentage of households |           |           |        |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|              |            | Use %                    | Harvest % | Receive % | Give % |
| Aleknagik    | 1989       | 84%                      | 55%       | 61%       | 61%    |
|              | 2001       | 89%                      | 47%       | 28%       | 53%    |
|              | 2008       | 13%                      | 0%        | 0%        | 13%    |
| Clarks Point | 1989       | 77%                      | 41%       | 47%       | 65%    |
|              | 2001       | 86%                      | 57%       | 57%       | 43%    |
|              | 2008       | 36%                      | 9%        | 9%        | 18%    |
| Dillingham   | 1984       | 70%                      | 22%       | 15%       | 55%    |
|              | 2001       | 14%                      | 6%        | 7%        | 8%     |
|              | 2010       | 36%                      | 5%        | 9%        | 29%    |
| Manokotak    | 1985       | 89%                      | 32%       | 46%       | 65%    |
|              | 1999       | 88%                      | 49%       | 63%       | 65%    |
|              | 2001       | 88%                      | 42%       | 32%       | 53%    |
| Togiak       | 2008       | 49%                      | 8%        | 7%        | 44%    |
|              | 1999       | 71%                      | 47%       | 41%       | 45%    |
|              | 2008       | 83%                      | 30%       | 36%       | 65%    |
| Twin Hills   | 1999       | 92%                      | 75%       | 67%       | 67%    |

Source ADF&G Division of Subsistence Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS), accessed 2020.

### Modes of exchange:

- Generalized reciprocity
- Barter
- Customary trade



# Criterion 8: Diversity of Resources in Area; Economic, Cultural, Social, and Nutritional Elements 15

## 1. Diverse resource use by GMU 17A and 17C communities :

- Salmon
- Caribou
- Moose
- Bears
- Small land mammals
- Nonsalmon fish
- Marine invertebrates
- Birds
- Marine mammals
- Wild plants



## 2. Average harvests for Togiak

**1999:** 1,017 lb per household, 246 lb per capita, 17 different wild foods

**2008:** 1,294 lb per household and 303 lb per capita, 27 different wild foods

**5 AAC 99.025**

**RC 45**

### **Customary and traditional uses of game populations.**

Determine customary and traditional uses of the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd

**Proposed by:** ADF&G

**Department Recommendation:** Neutral

### **AC Recommendations:**

**Nushagak AC:** No Action

**RC 45 Complete Staff Presentation  
Proposal 22  
Submitted 1/24/2022**

