

**PROPOSAL 7**

**5 AAC 85.025 (4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.**

Extend the fall Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou season for residents and nonresidents as follows:

| <b>Units and Bag Limits</b>  | <b>Resident<br/>Open Season<br/>(Subsistence and<br/>General Hunts)</b>                  | <b>Nonresident<br/>Open Season</b>                |
|--|--|---|
| (4)  |  |   |
| Unit 9(D)<br>If the harvestable portion is<br>99 caribou or less:                |  |   |
| RESIDENT HUNTERS:<br>1 caribou by Tier II<br>subsistence hunting<br>permit only; | Aug. 1–Sept. 30<br>(Subsistence hunt only)<br>Nov. 15–Mar. 31<br>(Subsistence hunt only) |   |
| NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:   |  | No open season                                    |
| If the harvestable portion<br>is greater than 99,<br>but less than 151 caribou:  |  |   |
| RESIDENT HUNTERS:<br>1 caribou by registration<br>permit only                    | Aug. 1–Sept. 30<br>Nov. 15–Mar. 31   |   |
| NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:   |  | No open season                                    |
| If the harvestable portion<br>is greater than 150, but<br>less than 251 caribou: |  |   |
| RESIDENT HUNTERS:<br>2 caribou   | <b><u>Aug. 1–Oct. 21</u></b><br>[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]<br>Nov. 15–Mar. 31                     |   |
| NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:<br><br>2 bulls  |  | <b><u>Aug. 1–Oct. 21</u></b><br>[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30] |
| If the harvestable portion<br>is greater than 250,<br>but less than 451 caribou: |  |   |

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Aug. 1–Oct. 21  
3 caribou [AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]  
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls Aug. 1–Oct. 21  
[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]

If the harvestable portion  
is greater than 450,  
but less than 551 caribou:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Aug. 1–Oct. 21  
4 caribou [AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]  
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls Aug. 1–Oct. 21  
[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]

If the harvestable portion  
is great than 550:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Aug. 1–Oct. 21  
5 caribou [AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]  
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls Aug. 1–Oct. 21  
[AUG. 1–SEPT. 30]

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**WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?** The Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd has been showing an increasing population trend with high calf:cow ratios and bull:cow ratios that meet objectives. Currently, the population estimate is around 4,300, with a population objective of 1,500–4,000. To change the trajectory of herd growth and decrease the possibility of the herd crashing, a tiered harvest structure was passed by the Board of Game in 2022. Due to the remoteness of Unit 9D, complicated transportation logistics, and often difficult weather, harvest levels are well below sustainable harvest thresholds and increased harvest is recommended. Nonresident bull caribou harvest exceeded resident harvest in 2018 and has steadily increased to 64 bull caribou harvested this last season while resident harvest remained steady around 25 caribou harvested each year since 2017 (Figure 1-1).

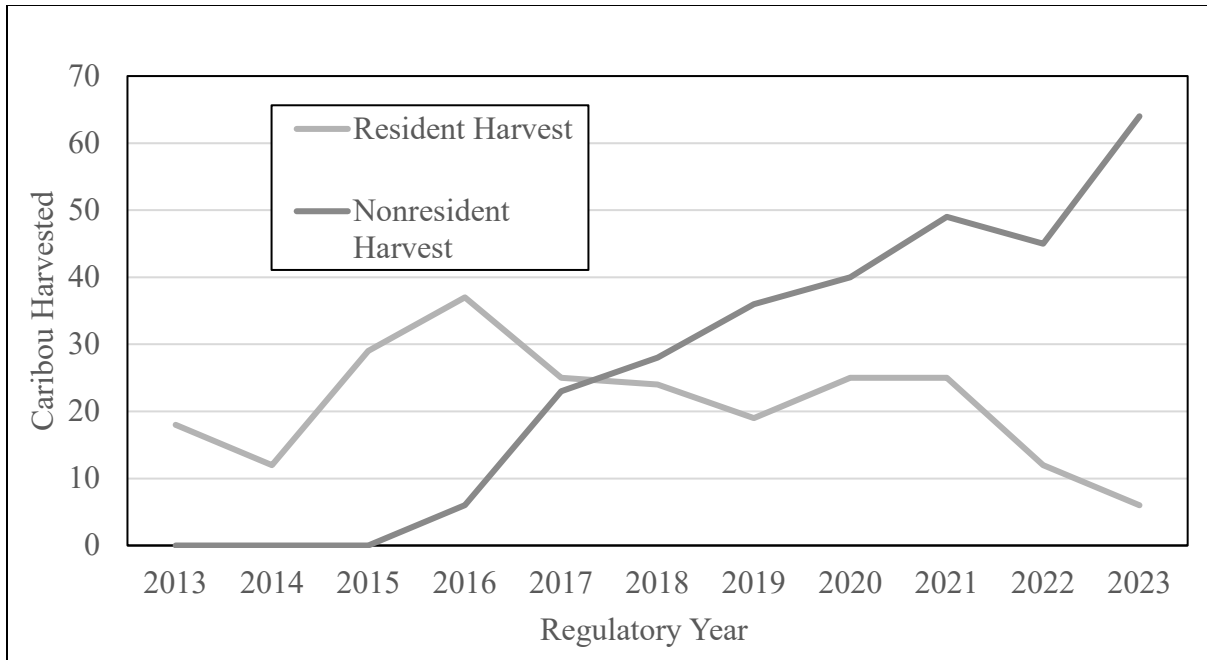


Figure 1.1. Caribou harvested by residents and nonresidents for the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd.

The number of nonresidents that hunted surpassed resident hunter numbers in 2021 and it appears there is a greater interest in hunting this area by nonresidents than residents. Increasing season dates through the fall brown bear season has the potential to allow for additional caribou to be taken which will aid in keeping the herd within objectives.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game

(HQ-F24-072)

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