

Caribou season on in 7(A)

The Federal Subsistence Board has established a "to be announced" federal subsistence caribou season, with a harvest limit of two caribou, on federal public lands in Unit 17(A) west of the Togiak River. Based on the concern that the Mulchatna and Kilbuck caribou herds intermingle in the area, the Board stipulated that the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager open the season only when a significant number of Mulchatna animals are present to insure protection of the recovering Kilbuck herd from over harvest. If opened, the season would occur before April 15.

The Board established the new

season based on a recommendation by the Togiak Traditional Council and the Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Rural residents of Units 9(B) and 17, as well as residents of Lime Village and Stony River, are eligible to participate in federal subsistence caribou seasons in Unit 17.

The new federal season is similar to the State of Alaska season, which may be opened in Unit 17(A) by emergency order from August 1 to April 15 when 10,000 Mulchatna caribou are estimated to be in the area. The state season would be open to Alaska residents only, with a bag limit of two caribou of either sex.

For more information about the federal subsistence season, contact the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge office in Dillingham at (907) 842-1063 or the Office of Subsistence Management toll-free at (800) 478-1456 or in Anchorage at (907) 786-3888. Hearing-impaired individuals may call (907) 786-3487 (TTY available) during the same hours.