

# Arctic Caribou harvest ticket required for transport across Yukon

If you plan to hunt caribou this year anywhere north of the Yukon River, better plan also to pick up a new "Arctic Caribou Harvest Ticket" before taking off.

So says the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Fish and Game biologists say this new harvest ticket is basically just like the others, but is required only if a person plans to hunt north of the river, and then brings his caribou back across the Yukon. It is also required of persons living north of the river to send caribou south of the river. In either case, the limit of caribou that can be

transported across the river is two.

Caribou hunters who do not plan to transport their caribou across the river are not required to have the tickets, and the bag limit is 15.

The arctic harvest tickets are available at some sporting goods stores in Anchorage and Fairbanks areas and at all Fish and Game offices. The regular orange harvest ticket cannot be used for this purpose, officials say.

The new buff-colored harvest ticket is a result of a regulation passed by the Alaska Board of

Game at the spring 1976 meeting. It stipulates that any person who intends to hunt caribou north of the Yukon and transport the meat to a location south of the river must first obtain the arctic harvest ticket. The Game Management Units north of the river affected are parts of Units 18 and 21 and Units 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26.

Department game managers say the new regulation is designed in part to help them keep track of hunter harvest of caribou in the Arctic. Similar information is being obtained from village residents who have been hired to record the number of caribou harvested by their villages.

Fish and Game personnel and Game Board officials are

currently considering potential new regulations for the Western Arctic Caribou herd that may change the usage of the harvest ticket of that herd. They note, however, that whatever new regulations are passed, if any, the harvest tickets will still be needed while hunting other Arctic caribou herds where the meat is to be transported across the river.

Although the harvest tickets will be available for all who need them, Fish and Game is asking that hunters not pick them up unless they are actively planning to hunt caribou.