

# ADF&G announces August Arctic caribou meetings

A series of early August meetings in three Interior and arctic communities to discuss options for resolving the Western Arctic caribou herd situation was announced this week by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Game division director Robert Rausch said the meetings were up to allow Alaskans affected by a decrease in the caribou herd to comment on how they think the regulations should be changed. He said that comments are needed from all parties

concerned before making any decisions on new regulations.

The Barrow, Kotzebue and Fairbanks meetings will be open to the public and will be attended by Fish and Game State Board of Game officials.

Fish and Game officials who will attend the meetings include Commissioner James Brooks, Rausch, Regional Game Supervisor Robert Hinman, Management Coordinator Bud Burris, and caribou biologist James Davis. Game board member Samuel Harbo and possibly one or more other members will also attend.

Representatives from several agencies including RurAL CAP, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the respective regional and village corporations and others will attend to seek solutions to reducing the impact of reduced availability of caribou for human needs.

The Kotzebue meeting is scheduled for Aug. 3, at 10 a.m., in the elementary school. The meeting in Fairbanks will be

held at 7 p.m. on Aug. 4, at the Alaskaland Civic Center Theater. The Aug. 5 meeting in Barrow will be held at 7 p.m. in the borough meeting room.

The Western Arctic caribou herd, estimated at 240,000 animals in the early 1970s, declined to about 100,000 or less by 1975. Fish and Game personnel believe the current herd size is much lower than it was in 1975. Biologists believe important factors in the herd's decline include human use and wolf predations as well as possibly other as yet unknown causes.