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Game Board sets maximum caribou harvest at 3000



GAME BOARD MEMBERS Sidney Huntington, Galena, (left), and Jim Reardon, Homer, listen intently to the board's discussion of management of the Western arctic caribou herd at their Fairbanks meeting.
-Photo By BETSY BRENNEMAN

FAIRBANKS-In response to the critically low population level of the Western Arctic Caribou herd, the Alaska Board of Game this week sharply curtailed allowable caribou harvests and directed the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to implement a predator control program to ease pressure on the herd.

The Board specified that a maximum harvest of 3000 bull caribou would be allowed by permit only for the balance of the regulatory year in Units 23, 24, 26A, and 26B. In addition they established quotas for harvest permits allotted to Arctic residents. The current regulatory year ends June 30.

The Department of Fish and Game issued an emergency closure, which is still in effect,

on taking of caribou last year. The Board requested the Department to immediately implement the new regulations while the animals are still in prime condition providing higher quality food to village residents.

In response to the Board's request to rapidly implement the new regulations, Fish and Game issued an emergency regulation opening the area to caribou hunting beginning Sept. 25, 1976. Department personnel are flying to villages which received a quota of permits, and as soon as the permits are available caribou hunters may begin hunting.

The Board took these actions because of the alarming decrease in the caribou herd during the past five years and the importance of these animals to the

people living in the Arctic regions. Throughout the proceedings, the Board stressed the possibility of complete closures on harvest next year.

Director of Game, Robert Rausch, said, "The next few years are going to be very difficult ones for these people. However, the caribou herd must be given first priority in order to protect the long-term interests of the citizens. Some Arctic residents rely on caribou to supply a major portion of their livelihood and the decline of the Western Arctic herd has caused considerable hardship to these people."

The Board received recommendations from village councils and corporations, representatives of native communities, conservation groups and interested per-

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Tundra Times

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Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage
Den Nena Hienash Our Land Speaks
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Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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PBS committed to seeing rural areas get their fair share of wealth

By BETSY BRENNEMAN
Staff Writer

Bush justice committee releases report

Gordon Jackson, Chairman of AFN's Bush Justice Implementation Committee, announced Sept. 15 the release of the Final Report on the delivery of justice to rural Alaska. The Report, a synthesis and summary of the Committee's findings over the last year, recommends that "law enforcement, judicial services, and correctional services should be handled locally as much as possible."

The report documents the urban orientation of the State juvenile justice system and deals with the question of the permissible relationship between civilian law enforcement authorities and military personnel in the

enforcement of civilian law.

In taking the position that the legal system should move toward increased local control, the report explains "the problems of long-distance law enforcement": 1) decision makers operate in an "information vacuum," being out of touch with those they are suppose to be serving, and consequently inflict ill-conceived plans upon the bush; 2) in many villages the absence of any law enforcement officers living in the village results in a climate of lawlessness; 3) the absence of local judicial bodies creates a tendency for minor disturbances to

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Calling the bush a "poor second cousin" that always gets dumped on, the Executive Director of the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission says that the Commission is now committed to seeing that the rural areas get their fair share of the wealth. "After all," says Mike

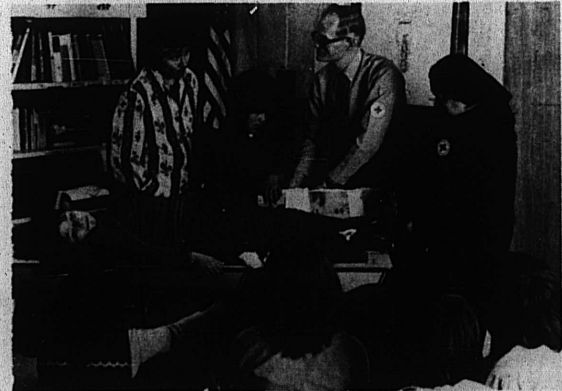
Porcaro, "the public station is the only thing they have—it's their entertainment, their company, their news, their psychologist. If we let these people down, then we are letting down the whole system."

The September budget meeting of the commission was held in Anchorage, Sept. 13 and 14. Mike Porcaro says that for the first time in the history of the commission, a community ascertainment is being asked for from each of the localities with a public radion and/or television

station. The ascertainment is a paper which profiles the community—what is on the minds of the people, what are the problems—and points to the ways the broadcast station can help.

Mike Porcaro is a firm believer that public broadcasting should be a public servant. He uses examples of alcoholism, public health, and sewers as community issues that public stations can affect by helping people become more aware of

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FIRST AID TRAINING—Children in the village of Birch Creek learn the basics of first aid during a visit from Red Cross instructor Ed Priest. Eddie James, left, a bilingual teacher, learned how to continue the instruction after Priest's visit. At right is the village health aide. The local Red Cross chapter services extend throughout the Interior.

Bill passes for Klukwan allotments

WASHINGTON—Legislation which establishes a procedure for land selections by the village of Klukwan to satisfy its 23,000 acre allotment has been approved by the House.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, permits Klukwan to select whatever portion of its land entitlement from the Tongass National For-

est that can not be selected from core lands surrounding the village.

Klukwan was given village status under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act by amendments passed last year. In being brought belatedly under terms of the Act, Klukwan was given one year to make

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Morris Thompson resigns

Morris Thompson is resigning his national post of Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to join Northwest Pipeline Corp., one of three companies competing for the right to transport North Slope natural gas to market.

The move is designed to generate support within Alaska for Northwest's proposed route, which follows the pipeline corridor to near Fairbanks, and then would follow the Alaska highway through Canada.

Thompson's role as a Northwest Pipeline vice-president will be to open up lines of communication with "members of the business and financial community, various civic and public service organizations, Native corporations, labor groups, state agencies, and tohers," another Northwest vice-president, William D. Owens, said in a statement Wednesday.

Thompson, 37, of Tanana, has been BIA commissioner since December of 1973. Before that he was area director in Juneau, and he served two years as a special assistant to Walter J. Hickel when Hickel was Secretary of the Interior.



MORRIS THOMPSON