

Emergency closure announced . . .

at the present rate will result in further decline and possible extirpation of the herd, which is of paramount importance to rural residents of northwestern Alaska as a major food source."

"We realize that this action will present a real hardship on arctic residents," Rausch said, "but the long-range importance of this herd as a food source to these people makes it necessary that we take all possible action to protect the resource."

The Dept. of Fish and Game does not know all the factors leading to the decline of the caribou herd, Rausch said. The closure and proposed new regulations are designed to permit the herd to regain its former status by reducing the mortality rate. The purpose of increasing the herd is to allow it to become once again a significant factor in the sustenance of northwest

Alaskans.

The Board of Game, in a meeting last April, passed regulations that restricted the hunting of the herd to a minor degree, based on 1975 estimates which showed the herd to number about 100,000 animals. Biologists, in an extensive study this past spring and summer, have estimated the 1976 population of the herd to number about 50,000, including calves. The report by the biologists states over 40,000 caribou may have been killed in a combined take by humans and wolves in the 1975-76 season.

A series of regulation proposals, the result of public hearings in Barrow, Kotzebue and Fairbanks, will be presented for public comment at a Board of Game meeting scheduled for Sept. 20-21 in Fairbanks. The purpose of the meeting is to consider proposed changes in the

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affected hunting regulations.

stated that the regulations, if adopted, "will greatly curtail hunter harvest in these units."

The new proposed regulations include a bag limit of one bull, the banning of the barter of caribou and their use as dog food, restricting the area open to hunting and season restrictions. In addition to the western arctic caribou herd regulations, proposals for regulating the eastern arctic Porcupine caribou herd will be discussed.

The board is inviting public comment on the proposed changes in the hunting regulations. The hearing, slated to begin at 9 a.m., Sept. 20, at Alaskaland's Civic Center, is open to both oral and written comments from the public. The board requests that written comments be submitted to them on or before Sept. 14 to assure board members of sufficient time for the study of comments

so more consideration of them may be given.

Copies of the proposed regulations may be requested from the Board of Game, Support

Bldg., Attn: Game Division, Juneau, Alaska 99801. Written comments concerning them may be submitted at the above address.

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Family planning workshop . . .

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The less sensitive were reluctant to admit that such problems existed, relying heavily on the use of statistics which indicated decreased fertility and infant and maternal death rates since the arrival of white medicine.

As was evidenced at the Sovereign Native Women's Conference in Lawrence, Kansas in May, 1976, Native American Women are most dubious about the safety of many present-day contraceptives. Fortunately, there are alternatives available, and a very sophisticated natural family planning method is presently being

researched and utilized in several clinics across the country.

Hopefully, by continuing to develop interest in past, present and future Indian/Native family planning systems, a renewed sense of individual responsibility for human sexuality will be realized.

The Family Planning Workshops for Indian Americans and Alaska Natives represents at least the beginning of this process.

For more information contact Brenda Dunn, Family planning workshop coordinator, 619 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104.

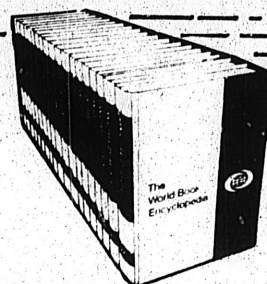
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