

Iñupiat Iñitqusiatic Guidelines on Winter Caribou Hunting **from the Native Village of Kotzebue**



Caribou should be treated with respect. Tuttu are integral to our culture. We want to have these animals come back every year. We need to have respectful, responsible hunting.

In the past, local people had to work very hard to harvest caribou, traveling up toward the North Slope, Colville River, and Upper Noatak. Hunters were gone for weeks or months at a time. They didn't take caribou for granted, but developed a deep respect for the animals. Songs, dances and traditions developed around caribou to honor them. Without the knowledge of our parents and grandparents, and their conservation of the caribou, we wouldn't be where we are today. Today's hunters need to carry on this conservation and respect so we will have caribou for future generations.

How can you get your caribou without disrespecting them?

- Consider hunting with a partner or a group. You can work together and make a plan of how to get close to the caribou or move them toward another hunter's position. Through sharing and cooperation everyone will get a portion of the harvest.
- Take your time. Observe caribou groups before you approach.
- Pick out the animals you want to harvest.