

HARZA-EBASCO
Susitna Joint Venture
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HARZA-EBASCO SUSITNA JOINT VENTURE

PHONE LOG

PERSON CONTACTED Dr. James Peek TASK NUMBER 4
AFFILIATION Professor of Wildlife + Range Science DATE 6 March 1985
Univ. of Idaho
HARZA-EBASCO REPRESENTATIVE Bob Lindsay PHONE NUMBER (208) 885-7120
COPIES TO Gene Gempertine, Chuck Elliott
SUBJECT moose calf mortality - drowning, moose + ice mortality

NOTES Peak doesn't think that moose calf drownings are a major mortality factor. It is more a function of the individual animals overall condition. Weakened calves would be subject to drowning because of their health not because of waves on a reservoir or swiftness of a river current. Peak pointed out that moose cows often use islands for calving as a predator avoidance strategy and he has observed calves as young as 2 days old crossing swift rivers.

Peak also gave ^{me} a very good personal observation concerning caribou. He observed a calf swimming in a lake 12 miles wide. The main body of a caribou herd had just crossed the lake and the calf and its mother had been separated. The cow was also out in the water looking for its calf. Both animals were 5 miles from shore.

Finally Peak indicated that moose drowning from breaking through the ice was not a major mortality factor on natural bodies of water. He indicated however that if cracks + polygons of ice on the shore lines were encountered (such as in Susitna) it could be of greater concern.