

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.