



***Southeast Alaska  
Subsistence Regional  
Advisory Council***

**Don Hernandez, Chairman  
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

**In Reply Refer To:  
OSM.24055**

**May 21, 2024**

USDA-USFS Admiralty Island National Monument  
c/o Monument Ranger: Michael Downs  
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ranger Downs,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council). The Council is requesting that you consider its comments on an issue arising in your area and take appropriate action.

This Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in Southeast Alaska. It was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter established its authority to initiate, review, and evaluate regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the southeast Alaska region. The Council reviews resource management actions occurring outside their regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities served by the Council. The Council also provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

During its most recent meeting on March 8, 2024, the Council member from Angoon informed us that there has been increased jet boat traffic on Hasselborg Creek, an area that is utilized by the Angoon Community for subsistence use. These jet boats are operating in salmon spawning areas and could impact spawning success, survival rates, and ultimately the number of salmon returning in future years. Jet boat operation can disturb the habitat of this small water system and cause irreparable harm to the salmon spawning beds. In addition, the sound of the jet boats is disruptive to subsistence fishing activities and negatively affects the remote wilderness

experience. The Wilderness Act provides that areas such as Admiralty Monument be administered unimpaired for use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The Council wants to help protect subsistence resources in this drainage. The Council does not want to request a reduction of the jet boat traffic in the drainage through the federal regulatory process as closing the subsistence fishery would not prevent jet boat operators from using the river for other activities. The Council recognizes the challenges of addressing an issue that happens in waters with State and Federal managed fisheries and other activities, so we are turning to you for assistance in seeking a solution or help to mitigate the issue. Can this be considered an access and land management issue that you may be able to solve through an Outfitter/Guide or other appropriate restriction? Would considerations under the Wilderness Act, such as the use and enjoyment of this wilderness area, be a vehicle to pursue in protecting subsistence resources? Except for emergency life-threatening situations where a jet boat would be required, are you able to prohibit jet boat traffic on Hasselborg Creek for the reasons mentioned above?

The Council requests that you explore your authority to address this issue and consider enforcing a jet boat restriction on Hasselborg Creek. Or in the alternative, contemplate ways to reduce interest in going up the river at specific times, such as when salmon are spawning.

The Council appreciates your time in listening to its concerns regarding jet boat traffic negatively affecting the fish that subsistence users rely upon. The Council looks forward to hearing from you and learning what authorities you may possess to help eliminate, or at least mitigate, the impacts of this activity on Hasselborg Creek.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me via DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator, USDA – Forest Service, at [deanna.perry@usda.gov](mailto:deanna.perry@usda.gov), or (907) 209-7817.

Sincerely,



Don Hernandez  
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner Anchorage, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Mark Burch, Assistant Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Administrative Record