



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 17 2024

Dear Tribal Leaders in Alaska:

The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture are pleased to announce the addition of three new public voting seats on the Federal Subsistence Board. A final rule enacting these new seats has been published (<https://www.regulations.gov/document/FWS-R7-SM-2024-0017-0062>) and is set to be implemented starting on November 18, 2024. These additional seats are added to the Board in response to requests made by Tribal and Alaska Native leaders during joint consultations in 2022 of the Departments with Alaska Tribes, Tribal Consortia, Alaska Native Organizations and Alaska Native Corporations.

The final rule requires the three new members to possess personal knowledge of and direct experience with subsistence uses in rural Alaska, including Alaska Native subsistence uses, and to be nominated or recommended by federally recognized Tribal governments in Alaska. The public members of the Federal Subsistence Board are to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture. Tribes are welcome to nominate or recommend public Board members for these three new seats, and nominations will be considered upon their receipt. Please direct any questions and nominations or recommendations to Raina Thiele at raina_thiele@ios.doi.gov and Sara Taylor at sara_taylor@ios.doi.gov.

Thank you for your Tribal Government's involvement in the Federal Subsistence Management Program, including the annual regulatory cycle at Regional Advisory Council and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, as you continue to provide valuable Indigenous knowledge and local observations about fish, wildlife, and the Alaska Native ways of life in close relationship to lands and waters.

Sincerely,

Raina Thiele
Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaska and
Strategic Priorities