



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

Contact: Regulatory Affairs Specialist
(907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456
subsistence@ios.doi.gov

How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

Alaska residents and subsistence users are an integral part of the Federal regulatory process. Any person or group can submit proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations, comment on proposals, or testify at meetings. By becoming involved in the process, subsistence users assist with effective management of subsistence activities and ensure consideration of traditional and local knowledge in subsistence management decisions. Subsistence users also provide valuable wildlife harvest information.

A call for proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations is issued in January of even-numbered years for fisheries and odd-numbered years for wildlife. The period during which proposals are accepted is no less than 30 calendar days. Proposals must be submitted in writing within this time frame.

You may propose changes to Federal subsistence season dates, harvest limits, methods and means of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations.

What your proposal should contain:

There is no form to submit your proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations. Include the following information in your proposal submission (you may submit as many as you like):

- Your name and contact information (address, phone, fax, or E-mail address)
- Your organization (if applicable)
- What regulations you wish to change. Include the species and management unit number (wildlife) or management area (fisheries). Quote the current regulation or, if you are proposing a new regulation, please state, "new regulation"
- Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations
- Explain why this regulation change should be made
- You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Program and participants in evaluating the proposed change

You may submit your proposals by:

1. By mail or hand delivery to:
Regulations
Attn: (enter Docket number)
Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road M/S 121
Anchorage, AK 99503
2. At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting (A schedule will be published in the Federal Register and be announced statewide, bi-annually, prior to the meeting cycles)
3. On the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>

Submit a separate proposal for each proposed change; however, do not submit the same proposal by different accepted methods listed above. To cite which regulation(s) you want to change, you may reference [50 CFR 100](#) or [36 CFR 242](#) or the proposed regulations published in the Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. All proposals and comments, including personal information, are posted on the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

For the proposal processing timeline and additional information contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456/ (907) 786-3888 or go to <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/process>.

How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:

1. Once a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is received by the Board, the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) validates the proposal and assigns a proposal number and lead analyst.
2. The proposals are compiled for statewide distribution and posted online at the Program website. The proposals are also sent to the applicable Councils, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) for review. The period during which comments are accepted is no less than 45 calendar days. Written comments must be submitted within this time frame.
3. The analysts gather information and develop an analysis on the proposal.
4. The analysis is sent to the Councils, ADF&G and the ISC for comments and recommendations to the Board. The public is welcome and encouraged to provide comments directly to the Councils and the Board at their meetings. The final analysis contains all of the comments and recommendations received by interested/affected parties. This packet of information is then presented to the Board for action.
5. The decision to adopt, adopt with modification, defer, or reject the proposal is then made by the Board. The public is provided the opportunity to provide comment directly to the Board prior to the Board's final decision.
6. The final rule is published in the Federal Register and a regulations booklet is created and distributed statewide and posted on the Program's website.

A step-by-step guide to submitting your proposal on www.regulations.gov:

1. Connect to www.regulations.gov – there is no password or username required.
2. In the white space provided at the top of the page, type in the document number listed in the news release or available on the program webpage, (for example: DOI-2024-0012) and select the “Search” button to the right.

3. Search results will populate and may have more than one result. Make sure the Proposed Rule you select is by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and **not** by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).
4. Select the proposed rule and in the upper right select the box that says, “Comment Now!”
5. Enter your comments in the “Comment” box.
6. Upload your files by selecting “Choose files” (this is optional).
7. Enter your first and last name in the spaces provided.
8. Select the appropriate checkbox stating whether you are providing the information directly or submitting on behalf of a third party.
9. Fill out the contact information in the drop-down section as requested.
10. Select, “Continue.” You will be given an opportunity to review your submission.
11. If everything appears correct, click the box at the bottom that states, “I read and understand the statement above,” and select the box, “Submit Comment.” A receipt will be provided to you. Keep this as proof of submission.
12. If everything does not appear as you would like it to, select, “Edit” to make any necessary changes and then go through the previous step again to “Submit Comment.”

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you’d like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing subsistence@ios.doi.gov. Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence> or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.