

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
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In Reply Refer To:
OSM.A24110

December 02, 2024

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115525
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5525

Dear Commissioner Vincent-Lang,

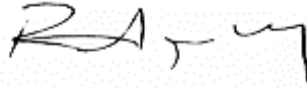
I write to you on behalf of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to inform you of the Council's support for the continuation of intensive management for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. 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 establishes the Council's authority to initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region. The Council also reviews resource management actions occurring outside their regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities served by the Council. The Council 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.

At its public meeting on August 21-23, 2024, in Bethel, the Council discussed a number of important topics including the status of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. Mulchatna caribou are an important subsistence resource in our region. Because the population of the herd remains below management objectives and is closed to Federal and State subsistence harvest, the Council supports continued efforts of Alaska Department of Fish and Game to reduce predators in the vicinity of the herd and would like to see these efforts extend through 2026. We feel that the herd's initial response, especially of increased calf survival, has been positive and continued efforts may assist the herd in recovery and help hunting open more quickly.

The Council thanks you in advance for considering our comments and extends our gratitude to your staff who presented an update to us at our meeting. If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact me through our Subsistence Council Coordinator Brooke McDavid at (907) 891-9181 or brooke_mcdavid@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Oney", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke.

Raymond Oney,
Chair

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