



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

January 17, 2025

Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Chairman Christianson:

Thank you for your letters dated August 16, 2023, April 8, 2024, and two letters dated July 29, 2024, summarizing correspondence from the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) regarding fisheries management across administrative boundaries, resulting in impacts to subsistence management, and the Secretaries' role ensuring related decision-making processes are meaningful and effective. Secretary Haaland and Secretary Vilsack asked me to respond on their behalf. They would especially like to thank the Board and the RACs for their leadership, patience, and expertise in consolidating these requests for action and holding us accountable for solutions.

These issues have been front-and-center for over two years in consultation and listening sessions with Tribal members, community visits and meetings, RAC and Board meetings, and numerous strategic discussions with our leadership teams and with interagency colleagues at all levels of government. Staff have been keeping Secretary Haaland and me informed as we learn and look for opportunities to elevate and address these concerns in our programs and with our partners.

While work on these matters will continue in earnest, leadership at the Interior and Agriculture Departments is currently transitioning. Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland conferred on steps we can take to ensure these important issues continue to be at the forefront and that communities in the region continue to have a voice. In addition to sharing this correspondence with our colleagues at the Department of Commerce, as the RACs requested, we have directed the Office of Subsistence Management to work with the RACs to draft recommendations for Departmental guidance that will ensure the protection of subsistence uses and resources on federal public lands and waters and that support collaborative ecosystem-based salmon management across all jurisdictions.

We know much work remains ahead with many challenges to overcome. We are grateful for your guidance and partnership. For future Federal Subsistence Board engagement related to this critical issue, please reach out directly to Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti, Director, Office of Subsistence Management, at crystal_leonetti@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

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Joan M. Mooney
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Exercising the Delegated Authority of Assistant
Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget

cc: Secretary of Agriculture
Secretary of Commerce
Dr. Richard Spinrad, Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
Dr. Jon Kurland, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Interagency Staff Committee
Office of Subsistence Management