



Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



How to Submit a Special Action Request to the Federal Subsistence Board

Special Actions are temporary changes to Federal subsistence hunting or fishing regulations that can be requested and enacted at any point throughout the year. Special Actions are taken when unusual situations arise, such as a significant change in resource abundance that could not reasonably have been anticipated. The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) may take a Special Action to restrict, close, open, or reopen the taking of fish or wildlife on Federal public lands and waters. Such actions are taken to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of fish or wildlife, ensure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population, ensure continued subsistence use, or for reasons of public safety. These guidelines and requirements can be found in [43 CFR 51](#) and [36 CFR 242](#).

What Special Action Request should contain:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Organization (if applicable)
- Describe the action you are requesting and reference the current regulations you wish to change
- Describe unusual or significant changes in resource abundance or unusual conditions that could not reasonably have been anticipated
- Describe how these changes have significant adverse effects on subsistence users or the health of fish and wildlife populations
- Clarify if the requested action is to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of fish or wildlife, ensure continued viability of a fish or wildlife population, continue subsistence uses of fish or wildlife, or for public safety reasons
- Describe the reasons why a regulatory change is needed before the next regulatory cycle

How a Special Action Request is processed:

1. In an emergency situation, the Board can issue an *Emergency Special Action* that is 60 days or less in duration without a public hearing.
2. In a situation where there is sufficient time and notice, the Board can issue a *Temporary Special Action* that may last more than 60 days and up to 2 years or until the end of the current relevant fish or wildlife regulatory cycle.
3. If the request is a temporary special action, a public hearing is held to allow for public comment, and the Board will consult with the Chair(s) of affected Regional Advisory Council(s) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
4. An analysis of the Special Action Request is developed to inform the Board of relevant information on the issue.
5. If the timing of a regularly scheduled Council meeting permits without incurring undue delay, the Board *may* seek Council's recommendations and Tribal consultation may be offered on proposed *Emergency Special Actions*.

6. If timing of a regularly scheduled Council meeting permits without incurring undue delay, the Board *will* seek Council's recommendations and Tribal consultation will be offered on proposed *Temporary Special Actions*.
7. Once a decision is made by the Board, a news release is issued and posted on the OSM website. The final staff analysis is also posted on the OSM website.

How to submit your Special Action Request:

Mail: Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Subsistence Policy Coordinator
1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Fax: (907) 786-3898

E-mail: subsistence@ios.doi.gov

Find information on submitted special actions at:

- Wildlife special actions: <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/wildlife-special-actions>
- Fisheries special actions: <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries-special-actions>

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