

Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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Jake Fletcher, Chair
Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Chair Fletcher,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to provide the Council's comments on proposals that will be considered during the March 20-25, 2026, Southcentral Alaska Board of Game (BOG) Meeting.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the Eastern Interior 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.

The Council held a public meeting on March 3-5, 2026, in Fairbanks, and took up two BOG Proposals. Please see the Council comments below.

Proposal 256 – Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A

The Council **opposed** Proposal 256 on a unanimous vote. In November 2024, the Unit 20A population estimate was 11,696 moose (90% confidence interval 10,155–13,237 moose; 2.0–2.6 moose per square mile). This is within the intensive management (IM) population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose; however, the Council believes management should target the higher end of the IM population objective. Given the recent heavy snow loads, a conservative approach is needed, and the antlerless hunt should not be reauthorized at this time.

Proposal 257 – Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B

The Council **opposed Proposal 257 on a unanimous vote.** The most recent Unit 20B moose population estimate was below the IM population objective, and thus there are currently few antlerless hunts offered within the unit. In November 2023, the Unit 20B population estimate was 7,848 moose (90% confidence interval 6,613–9,083 moose; 0.7–1.0 moose per square mile), which is below the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000. Given these metrics, the Council does not believe there is justification for authorizing the antlerless hunt. Deep snow again this year requires a precautionary approach. Further, antlerless moose hunts should not be authorized primarily to reduce moose-vehicle collisions in the highway corridor; other interventions should be explored for that purpose.

The Council thanks you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals. 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,



Robert “Charlie” Wright, Sr.
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Aaron Poetter, Federal Subsistence Liaison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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