

Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199
Phone: (907) 787-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898
Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

In Reply to:
OSM.R26018

MARCH 31 2026

Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to submit its FY-2025 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) under the provisions of Section 805(a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting held on January 12, 2026, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. The Council approved this annual report at its March 9-10, 2026 meeting. The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns dealing with implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Bristol Bay Region.

1. Tribal Consultation Process and Timing

The Council appreciates the Board's efforts to consult with Tribes and rural communities on subsistence issues. However, the Council notes that many consultation opportunities occur during the summer, when subsistence activities are at their peaks, which limits participation. The Council recommends that the Board review the timing and accessibility of Tribal consultations to ensure meaningful engagement by rural residents and federally qualified subsistence users. The Council also respectfully requests the Board's guidance or clarification on potential improvements to the consultation process.

2. Outreach and Engagement

The Council emphasizes the need for continued outreach to rural residents, Tribes, and village corporations to clarify processes and overcome language or communication barriers. The Council recommends additional resources to help inform communities about the Federal Subsistence Management Program and how to participate in Council processes. Moreover, the Council respectfully requests the Board's support and guidance on expanding these outreach efforts.

The remainder of this report is for informational purposes only, and the Council does not require a response; however, the issues are significant and important, and the Board may benefit from this knowledge.

- **Representation of Small and Remote Communities**

The Council notes that smaller communities, such as Manokotak, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek, face challenges in having their voices heard in federal processes, including the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and Board consultations. Much of the land in these areas is state or private, which limits resident's abilities to directly influence federal decisions. This situation can be frustrating for both older and younger community members, and it contributes to low interest in participating in the Council. However, their input is still important, especially for federal lands nearby and for regional subsistence management, because it helps the Board understand local needs and conditions. The Council emphasizes the importance of supporting these communities, so their perspectives and concerns are better represented in federal management decisions.

- **Support for Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) and Policy, Management, and Budget (PMB) Operations**

The Council supports the recent relocation of the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the PMB Office. The Council recognizes that some resources and capacity were lost during the transition and emphasizes the importance of ensuring adequate staffing and resources at the new location. Adequate staffing and resources are essential for OSM to carry out its responsibilities, engage with communities, and fulfill its ANILCA mandate to manage subsistence programs on federal lands.

- **Staffing for Public Federal Subsistence Board Members**

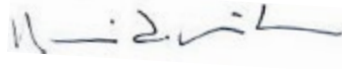
The Council recognizes that public members of the Federal Subsistence Board rely on sufficient staff and resources to perform their duties effectively. Ensuring adequate support helps Board members represent subsistence users, understand local issues, and participate meaningfully in meetings and decision-making processes.

- **Chinook Salmon Populations**

The Council continues to express concern about declining Chinook Salmon populations in the region and the impacts on subsistence users. While the Council understands that the Board cannot regulate all factors affecting these populations, understanding trends and conditions on federal public lands and waters remains important. The Council encourages ongoing monitoring, research, and management attention to support sustainable harvests for subsistence users.

The Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council appreciates the Board's attention to these matters and the opportunity to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on federal public lands and waters. The Council looks forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users in the Bristol Bay Region. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me via Leigh Honig, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management, at leigh_honig@ios.doi.gov or 1-800-478-1456 or 907-891-9051.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nanci Morris Lyon".

Nanci Morris Lyon
Chair

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