



Federal Subsistence Board

Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199



In Reply Refer To
F26019

JUL 15 2026

Jack Reakoff, Chair
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 – 6199

Dear Chair Reakoff:

This letter provides a report on the actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) on regulatory proposals as well as selected closures identified for review in the proposed rule for this regulatory cycle. The Board met on April 21-24, 2026, to consider wildlife closures and proposed changes to Federal subsistence management regulations for the harvest of wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska.

The Board considered 78 proposals and 17 closures during the 2026-28 wildlife regulatory cycle. The Board adopted 52 of the proposals, deferred five, approved the withdrawal of three (WP26-27 and WP26-41/42), rejected 12, and took no action on 11. The Board reviewed and acted on 17 wildlife closures, voting to retain status quo on 12 of them. The Board adopted deferred fisheries proposal FP25-02 as modified by the Southeast Council and determined the request for reconsideration RFR25-01 of Ketchikan's rural status did not meet the threshold to proceed. The enclosed table provides a summary of Board actions on all proposals and closures affecting your region.

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides that the Board will accept the recommendations of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) regarding take unless, (1) the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, (2) the recommendation violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife management, or (3) adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. When a Council's recommendation is not adopted, the Board is required to set forth the factual basis and reasons for the decision.

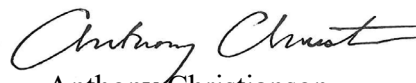
The enclosed 805(c) report provides the justification for when the Board's decision did not follow your Council's recommendations on proposals and/or closures.

Additional details of the Board's actions and deliberations are contained in the meeting transcripts. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling toll free number 1-800-478-1456 and are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/library/transcripts/federal-subsistence-board>.

The Federal Subsistence Board appreciates your Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Regional Advisory Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the stewardship shown by the Regional Advisory Council chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was noteworthy.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact Nissa Pilcher, Council Coordinator, at (907)891-9051 or nissa_pilcher@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,



Anthony Christianson,
Chair

Enclosures: Table of Board's Actions affecting the Western Interior Alaska Region for the
2026-2028 Wildlife Regulatory Cycle
805(c) Report

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

Enclosure 1 – Federal Subsistence Board Action Summary at the April 2026 regulatory meeting

Wildlife Proposals and Closures Affecting Western Interior Region

Region	Proposal/Closure Review	Council Recommendation	Federal Subsistence Board Action
Statewide	WP26-01 – Move authority delegated in letters to unit specific regulations	Support as modified by OSM	Defer to 2027 Fisheries Meeting
Western Interior	WP26-01f – Western Interior Region specific delegated authority	Support	Defer to 2027 Fisheries Meeting
Western Interior	WP26-50 – Modify the Upper Kuskokwim CUA boundary	Support as modified by OSM	Adopt as modified by OSM to eliminate the Upper Kuskokwim CUA and modify the hunt area descriptors for moose in Unit 19D, including eliminating the North Fork hunt area.
Western Interior	WP26-51 – Establish muskox hunts in Units 21D and 24D	Support with modification	Defer to 2028 Wildlife Meeting
Bristol Bay	WP26-40 – Units 17A and 17C caribou, close federal public lands to caribou hunting except by residents of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, and Ekuk	Did not consider	Reject
Bristol Bay	WCR26-07 – Unit 17 Nushagak caribou closure review	Did not consider	Retain status quo
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-41 – Eliminate moose/caribou take from boat moving under power in Unit 18	Support	Approved the withdrawal
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-43/44 – Establish fall may be announced antlerless moose hunt/ extend winter moose season in Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18	Did not consider	Adopt with modification to clarify the regulatory language and to delegate authority via delegation of authority letter only
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-45 – Extend cow moose season to open July 16 in Lower Yukon hunt area of Unit 18	Did not consider	Adopt as modified by OSM to also allow the harvest of bulls from July 16 – 31

Enclosure 1 – Federal Subsistence Board Action Summary at the April 2026 regulatory meeting

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-46 – Increase Unit 18 ptarmigan harvest limit to 25/day; 50 in possession	Did not consider	Adopt	
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-47 – Eliminate destroying beaver house restriction under trapping regulations for Unit 18	Did not consider	Adopt	
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-48 – Increase wolf hunting harvest limit in Unit 18 to 15	Did not consider	Adopt	
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-49 – Increase coyote harvest limit to 4, extend hunting season in Unit 18	Did not consider	Adopt	
Seward Peninsula	WP26-53 – Change Units 22B and 22D caribou season to may be announced year-round	Did not consider	Reject	
Northwest Arctic	WCR26-45 – Unit 23 Noatak caribou closed to non-federally qualified users closure review	Did not consider	Retain status quo	

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD 805(c) REPORT

April 21-24, 2026

Anchorage, AK

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act provides that the “Secretary ... shall consider the report and recommendations of the regional advisory councils concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within their respective regions for subsistence uses.” The Secretary has delegated authority to issue regulations for the take of fish and wildlife to the Federal Subsistence Board. Pursuant to this language in Section 805(c), the Board defers to the Council’s recommendations. However, Section 805(c) also provides that the Board “may choose not to follow any recommendations which [it] determines is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs.” The purpose of this report is to detail how the Board’s action differed from the Council’s recommendations based on these criteria.

WESTERN INTERIOR AREA WILDLIFE PROPOSALS

Crossover Proposals – Yukon Kuskokwim Delta

Wildlife Proposal WP26-41 – Eliminate caribou take from boat moving under power

DESCRIPTION: Requested eliminating the unit-specific provision that allows the take of caribou from a boat moving under power in Unit 18.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council – **Oppose**

Western Interior Council – **Support**

BOARD ACTION: **Approve the Withdrawal**

JUSTIFICATION: The proponent (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) withdrew Proposals WP26-41/42 with concurrence of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council Chair, due to the need for better coordination with the Council.

Wildlife Proposal WP26-42 – Eliminate moose take from boat moving under power

DESCRIPTION: Requested eliminating the unit-specific provision that allows the take of moose from a boat moving under power in a portion of Unit 18.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council – **Oppose**

Western Interior Council – **Support**

BOARD ACTION: **Approve the Withdrawal**

JUSTIFICATION: See justification above for WP26-41, which was considered together with WP26-42