



Federal Subsistence Board

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



**In Reply Refer To:
A25029**

AUG 13 2026

Don Hernandez, Chair
Southeast Alaska Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chairman Hernandez,

Thank you for your letter (OSM.24057) outlining the concerns and requests of the Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council (Council) regarding the representation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). We appreciate the Council's continued engagement and advocacy for subsistence users and recognize the importance of ensuring that their interests are effectively represented. Your letter was written jointly to the Board and the USFWS, and we have coordinated this response with them.

In response to the issues raised, the USFWS has taken steps to address the Council's requests. First, the USFWS Alaska Regional Director has delegated additional alternate staff to attend and actively participate in the NPFMC meetings. Since then, they have regularly attended meetings held in Alaska and actively participated in the chum salmon bycatch issue. The USFWS provided comments in advance of the chum bycatch final action in February 2026, and there was a team working together to make this happen. In addition to this, the USFWS typically submits a report to the NPFMC in advance of each meeting that covers issues such as subsistence fisheries, marine mammals, invasive species, and seabirds. This team, with additional delegated staff, helps bring additional perspective and coverage to the range of issues that arise at the NPFMC.

We appreciate the Council's feedback and suggestions for routine information sharing. The USFWS's Interagency Staff Committee member and OSM Council Coordinators will work to identify ways to keep the Board and Councils informed of fisheries and issues at NPFMC meetings. Please do not hesitate to reach out directly to USFWS if you have further questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Christianson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anthony Christianson
Chair

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