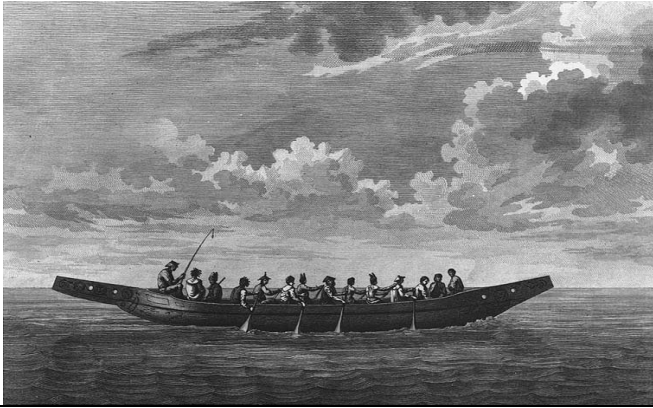




***Southeast Alaska
Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council***

**Don Hernandez, Chairman
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

**In Reply Refer To:
OSM.R26041**

APRIL 16 2026

USDA-USFS Admiralty Island National Monument
c/o Nikki Olsen, Admiralty Monument/Hoonah Ranger
P.O. Box 135
Hoonah, Alaska 99829-0315

Dear Ranger Olsen,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council), to bring your attention to our previous letter of concerns dated May 21, 2024. This letter was sent prior to you becoming the Admiralty Monument Ranger and we want to ensure that this issue has been brought to your attention.

We hope that you can advise us if you have any authority or if the Forest Service has any jurisdiction to enforce restrictions on jet boat activity on Hasselborg Creek. The original letter, enclosed for your reference, details our concerns about this activity and the potential impacts it may have on subsistence fishing harvests.

The Council respectfully requests that you review and consider our comments at your earliest opportunity. We would appreciate any appropriate action that you could take to work with us to protect the salmon that our rural residents depend upon to feed themselves and their families. We thank you for taking the time to understand our concerns about jet boat nuisances and we look forward to learning what authorities you may possess and any actions you may be able to take to help resolve this issue.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator, USDA – Forest Service, at deanna.perry@usda.gov, or (907) 209-7817.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Hernandez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Hernandez
Chair

Enclosure: Council letter to Admiralty District Ranger dated May 21, 2024

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



***Southeast Alaska
Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council***

**Don Hernandez, Chairman
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

**In Reply Refer To:
OSM.24055**

May 21, 2024

USDA-USFS Admiralty Island National Monument
c/o Monument Ranger: Michael Downs
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ranger Downs,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council). The Council is requesting that you consider its comments on an issue arising in your area and take appropriate action.

This Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in Southeast Alaska. 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 established its authority to initiate, review, and evaluate regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the southeast Alaska region. The Council reviews resource management actions occurring outside their regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities served by the Council. The Council also 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.

During its most recent meeting on March 8, 2024, the Council member from Angoon informed us that there has been increased jet boat traffic on Hasselborg Creek, an area that is utilized by the Angoon Community for subsistence use. These jet boats are operating in salmon spawning areas and could impact spawning success, survival rates, and ultimately the number of salmon returning in future years. Jet boat operation can disturb the habitat of this small water system and cause irreparable harm to the salmon spawning beds. In addition, the sound of the jet boats is disruptive to subsistence fishing activities and negatively affects the remote wilderness

experience. The Wilderness Act provides that areas such as Admiralty Monument be administered unimpaired for use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The Council wants to help protect subsistence resources in this drainage. The Council does not want to request a reduction of the jet boat traffic in the drainage through the federal regulatory process as closing the subsistence fishery would not prevent jet boat operators from using the river for other activities. The Council recognizes the challenges of addressing an issue that happens in waters with State and Federal managed fisheries and other activities, so we are turning to you for assistance in seeking a solution or help to mitigate the issue. Can this be considered an access and land management issue that you may be able to solve through an Outfitter/Guide or other appropriate restriction? Would considerations under the Wilderness Act, such as the use and enjoyment of this wilderness area, be a vehicle to pursue in protecting subsistence resources? Except for emergency life-threatening situations where a jet boat would be required, are you able to prohibit jet boat traffic on Hasselborg Creek for the reasons mentioned above?

The Council requests that you explore your authority to address this issue and consider enforcing a jet boat restriction on Hasselborg Creek. Or in the alternative, contemplate ways to reduce interest in going up the river at specific times, such as when salmon are spawning.

The Council appreciates your time in listening to its concerns regarding jet boat traffic negatively affecting the fish that subsistence users rely upon. The Council looks forward to hearing from you and learning what authorities you may possess to help eliminate, or at least mitigate, the impacts of this activity on Hasselborg Creek.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me via DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator, USDA – Forest Service, at deanna.perry@usda.gov, or (907) 209-7817.

Sincerely,



Don Hernandez
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner Anchorage, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mark Burch, Assistant Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Administrative Record