



Federal Subsistence Board

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



In Reply Refer To:
F26018

JUL 15 2026

Jacqueline Cleveland, Chair
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 – 6199

Dear Chair Cleveland:

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 does not meet the threshold. The enclosed table provides a summary of Board actions on 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 Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator, at 907-891-9181 or brooke_mcdavid@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,


Anthony Christianson
Chair

Enclosures: Table of Board's Actions affecting the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region for the
2026-2028 Wildlife Regulatory Cycle
805(c) Report

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta 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 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region

Region	Proposal/Closure	Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council Recommendation	Federal Subsistence Board Action
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-41/42 - Unit 18 caribou/moose; eliminate take from boat moving under power	Oppose	Approved the withdrawal
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-43/44 - Unit 18 moose; establish fall antlerless hunt and delegate authority; extend winter season in Kuskokwim hunt area	Support as modified by OSM	Adopt as modified by OSM with additional modification to delegate authority via delegation of authority letter only
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-45 - Unit 18 moose; extend cow season to open July 16 in Lower Yukon hunt area	Support as modified by OSM	Adopt as modified by OSM to also allow the harvest of bulls from July 16 – 31
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-46 - Unit 18 ptarmigan; increase harvest limit to 25 per day, 50 in possession	Support	Adopt
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-47 - Unit 18 beaver; eliminate restrictions on disturbing or destroying beaver houses under trapping regulations	Support	Adopt
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-48 - Unit 18 wolf; increase hunting harvest limit to 15 wolves	Support	Adopt
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	WP26-49 - Unit 18 coyote; increase hunting harvest limit to 4 coyotes and extend season	Support	Adopt
Bristol Bay	WP26-38/39 - Unit 17 brown bear; increase harvest limit to 2 bears, eliminate permit requirement, and extend season	Support	Support
Statewide	WP26-01 - Move authority delegated through letters to unit specific regulations	Support as modified by OSM	Defer to 2027 Fisheries Meeting

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.

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA AREA WILDLIFE PROPOSALS

Regional Proposals

Wildlife Proposal WP26-41 – Eliminate take of caribou from a 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 Alaska Council – **Support**

BOARD ACTION: **Approved 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 take of moose from a 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 Alaska Council – **Support**

BOARD ACTION: Approved the withdrawal

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

Wildlife Proposal WP26-43 – Establish fall may be announced antlerless moose hunt and delegate authority to manage hunt in Kuskokwim hunt area

DESCRIPTION: Requested establishing a “may be announced” antlerless moose hunt from Sep. 1 – Oct. 15 with a harvest limit of up to one antlerless moose by Federal registration permit in the Kuskokwim Zone 2 moose hunt area in Unit 18, and delegating authority to determine the permit allocation system, set season dates, and permit conditions to manage the hunt in response to current population metrics

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council – **Support as modified by OSM**

BOARD ACTION: Adopt as modified by OSM with an additional administrative modification to delegate authority via delegation of authority letter only

JUSTIFICATION: In deference to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council recommendations, the Board adopted WP26-43/44 as modified by OSM. The moose population continues to grow in the Kuskokwim Zone 2 hunt area in Unit 18, and there are no conservation concerns. Despite this increasing population, the harvest quota has only been met once, largely because this zone is more difficult to access and requires specialized boats, longer travel times and more fuel. As noted in the OSM analysis, the inability to meet the quota is not due to a lack of need.

These regulatory modifications continue to provide additional opportunities for subsistence users, help achieve the Zone 2 quota, and support flexible, adaptive management that responds to on-the-ground conditions, including weather, to optimize subsistence harvest opportunity. Additionally, due to the deferral of wildlife proposal WP26-01, the Board clarified that delegated authority will not be put into codified regulation and will instead be granted via delegation of authority letter only.

Wildlife Proposal WP26-44 – Extend winter moose season to close March 31 in Kuskokwim hunt area

DESCRIPTION: Requested extending the closing date of the Kuskokwim Zone 2 winter moose hunt in Unit 18 to March 31st

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council – **Support as modified by OSM**

BOARD ACTION: **Adopt as modified by OSM with an additional administrative modification** to delegate authority via delegation of authority letter only

JUSTIFICATION: See justification above for WP26-43, which was considered together with WP26-44