



Federal Subsistence Board

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



In Reply Refer To
F26020

JUL 15 2026

Louis H. Green, Chair
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chair Green:

This letter provides a report on the actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) on regulatory proposals as well as select 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 also adopted deferred fisheries proposal FP25-02 as modified by the Southeast Council and determined RFR25-01, the request for reconsideration 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 Gisela Chapa, Council Coordinator, at 907-310-6129 or gisela_chapa@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,


Anthony Christianson
Chair

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

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Seward Peninsula 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 the Seward Peninsula Region

Region	Proposal/Closure Review	Council Recommendation	Federal Subsistence Board Action
Statewide	WP26-01 – Move authority delegated through letters into unit-specific regulations	Support as modified by OSM	Defer to 2027 Fisheries Meeting
Statewide	WP26-01g – Seward Peninsula Region specific delegated authority	Support	Defer to 2027 Fisheries Meeting
Seward Peninsula	WP26-52 – Align Unit 22 brown bear regulations with State	Support	Adopt
Seward Peninsula	WP26-53 – Change Units 22B and 22D caribou season to “may be announced” year-round	Defer to 2028 wildlife cycle	Reject
Seward Peninsula	WP26-54 – Rescind Units 22A north, 22A Unalakleet, and 22A remainder moose closures to non-federally qualified users	Support with Council modification to maintain closure in Unit 22A, Unalakleet	Adopt
Seward Peninsula	WP26-55/56 – Remove Federal moose permit requirement in Unit 22A; extend fall season; establish winter hunt for Unit 22A Unalakleet	Support WP26-55 and Take No Action on WP26-56	Adopt WP26-55 and Take No Action on WP26-56
Seward Peninsula	WP26-57 – Require Federal registration permit for moose in Units 22A North and 22A remainder	Oppose	Reject
Seward Peninsula	WP26-58 – Remove Federal moose permit requirement and change harvest limit for winter season in Unit 22B West	Support	Adopt

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

Region	Proposal/Closure Review	Council Recommendation	Federal Subsistence Board Action
Seward Peninsula	WP26-59 – Shift fall moose season later to Sept. 6-20 in Unit 22B	Oppose	Reject
Seward Peninsula	WP26-60 – Change winter moose hunt to 1 antlered bull by state permit; Dec. 1-Jan. 31 may be announced	Support	Adopt
Seward Peninsula	WP26-61 – Require Federal registration permit for moose in Unit 22E	Support as modified by OSM	Adopt with modification to delegate authority to the BELA superintendent to set harvest quotas, determine the number of permits issued and the method of permit allocation, and close the season via a delegation of authority letter only.
Seward Peninsula	WP26-62a – Recognize C&T of Unit 22A residents for muskoxen	Support as modified by OSM	Adopt as modified by OSM
Seward Peninsula	WP26-62b – Establish muskox hunt (1 bull; Aug. 1-Mar. 15) in Unit 22A	Support as modified by OSM	Adopt with modification to delegate authority to the BLM Anchorage Field Office manager to close the season, determine annual harvest quotas, the number of permits to be issued and the method of permit allocation between State and Federal permits for muskox in Unit 22A via delegation of authority letter only.
Seward Peninsula	WP26-63 – Combine muskox hunt areas and Federal permits in Unit 22D	Oppose	Defer to 2028 Wildlife Regulatory Cycle
Seward Peninsula	WP26-64 – Extend muskox season to close March 31 in Units 22 and 23 SW	Support	Adopt with clarification to extend the season to March 30

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

Region	Proposal/Closure Review	Council Recommendation	Federal Subsistence Board Action
Seward Peninsula	WCR26-09a/c – Units 22A North and 22A remainder, moose closure review	Rescind the closure	Rescind the closure
Seward Peninsula	WCR26-09b – Unit 22A Unalakleet, moose closure review	Retain status quo	Take no action due to action taken on WP26-54
Seward Peninsula	WCR26-11/12 – Unit 22B West, review of moose hunting closure during fall/winter hunt	Retain status quo	Retain status quo
Seward Peninsula	WCR26-13/14/15 – Units 22D, moose closure review	Retain status quo	Retain status quo
Seward Peninsula	WCR26-16 – Unit 22E, moose closure review	Retain status quo	Retain status quo
Northwest Arctic	WCR26-45 – Unit 23, Noatak corridor caribou closure review	Retain status quo	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.

SEWARD PENINSULA AREA WILDLIFE PROPOSALS

Regional Proposals

Wildlife Proposal WP26-53 – Change Units 22B and 22D caribou season to may be announced year-round.

DESCRIPTION: Wildlife Proposal WP26-53 requested to change caribou seasons in portions of Units 22B and 22D to year-round, “may be announced” seasons.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Defer** to 2028 wildlife regulatory cycle

Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Did Not Consider**

Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Defer to the Home Region**

BOARD ACTION: Reject

JUSTIFICATION: This proposal aims to protect commercial reindeer herds, but by doing so would limit subsistence opportunities for local users. ANILCA prioritizes subsistence uses over commercial interests on Federal land; therefore, reducing subsistence opportunity in the interest of commercial reindeer herding should not be supported.

Wildlife Proposal WP26-54 – Rescind Units 22A north, 22A Unalakleet, and 22A remainder moose hunting closures to non-federally qualified users.

DESCRIPTION: Wildlife Proposal WP26-54 requested to rescind all three moose hunting closures to non-federally qualified users on Federal public lands in Unit 22A.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Support with Council modification** to maintain the closure in Unit 22A, Unalakleet.

BOARD ACTION: **Adopt**

JUSTIFICATION: Biological data shows that moose populations in Unit 22A have increased and local residents have been successfully meeting their harvest needs, especially in the Unalakleet drainage. Although the concern of increased competition is acknowledged, there is currently no State non-resident season open in Unit 22A Unalakleet. The conditions that justified the original closure do not currently exist.

Wildlife Proposal WP26-61 – Require Federal registration permit for moose in Unit 22E.

DESCRIPTION: Wildlife Proposal WP26-61 requested the requirement of a Federal registration permit for moose in Unit 22E.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Support as modified by OSM** to delegate additional authority to the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (BELA) superintendent to define harvest areas and to clarify and simplify the regulatory language.

BOARD ACTION: **Adopt with Board modification** to delegate to the BELA superintendent to set harvest quotas, determine the number of permits issued and the method of permit allocation, and close the season via a delegation of authority letter only.

JUSTIFICATION: The Board supports in deference to the Council, with modification to delegate authority to the BELA superintendent in a DAL only. The population has shown a slight increase, but better harvest reporting would benefit management of this population. Delegating authority to a local land manager provides management flexibility to respond quickly to changing conditions.

Wildlife Proposal WP26-62b – Establish muskox hunt in Unit 22A.

DESCRIPTION: Wildlife Proposal WP26-62b requests to establish a hunt for muskoxen in Unit 22A to match the current State hunt, which has a harvest limit of one bull by Tier II drawing permit and a season of Aug. 1–Mar. 15.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Support as modified by OSM**

BOARD ACTION: Adopt with Board modification to delegate authority to the BLM Anchorage Field Office manager to close the season, determine annual harvest quotas, the number of permits to be issued and the method of permit allocation between State and Federal permits for muskox in Unit 22A via delegation of authority letter only.

JUSTIFICATION: The Board supports establishing a muskox hunt since the Seward Peninsula population is stable and healthy. Since the harvestable surplus is small, delegating authority to the BLM Anchorage Field Office manager through a DAL to administer a drawing permit will allow for careful management of this harvest. This decision is also aligned with the Council's recommendation.

Wildlife Closure Review WCR26-09B – Unit 22A Unalakleet, moose closure review

DESCRIPTION: The review of Wildlife Closure WCR26-09B to moose hunting by non-federally qualified users in the central portion of Unit 22A around Unalakleet (22A Unalakleet).

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Retain status quo**

BOARD ACTION: Take no action due to action taken on WP26-54.

JUSTIFICATION: Action taken on WP26-54 rescinded the closure reviewed by this analysis. For the Board's justification see WP26-54, included in this report.