



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

OSM 20115.KD

AUG 31 2020

Donald Hernandez, Chair
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) met on April 20-23 and April 27, 2020 via teleconference to consider proposed changes to Federal subsistence management regulations for the harvest of wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska. This letter provides a report on the actions taken by the Board on Wildlife Proposals (WP) and Wildlife Closure Reviews (WCR) affecting residents of the Southeast Alaska 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 conservation, 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 by Secretarial regulations to set forth the factual basis and reasons for the decision.

Out of 54 proposals submitted, one proposal (**WP20-21**) was withdrawn by the proponent. The Board agreed with the recommendations of the Councils, in whole or with modifications, on 48 of 54 proposals. The Board deferred **WP20-26**, which would allow for the use of snowmachines to assist in positioning wolves or wolverines in Units 9B, 9C, 17B, and 17C, until its summer 2020 work session. Furthermore, the Board accepted the recommendations of the Councils on all 17 WCR's, voting to maintain status quo on 13 of them. Details of these actions and the Board deliberations are contained in the meeting transcriptions. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling the toll free number 1-800-478-1456, and are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>.

The Board uses a consensus agenda on those proposals where there is agreement among the affected Regional Advisory Council(s), a majority of the Interagency Staff Committee, and the

Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning a proposed regulatory action. These proposals were deemed non-controversial and did not require a separate discussion. The consensus agenda contained 11 proposals affecting the Southeast Alaska Region, which the Board deferred to the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) recommendations as follows: the Board *rejected* **WP20-03**, which requested the elimination of female deer harvest and limited take to antlered deer in Unit 2, **WP20-04**, which also requested the elimination of female deer harvest and limited take to antlered deer for one regulatory cycle in Unit 2, and **WP20-05**, which requested that female deer harvest in Unit 2 occur under a Federal registration permit. The Board also *rejected* statewide proposal **WP20-08**, which required traps or snares to be marked with name or state identification number. The Board *adopted* **WP20-09**, which requested that trapping season for beaver be extended in Units 1-5; **WP20-10**, which requested a customary and traditional use determination for black bear in Units 2, 3 and 5 for rural residents of Units 1-5; **WP20-11**, which requested a customary and traditional use determination for brown bears in Units 1, 3, 4, and 5 for rural residents of Units 1 through 5; **WP20-12**, which requested that the deer season in Unit 3 (Mitkof, Woewodski, and Butterworth islands) be extended from Oct. 15 – Oct. 31 to Oct. 1 – Nov. 7, and that the hunt area be revised to include that portion of Kupreanof Island on the Lindenberg Peninsula east of Portage Bay – Duncan Canal Portage and that the harvest limit be revised from antlered deer to buck in all of Unit 3; **WP20-13**, which requested a customary and traditional use determination for elk in Unit 3 for rural residents of Units 1 through 5; **WP20-14** which requested modification of the customary and traditional use determination for goats in Units 1, 4, and 5 to include rural residents of Units 1 through 5; and **WP20-15** requested modification of the customary and traditional use determination for moose in Units 1 and 3 to include rural residents of Units 1 through 5.

The remaining proposals affecting the Southeast Alaska Region appeared on the non-consensus agenda. For all of these proposals, the Board took action consistent with the Council's recommendations. The Board *rejected* **WP20-01**, which requested that the Federal Subsistence Board repeal the Federal season for moose in Unit 1C Berners Bay; **WP20-02**, which requested that the reduced deer harvest limit for non-Federally qualified users in Unit 2 be rescinded; **WP20-06**, which requested reducing the season end date for deer in Unit 2 from January 31 to December 31; and **WP20-07**, which requested a reduction of the Federal harvest limit for deer in Unit 2 from five deer to four deer.

A request was made at the Board meeting to remove proposals WP20-16 and WP20-17 from the consensus to the non-consensus agenda for Board deliberation. **WP20-16/17** collectively requested extending the sealing period for wolf hunting and trapping, removing language referencing a combined Federal-State harvest quota for wolves in Unit 2, and changing the hunting harvest limit to "no limit". The Board *adopted* WP16/17, however, consistent with the Council's recommendations.

The Federal Subsistence Board appreciates the 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 truly admirable.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator, at 907-209-7817 or deanna.perry@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Christianson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" being more prominent than the last name "Christianson".

Anthony Christianson
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members
Sue Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Thomas Doolittle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Lisa Maas, Acting Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Kron, Council Coordination Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record