



## 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 20118.EP

**SEPT 10 2020**

Michael Chad Kramer, Chair  
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chairman Kramer:

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 Northwest Arctic 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Out of 54 proposals submitted, one proposal (**WP20-21**) was withdrawn by the proponent.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 WCRs, 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 one proposal affecting the Northwest Arctic Region, which the Board deferred to the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) recommendations as follows: the Board *rejected* statewide proposal **WP20-08**, which required traps or snares to be marked with name or state identification number.

The remaining proposals affecting the Northwest Arctic Region appeared on the non-consensus agenda. For both of the proposals, the Board took action somewhat consistent with the Council's recommendations. The Board *adopted with the OSM modification*, **WP20-47** to eliminate the cow moose season in Unit 23. The Board *further modified* WP20-47 by deleting the State permit requirement. The Board *adopted* **WP20-46** to provide a year-round bull caribou season and allow calf harvest in Unit 23. The Board *took no action* on **WP20-43/44/45**.

The Board's actions on one WCR for the region were also consistent with the Council's recommendations. The Board *adopted maintaining the status quo* for **WCR20-19**, which reviewed the muskox hunting closure in Unit 23, south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage, except by Federally qualified subsistence users.

The Board appreciates the Northwest Arctic Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the stewardship shown by the 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 Eva Patton, Acting Council Coordinator, at 907-786-3358 or by email at [eva\\_patton@fws.gov](mailto:eva_patton@fws.gov).

Sincerely,



Anthony Christianson  
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Northwest Arctic 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, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor,  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Eva Patton, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record