



BRISTOL BAY
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

February 9-10, 2021



BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Teleconference TBD

Anchorage

February 9-10, 2021

Convening at 8:30 am daily

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your concerns and knowledge. **Please fill out a comment form to be recognized by the Council chair.** Time limits may be set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep the meeting on schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: These are estimated times and the agenda is subject to change. Contact staff for the current schedule. Evening sessions are at the call of the chair.

AGENDA

*Asterisk identifies action item.

- 1. Invocation**
- 2. Call to Order** (*Chair*)
- 3. Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (*Secretary*).....4
- 4. Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 5. Review and Adopt Agenda*** (*Chair*).....1
- 6. Election of Officers***
 - Chair (*DFO*)
 - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
 - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** (*Chair*).....5
- 8. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)

10. Old Business (Chair)

- a. NPS individual C&T determinations.....14
- b. WP20-26 – Positioning of wolves and wolverines – Working Group update

11. New Business (Chair)

- Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals*.....36
 - Wildlife status updates from ADF&G and Federal staff, if requested by the Council Chair
- Council Charter Review*.....57
- Review and approve FY2020 Annual Report*.....51
- Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program Information Update (*OSM*)

12. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

- a. Bristol Bay Native Association

Native Organizations

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- a. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.....39
- b. Becharof/Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge

NOAA (*Ellen Yasumiishi*)

National Park Service

- a. – Lake Clark National Park
 - 1. Mercury Tests
- b. Katmai National Park
 - 1. Aniakchak National Monument SRC Appointment Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Land Management.....46

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Office of Subsistence Management

13. Future Meeting Dates*

Confirm Fall 2021 meeting date and location

Select Winter 2022 meeting date and location

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (Chair)

To call into the meeting, dial the toll free number: 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for special accommodation needs to Donald Mike, 907-786-3629, donald_mike@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY) by close of business on January 26, 2021.

REGION 4
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Apptd Term Expires	Member Name and Community
1	2019 2019	Vacant
2	2016 2019	Vacant
3	2003 2022	Nanci Morris Lyon King Salmon Chair
4	2007 2020	Vacant
5	2017 2020	Vacant
6	2014 2020	Vacant
7	2003 2020	Vacant
8	2012 2021	Lary J. Hill Iliamna
9	2019 2021	Robert A. Larson Koliganek
10	2009 2021	Richard J. Wilson Naknek Secretary

BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Teleconference
Anchorage, Alaska
October 28, 2020

Invocation

Mr. Richard Wilson gave an invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment

The meeting was called to order Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 8:50 am. Council members Ms. Nanci Morris Lyon, Mr. William Trefon, Jr., Mr. Dan Dunaway, Mr. Lary Hill, and Mr. Richard Wilson participated. Ms. Molly Chythlook, and Mr. Robert Larson did not participate and were excused. The Council has three vacant seat(s). A quorum was established with five of seven seated Council members participating by phone.

Attendees:

Via teleconference

- Gayla Hoseth; Dillingham; Bristol Bay Native Association
- Susan Alexander; King Salmon; USFWS Becarof/Alaska Peninsula NWR
- Liza Rupp; Anchorage; NPS Lake Clark NP
- John Creed; Dillingham
- Mark Burch; Anchorage; ADFG
- Ted Kreig; Dillingham; Public
- Jared Stone; Anchorage; USFWS Office of Subsistence Management
- Robbin La Vine; Anchorage; USFWS Office of Subsistence Management
- Bronwyn Jones; Anchorage; ADF&G Subsistence
- Glenn Chen; Anchorage; BIA
- Heidi Kris; Dillingham; Bristol Bay Native Association
- Leslie Skora; King Salmon; NPS Katmai NP
- Linda Chislom; King Salmon; NPS Katmai NP
- Mark Strum; King Salmon; NPS Katmai NP
- Lee Borden
- Jonathan Gerken; Anchorage; USFWS Fisheries

Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion by Mr. Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Trefon, Jr, to adopt the agenda as read with the following changes:

- Add Update on WP20-26 Working Group
- Lake Clark National Park SRC Appointment
- Change order of Analyses Presentation: 1. FP20-05, 2. FP20-07, 3. FP20-06 and 4. FP20-08

The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Trefon, Jr., to approve the winter 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports

Mr. Richard Wilson of Naknek reported despite these challenging times, people are observing more ptarmigan and hares in the area. The fall hunting season, more subsistence users are meeting their needs.

Mr. Lary Hill of Iliamna reported also reported that more ptarmigan are being observed in the area. Moose harvest for subsistence has been successful. Mr. Hill also reported on a small group of caribou have been observed in the Iliamna area. Increase of bear observations in the area have also been reported.

Mr. Dan Dunaway of Dillingham reported that the subsistence and commercial fishery went well. Moose season was a success, but without ADF&G staff biologist in the field office, it's hard to measure the local success rate. Locals had the opportunity to harvest Nushagak Peninsula caribou last spring. Predator management is questionable, and Mr. Dunaway wondered about other mortality causes on moose and caribou that are not observed. The berry season crop in the area was not very productive this fall.

Ms. Nanci Morris Lyon of reported the ptarmigan population is increasing in the area, and grouse are plentiful. The berry crop in the area was productive. Ms. Morris Lyon also reported participating in the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in spring 2020.

Old Business

805c Report

The Council was provided an 805c Report from the Federal Subsistence Board. The report provides actions taken by the Board on Wildlife Proposals and Wildlife Closure Reviews affecting residents of the Bristol Bay region. The Board deferred WP20-26 which would allow the use of snowmachines for the positioning of wolves and wolverines, and that a working group convene to develop recommendation of positioning of animals. The Board adopted three proposals deemed non-controversial. The Board

adopted WP20-37 allowing use of snowmachine to assist in taking of caribou, and rejected WP20-30, requesting the Alaska hare season in Unit 9 be shortened, and reduced the harvest limit. The Board adopted the Wildlife Closure Reviews, WCR20-04/06 to rescind the Federal public lands closure in portion of Unit 9C.

WP20-26 Working Group – Update

The working group, composed of Federal and State staff, met in July of 2020 to discuss the positioning of animals to develop recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board on the positioning of animals for wolf and wolverine hunting. The working group requested additional guidance from the Solicitors Office and the Board on regulatory language between the National Park Service, BLM, and the Fish and Wildlife Service regulations addressing positioning of Animals. Currently, the working group is at a pause to address administrative issues on the makeup of the working group. The group will convene to continue its work in the winter of 2020/21.

New Business

Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews

Regional:

FP21-05: Requests the Board simplify Federal regulations by removing regulations that imply the Board has authority to regulate subsistence fishing in the marine waters of fishing districts.

Motion by Mr. Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Trefon, Jr., to adopt FP21-05.

Support.

Justification. The Council supports this proposal to remove regulatory language from existing regulations that reference commercial fishing districts. The Council states that it is a burdensome, confusing, and unnecessary regulation for subsistence users. There is no Federal jurisdiction over the marine waters in the Bristol Bay commercial fishing districts. The Council notes however that removal of caudal fins is not a subsistence practice and a separate proposal is required to request the removal of the caudal fin from regulations.

FP21-06: Requests the Board revise Federal subsistence fishing regulations for the Bristol Bay Area to specify that salmon may be taken by dip net, beach seine, and gillnet only, unless otherwise specified.

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Hill, to adopt FP21-06.

Oppose.

Justification. The Council opposes this proposal stating it is too broad in scope and does not address specific issues including salmon management and conservation concerns in some vulnerable drainages.

FP21-07: Requests that the Federal Subsistence Board revise the Federal subsistence fishing regulations for the Bristol Bay Area by removing the scheduled fishing closures in the Egegik River at §__.27(e)(5)(iii).

Motion by Mr. Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Trefon, Jr., to adopt FP21-07.

Support.

Justification. The Council supports this proposal stating that it will reduce user confusion, remove inconsistency in regulations, and avoid possible legal confusion in current regulations.

FP21-08: Requests that the Federal Subsistence Board remove the area wide closure to the taking of fish at the mouths of streams used by salmon.

Motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Hill, to adopt FP21-08.

Oppose.

Justification. The Council opposed the proposal stating it is too broad in scope and does not address specific issues stemming from salmon management and conservation concerns.

2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Mr. Jared Stone and Ms. Robbin La Vine with OSM presented the Council with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) Priority Information Needs (PINs) working group discussion results.

The Council was presented with the draft 2022 Draft Priority Information needs (PINs). The PINs were drafted by a working group of Council members volunteering to develop the PINs. Representative Council members included members from the Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians Councils. OSM staff presented the draft to the Council. The Council reviewed the PINs developed by the working group and provided comments. The Council approved the PINs. The PINs approved by the Council are as follows;

- Reliable estimates of salmon in the Southwest Region to determine health and abundance and address region-wide declines in populations and/or loss of funding for existing research.
- Obtain subsistence harvest survey data for salmon and non-salmon fish by residents of southwest communities, particularly those with outdated information and/or not currently surveyed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence. Emphasis was given to address harvest trends in Unalaska Bay, Togiak and Southwest Kodiak Villages.
- Comparative ecological evaluation of lake rearing habitats of subsistence Sockeye Salmon stocks in southwest Kodiak Island, Alaska including Olga Lakes and Akalura Lake watersheds;

assessment of 1) the decline of salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest opportunities and (2) the potential effects of climate change on salmon production in these lake systems.

- Abundance and assessment of critical subsistence salmon stocks in priority areas such as the Buskin River.
- Abundance and assessment of critical subsistence salmon stocks in priority areas such as McLees Lake.
- Investigate crab populations in Women's Bay.
- Reliable estimates of Sockeye Salmon escapements in the Lake Clark watershed.
- Reliable estimates of salmon escapement and evaluation of "quality of escapement" measures (for example, potential egg deposition, sex and size composition of spawners, spawning habitat quality and utilization) for determining the reproductive potential of spawning stocks in Big Creek, Naknek River, Alagnak River, Nushagak River Chignik River, Meshik River and Togiak River.
- Harvest survey of Dolly Varden in the Togiak River drainage.

Motion by Mr. Dan Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Richard Wilson to adopt the 2022 Priority Information Needs as presented by OSM staff. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

Identifying Issues for FY2020 Annual Report

The Council identified the following topics for inclusion into the FY-2019 Annual Report:

- Regional Advisory Council Teleconference Public Meetings
- Chignik Salmon Fishery
- Nushagak Caribou Herd

Proposed Review Processes for NPS Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations

Mr. Joshua Ream with NPS presented the Council with the proposed changes to the NPS individual customary and traditional use determinations review process and requested the Council's opinion on the changes.

The Council moved to defer the National Park Service Individual Customary and Traditional Process and Guidelines for all National Park lands in Alaska to its March 2021 public meeting. The Council stated it needs additional time to review and develop its comments on the document.

Agency Reports:

- Ms. Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), reported that BBNA has been involved in the positioning of animals working group. Ms. Hoseth suggested the Council hold a workshop on hunting on Federal lands to educate the public that, hunters, can have the option to hunt under State or Federal regulations. Currently, State regulations applies to all lands, whereas Federal regulations apply to Federally managed public lands.
- Mr. Cody Larson, BBNA, informed the Council on a recent FRMP funded completed project documenting the sharing networks of subsistence on the Alaska Peninsula. The final product was published in February, 2020. The BBNA Board of Directors Fish and Game Committee formed a task force to assess strategies for rebuilding Salmon stocks in the Chignik area. Mr. Larson also provided an update on BBNA's intern program.
- Mr. Jon Gerken, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Fishery Inseason Manager, provided a summary of management actions in the Chignik area. Assessment on salmon returns are currently conducted by the ADF&G and the service does not have any ongoing assessment projects. Preseason escapement goals for 2020 were similar to 2019. For the last several years escapement goals have not been met.
- Mr. Ross Renick, ADF&G area management biologist for commercial and subsistence fisheries, provided an update on preliminary harvest reports. Mr. Renick reported the escapement total for the salmon run is very low in the Chigniks on record.
- Mr. George Pappas, OSM ADF&G Liaison, reported the villages in the Chignik area have a government to government relationship with the service, and are able to assist in distributing Federal permits. The Chignik communities have formed the Chignik InterTribal Coalition and discussion are that they may be able to provide assistance with possible research efforts.
- Mr. Kenton Moos, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager, referred to the Council the refuge report contained in the meeting materials. Topics covered are Cooperative Salmon Escapement Monitoring Projects, Mulchatna and Nushagak Caribou Herd biological report, and moose survey reports conducted in 2019 and current monitoring projects. Additional summary of various resource monitoring projects are found in the meeting materials beginning on page 90 of the fall October 28-29, 2020 meeting materials. Mr. Moos provided staffing update in the Togiak Refuge field office.
- Ms. Susan Alexander, Becharof/Alaska Peninsula NWR Manager, provided staffing update in King Salmon, Alaska. Currently staffing is one third filled but the refuge has hired a budget technician and a deputy refuge manager. Ms. Alexander also provided an update on the subsistence caribou hunt in Units 9C and 9E and the ptarmigan hunt was opened under a temporary delegation of authority. The refuge is currently cooperating with the ADF&G to conduct moose surveys and also conducting composition and trend surveys for bears.

- Mr. Bruce Seppi, BLM, reported that Anchorage BLM office field activities were shut down due to COVID-19 during the summer season. Mr. Seppi provided staffing update; the BLM Anchorage office filled the BLM statewide subsistence coordinator position.
- Ms. Susan Fleek-Green, Lake Clark NP Superintendent, reported projects were curtailed due COVID-19. Ms. Fleek-Green informed the Council on the fisheries monitoring on the Newhalen River reporting a return of 450,000 salmon in the system. The Telaquana station reported a run of 175,000 return, above the average of 88,000. Water sampling in the Kvichak River system was conducted to investigate the impact of beaver on water quality due to increased beaver dams. She reported the NPS is in partnership, community harvest project, with ADF&G to study the changing subsistence patterns in Port Alsworth. The NPS is currently conducting ongoing work on mercury deposits in various lakes within the Park. The subsistence knowledge project in partnership with Nikolai and Nondalton was delayed due to COVID-19 but the Park is planning to start the project in the summer of 2021.
- Mr. Mark Strum, Katmai National Park Superintendent, reported due to COVID-19, the Katmai NPS had to relocate their office from the Air Force Station to another location. The State of Alaska and the Federal Emergency Management Administration, established a field hospital in anticipation of COVID-19. Mr. Strum provided an update and progress on the road restoration project. The NPS currently have a draft plan for restoring the disturbed site. The monument recognizing the Council of Katmai descendants, a bust of Pelagia Melgenak has been completed, and the NPS is currently in dialogue with the heirs of Pelagia Malgenak in bringing the bust to Katmai and presenting it to the descendants.
- Ms. Linda Chislom, Subsistence Coordinator, Aniakchak National Monument, reported the Aniakchak National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) reviewed the Federal fisheries proposals and had no comments. The SRC also passed a motion in their fall 2020 meeting supporting Alaska Board of Game proposal 32. The proposal requests to close to nonresident season for emperor geese in Units 9 and 10. The SRC has an incumbent seat currently filled by Mr. Mark Kosbruk and the NPS will submit his application for reappointment by the Bristol Bay RAC.
- Ms. Leslie Skora, Katmai NPS wildlife biologist, presented a briefing on Katmai NPS projects. Moose surveys were completed last fall/winter 2019. The NPS completed bear surveys in Katmai and Aniakchak National Monument. The NPS is currently seeking funding to conduct a caribou project to investigate the Mulchatna Caribou Herd that are ranging within Katmai National Park and to conduct ptarmigan surveys in Katmai and Aniakchak National Monument to estimate the ptarmigan density in these units.
- Mr. Lee Borden, ADF&G Sportfish biologist, briefed the Council on the projects the department is conducting. The Department did not complete assessment projects on King Salmon fishery in the Togiak River, Coho Salmon on the Nushagak River and Rainbow Trout on the Kvichak River and on Rainbow Trout and Dolly Varden on the Iliamna, Gibraltar, and Margot watersheds due to a lack of funding. The Department was able to maintain funding for Naknek River Rainbow Trout project during the fall field season.
- Ms. Bronwyn Jones, ADF&G Subsistence, referred the Council to the meeting materials outlining the Departments projects. The projects covered Togiak Refuge Harvest and Stock Composition

of Dolly Varden and Nonsalmon fish, Lake Clark NPS Subsistence Harvest surveys, BBNA Marine Mammal Harvest assessment project, Naknek River Salmon Ethnography, and Port Heident Subsistence Salmon Harvest.

- Ms. Lisa Hutchinso-Scarborough, ADF&G Subsistence, presented current projects on assessment surveys in the Bristol Bay communities.
- Ms. Danielle Stickman, Network Coordinator for the Western Alaska Partnership. Ms. Stickman provided a briefing to the Council on what the Western Alaska Partnership is currently working on. The Partnership is currently expanding its community based monitoring system to address environmental change, co-developing coordinated monitoring networks across Alaska and Western Canada, and Implementing community based programs to enhance stewardship of traditional foods and critical habitat in Alaska. The partnership is pursuing projects the next year that includes stream temperature monitoring, wild berry monitoring, install tidal gauges to assist in Coastal Mapping, and expand the partnership to support community based monitoring on subsistence resources.
- Mr. George Pappas, OSM, briefed the Council that all ten Regional Advisory Councils are meeting via teleconference due to COVID-19 and travel restriction to outlying communities due to health concerns. Mr. Pappas informed the Council on staffing within OSM and that acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director for Subsistence, Tom Doolittle, will be retiring at the end of 2020.

Future Meeting Dates:

Winter 2021 meeting to be held February 9-10, 2021 in Naknek

Fall 2021 meeting to be held October 27-28, 2021 in Dillingham

Meeting Adjourned

Donald Mike, Designated Federal Officer
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Nanci Morris Lyon, Chair
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its winter 2021 meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

A more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript, and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Donald Mike at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3629, email donald_mike@fws.gov.

DRAFT

Standard Operating Procedures for Issuance of Subsistence Eligibility Permits and Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations¹

The Alaska Region of the National Park Service (NPS) intends to issue National Park/Monument Subsistence Eligibility Permits (sometimes referred to as 13.440 Permits) and Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations using the protocol established in this document. A Subsistence Eligibility Permit may be requested for use in conjunction with an existing community or area customary and traditional (C&T) use determination within the relevant park unit, or in combination with a new request for one or more individual C&T use determinations.

National Park/Monument Subsistence Eligibility Permits are issued pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 13.440:

Any rural resident whose primary, permanent home is outside the boundaries of a resident zone of a national park or monument may apply to the appropriate Superintendent pursuant to the procedures set forth in §13.495 for a subsistence permit authorizing the permit applicant to engage in subsistence uses within the national park or monument.

Application procedures for Subsistence Eligibility Permits are specified in 36 CFR 13.495:

(a) Any person applying for the subsistence permit required by §13.440(a), or the exception to the prohibition on aircraft use provided by §13.450(b)(2), shall submit his/her application to the Superintendent of the appropriate national park or monument. If the applicant is unable or does not wish to submit the application in written form, the Superintendent shall provide the applicant an opportunity to present the application orally and shall keep a record of such oral application. Each application must include a statement which acknowledges that providing false information in support of the application is a violation of Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and additional statements or documentation which demonstrates that the applicant satisfies the criteria set forth in §13.440(a) for a subsistence permit or §13.450(b)(2) for the aircraft exception, as appropriate. Except in extraordinary cases for good cause shown, the Superintendent shall decide whether to grant or deny the application in a timely manner not to exceed forty-five (45) days following the receipt of the completed application. Should the Superintendent deny the application, he/she shall include in the decision a statement of the reasons for the denial and shall promptly forward a copy to the applicant.

(b) An applicant whose application has been denied by the Superintendent has the right to have his/her application reconsidered by the Alaska Regional Director by contacting the Regional Director within 180 days of the issuance of the denial. The Regional Director may extend the

¹ To comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), parks should consider covering the federal action of determining individual eligibility for subsistence activities with categorical exclusion 3.2(N): Issuance of individual hunting and/or fishing licenses in accordance with state and federal regulations. This CE does not require documentation.

180-day time limit to initiate a reconsideration for good cause shown by the applicant. For purposes of reconsideration, the applicant shall present the following information:

(1) Any statement or documentation, in addition to that included in the initial application, which demonstrates that the applicant satisfies the criteria set forth in paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) The basis for the applicant's disagreement with the Superintendent's findings and conclusions; and

(3) Whether or not the applicant requests an informal hearing before the Regional Director.

(c) The Regional Director shall provide a hearing if requested by the applicant. After consideration of the written materials and oral hearing, if any, and within a reasonable period of time, the Regional Director shall affirm, reverse, or modify the denial of the Superintendent and shall set forth in writing the basis for the decision. A copy of the decision shall be forwarded promptly to the applicant and shall constitute final agency action.

Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations are made pursuant to 50 CFR 100.16:

(a) The Board shall determine which fish stocks and wildlife populations have been customarily and traditionally used for subsistence. These determinations shall identify the specific community's or area's use of specific fish stocks and wildlife populations. For areas managed by the National Park Service, where subsistence uses are allowed, the determinations may be made on an individual basis.

and 50 CFR 100. 24:

The Federal Subsistence Board has determined that rural Alaska residents of the listed communities, areas, and individuals have customary and traditional use of the specified species on Federal public land in the specified areas. Persons granted individual customary and traditional use determinations will be notified in writing by the Board. The Fish & Wildlife Service and the local NPS Superintendent will maintain the list of individuals having customary and traditional use on National Parks and Monuments. A copy of the list is available upon request. When there is a determination for specific communities or areas of residence in a Unit, all other communities not listed for that species in that Unit have no Federal subsistence priority for that species in that Unit. If no determination has been made for a species in a Unit, all rural Alaska residents are eligible to harvest fish or wildlife under this part.

Request for a National Park/Monument Subsistence Eligibility Permit

1. Applicants may request applications from the relevant park Subsistence Coordinator verbally, in-person, or in writing. The applicant may choose to complete the application with the assistance of the Subsistence Coordinator. Applicants shall acknowledge to the Subsistence Coordinator, either by signing and returning the application, verbally, or both, that he/she understands that providing false information in support of the application is a violation of Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.
2. The Subsistence Coordinator shall forward a copy of completed applications to the Alaska Region Subsistence Program Manager for archival purposes and entry in the Subsistence Eligibility Permit / Individual C&T tracking log.
3. Upon receiving the completed application, the relevant park Subsistence Coordinator shall schedule an interview with the applicant, either in-person or by phone, to obtain additional information regarding applicant eligibility and existing patterns of subsistence use.
4. Upon completing the interview, the relevant Subsistence Coordinator shall produce a brief written analysis (see attached form) and formulate a recommendation on the request, with justification.
5. The application, analysis, and recommendation shall be forwarded by the relevant Subsistence Coordinator to the Superintendent for review and decision. The Superintendent shall complete the decision form (see attached).
6. A signed copy of the decision form shall be sent to the applicant within 45 days of the receipt of the application² (36 CFR 13.495). The Subsistence Coordinator will coordinate with the applicant and the Superintendent to issue an approved permit with requisite signatures and he/she shall retain a copy. Permits shall follow the standard format for NPS Special Use Permits. The following permit stipulations are recommended, as applicable to the specific park unit, in addition to the standard Special Use Permit stipulations:
 - a. This permit establishes eligibility only for subsistence uses within (National Park or Monument Name). Specific subsistence activities (i.e. house logs, green firewood, cabins, subsistence registration hunts, caches, etc.) may require separate authorization or permits.
 - b. The Permittee must contact the Superintendent if permittee changes his/her permanent residence. The permit may need to be amended to show the current physical address of the permanent residence.
 - c. This permit is void if the Permittee's permanent residence is determined to be "non-rural" by federal regulation.
 - d. The Permittee is subject to other regulatory requirements including, but not limited to, seasons and harvest limits, community and individual customary and traditional determinations, methods and means, etc.
 - e. Only those family members living within the Permittee's household are authorized by this permit for subsistence uses in (National Park or Monument Name). It is the responsibility of the Permittee to notify the Superintendent of changes in the

² Except in extraordinary cases for good cause shown (36 CFR 13.495), including the need to collect additional information.

composition of the household, including additions (through birth, adoption or marriage) or deletions (a family member moving out of the household).

- f. The Permittee is prohibited by federal regulations (36 CFR 13.450) from using aircraft to access the park for the purpose of engaging in subsistence activities. Aircraft access is prohibited for any portion of the access. The regulatory prohibition on aircraft access for subsistence uses in the park does not apply to aircraft access to the Permittee's primary permanent residence.
7. The recommendation, Superintendent decision, and a digital copy of the signed permit (when applicable) shall be forwarded to the Alaska Region Subsistence Program Manager for entry into the Subsistence Eligibility Permit / Individual C&T tracking log.
8. Pursuant to 36 CFR 13.495 (b) an applicant whose application has been denied by the Superintendent has the right to have his/her application reconsidered by the Alaska Regional Director by contacting the Regional Director within 180 days of the issuance of the denial. The Regional Director may extend the 180-day time limit to initiate a reconsideration for good cause shown by the applicant.

Note: Permits will be issued for the lifetime of the applicant so long as they retain their eligibility as a Federally qualified subsistence user. Reviews of permit eligibility shall be made periodically by the Subsistence Coordinator, at least every five years.

Request for an Individual C&T Use Determination

1. Applicants may request applications from the relevant park Subsistence Coordinator verbally, in-person, or in writing. The applicant may choose to complete the application with the assistance of the Subsistence Coordinator. Applicants shall acknowledge to the Subsistence Coordinator, either by signing and returning the application, verbally, or both, that he/she understands that providing false information in support of the application is a violation of Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.
2. The Subsistence Coordinator shall forward a copy of completed applications to the Alaska Region Subsistence Program Manager for archival purposes and entry in the Subsistence Eligibility Permit / Individual C&T tracking log.
3. Upon receiving the completed application, the relevant park Subsistence Coordinator shall schedule an interview, either in-person or by phone, to obtain additional information regarding applicant eligibility and existing patterns of subsistence use.
4. The relevant Subsistence Coordinator will analyze responses on the application and in the interview to assess eligibility and to formulate a recommendation on an existing pattern of use of species requested for an individual C&T use determination.
5. The written analysis and recommendation, with justification (see attached form), shall be sent to the Alaska Region Subsistence Program Manager for archival purposes and entry in the Subsistence Eligibility Permit / individual C&T tracking log. Analyses shall follow the guidance for C&T use determination analyses in the most recent revision of the Federal Subsistence Management Program's Technical Writing Guide, as applicable to individual C&T use determinations.
6. A summary of the request and analysis will be provided by the relevant Subsistence Coordinator to the affected Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) at their first meeting following completion of the interview. The SRC will make a recommendation, with justification, on issuance of the individual C&T use determination (see attached decision form).
7. The Subsistence Coordinator shall forward the SRC recommendation and justification to the Alaska Region Subsistence Program Manager for archival purposes and entry into the Subsistence Eligibility Permit / Individual C&T tracking log.
8. The Alaska Region Subsistence Program Manager will provide the individual C&T use determination application, analysis, and recommendations to the NPS Regional Director or his/her designee to make a final individual C&T use determination (see attached decision form).
9. The Alaska Region Subsistence Program Manager will draft a decision letter on behalf of the NPS Regional Director. The NPS Regional Director will review and sign the letter, which will be digitized, archived, and forwarded to the applicant, with copies to the Office of Subsistence Management, the relevant park Subsistence Coordinator, and the Superintendent.
10. Once received, the Office of Subsistence Management will forward the decision letter to the chairs of the affected Regional Advisory Councils. Councils will be informed of any changes to individual C&Ts at the council's next regularly scheduled public meeting.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ALASKA REGION**

**NATIONAL PARK/MONUMENT SUBSISTENCE ELIGIBILITY PERMIT* & INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMARY
AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION APPLICATION**

*(*For determination of subsistence eligibility under the provisions of 36 CFR 13.440.)*

I am requesting (Choose One):

- National Park/Monument Subsistence Eligibility Permit ONLY
- Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determination ONLY³
- National Park/Monument Subsistence Eligibility Permit AND Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determination

If requesting a National Park/Monument Subsistence Eligibility Permit, my eligibility is based on:

- A pattern of subsistence use in the park unit for which I am seeking a permit
- A pattern of subsistence use in a park OTHER THAN the park unit for which I am seeking a permit
 - Please explain: _____

If requesting an individual customary and traditional use determination, for what species and areas (units or subunits)?

Name of National Park or Monument: _____

1. Name of applicant (First, Middle, Last):

³ The Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) policy requires applicants for Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations to either reside in a resident zone community or hold a 13.440 Subsistence Eligibility Permit. This permit can be applied for concurrently.

2. Mailing address:

3. Location/physical address of primary permanent residence:

- Phone number: _____

-Email address: _____

- What month and year did your residence at this location start?

Month _____ Year _____

- During what part of the year do you reside at this residence (give dates)? _____

4. Location/physical address of other residences, if any:

- During what part of the year do you reside at these residences (give dates)?

5. What physical address is currently indicated on your:

- Alaska hunting and/or fishing license

- Driver's license

- Tax returns

- Voter registration

- Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend application

6. Have you, or any persons living in your household on a permanent basis, engaged in subsistence within this park or monument? Yes ____ No ____

- Specific location of use? _____

- Was aircraft used as a means of access to conduct such activities? Yes ____ No ____

- Type of subsistence use (hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, etc.)? _____

- Specific resources harvested (caribou, moose, salmon, furbearers, timber, etc.)? _____

- Name of permanent member(s) of household who has hunted, trapped, fished, gathered, etc. in the park or monument? _____

- Relationship of permanent member(s) of household noted above to you (self, father, mother, brother, etc.)? _____

- Earliest year in which use took place? _____

- Most recent year in which use took place? _____

- Frequency of use (yearly, every other year, etc.)? _____

7. Other comments/additional pertinent information in support of your permit application:

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ONLY IF REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION(S)

1. For what species are you requesting an individual customary and traditional use determination?

2. Please describe your pattern of subsistence use of the species listed above. What years have you harvested or attempted to harvest them? In which months or seasons do you harvest them?

3. What methods and means of harvest do you use for these species?

4. Where do you harvest these resources? Please provide locations, as specifically as possible, including identifiable landmarks or geographic descriptions. How do you access these harvest locations? What means of transportation do you use?

5. How do you process these resources and preserve them for future use?

6. How have you learned about hunting, trapping and fishing – both skills and the values associated with the uses?

7. Do you share what you know about hunting, trapping and fishing with others? If so, how?

8. Do you share the resources that you harvest with others in your community or family? Please describe any sharing networks in which you are involved.

9. Please describe your pattern of subsistence use more generally – which resources to you harvest or seek to harvest on a regular basis? What role do these resources and activities play in your way of life – economically, nutritionally, culturally, socially?

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS

1. Please provide the name, address and telephone number of another person, other than a member of your household, who can verify this information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

I certify that the statements made herein are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith. I also understand that Title 18 U.S.C § 1001 makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

Signature of applicant: _____

Date: _____

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ALASKA REGION**

**NATIONAL PARK/MONUMENT SUBSISTENCE ELIGIBILITY PERMIT* & INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMARY
AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION ANALYSIS**

*(*For determination of subsistence eligibility under the provisions of 36 CFR 13.440.)*

To be completed by the relevant Subsistence Coordinator:

Date:

Applicant Name:

Analyst Name:

This analysis is in response to the following request (Choose One):

- Subsistence Eligibility Permit ONLY
- Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determination ONLY
- Subsistence Eligibility Permit AND Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determination

Please type a brief summary of the applicant's reported subsistence use pertaining to the request, as determined from information provided on the application and during the interview:

For a National Park/Monument Subsistence Eligibility Permit, the analysis should address the following topics:

1. Synopsis of the applicant's pattern of use⁴ specifically in the national park or monument for which the permit is requested, including the following:
 - a. Species harvested,
 - b. Specific locations where the use occurred,
 - c. Years during which the subsistence uses took place, and
 - d. Whether aircraft was used for access.
2. Does the pattern of use begin prior to the signing of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)?

⁴ There may be variation by region and/or park on what constitutes a "pattern of use." Generally, there should exist evidence of repeated past attempts to access and harvest subsistence resources within the boundaries of the park or monument. SRCs may be consulted in defining a "pattern of use" for their region.

3. Does the applicant have a pattern of use established while as a resident of a resident zone community after the passage of ANILCA?

For an Individual C&T use determination, the analysis should address the following questions:

1. Does the applicant have a long-term, consistent pattern of use of these resources, excluding interruptions beyond their control? Please explain.
2. Does the applicant have a pattern of use for these resources recurring in specific seasons for many years? Please explain.
3. Does the applicant have a pattern of use of these resources consisting of methods and means of harvest which are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost, conditioned by local characteristics? Please explain.
4. Does the applicant exhibit consistent harvest and use of fish or wildlife as related to past methods and means of taking: near, or reasonably accessible from the park unit? Please explain.
5. Does the applicant exhibit a means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or wildlife which has been traditionally used by past generations, including consideration of alteration of past practices due to recent technological advances, where appropriate? Please explain.
6. Does the applicant exhibit a pattern of use which includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing and hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation? Please explain.
7. Does the applicant exhibit a pattern of use in which the harvest is shared or distributed within a definable community of persons? Please explain.
8. Does the applicant exhibit a pattern of use which relates to reliance upon a wide diversity of fish and wildlife resources of the area and which provides substantial cultural, economic, social, and nutritional elements to your household? Please explain.

The analysis should include an integrated discussion of the eight factors. A factor-by-factor discussion is not required in the analysis and it is also not necessary that all eight factors be addressed to demonstrate a pattern of use. The eight factors provide a framework for examining the pattern of use of a resource. There are regional, cultural and temporal variations and the application of the eight factors will likely vary by region and by resource depending on actual patterns of use. The goal of customary and traditional use determination analyses is to recognize customary and traditional uses in the most inclusive manner possible.

As a result of this analysis (Select All that Apply):

- There is substantial evidence to support the issuance of a Subsistence Eligibility Permit
- There is substantial evidence to support the issuance of an Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determination for (species and location) _____

- There is **NOT** substantial evidence to support the issuance a Subsistence Eligibility Permit
- There is **NOT** substantial evidence to support the issuance an Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determination for (species and location) _____

Brief Justification:

Signature of Analyst: _____ Date: _____

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALASKA REGION

SUBSISTENCE ELIGIBILITY PERMIT* DECISION

*(*For determination of subsistence eligibility under the provisions of 36 CFR 13.440.)*

To be completed by the relevant Superintendent:

Applicant Name:

Name of Park or Monument for which permit is requested:

Request Date:

After reviewing the request, evaluation form, staff analysis and recommendation, I have decided to (select one):

- Issue a Subsistence Eligibility Permit to the applicant
- Deny a Subsistence Eligibility Permit to the applicant

Superintendent Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Pursuant to 36 CFR 13.495 (b) an applicant whose application has been denied by the Superintendent has the right to have his/her application reconsidered by the Alaska Regional Director by contacting the Regional Director within 180 days of the issuance of the denial. The Regional Director may extend the 180-day time limit to initiate a reconsideration for good cause shown by the applicant.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ALASKA REGION**

INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION

SRC RECOMMENDATION

To be completed by the relevant Subsistence Coordinator:

Date of Formal Action:

Proponent Name:

Proponent Request:

Affected SRC:

This SRC has determined that (select all that apply):

- There is sufficient evidence to support an individual customary and traditional use determination for (name) for (species) in (unit(s)/subunit(s))
- There is NOT sufficient evidence to support an individual customary and traditional use determination for (name) for (species) in (unit(s)/subunit(s))

Brief justification for above decision:

Signature of SRC Chair _____ Date _____

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ALASKA REGION**

INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION

NPS DECISION

To be completed by the Alaska Regional Director or his/her designee:

Proponent Name:

Request Date:

After reviewing the request, evaluation form, staff analysis and recommendation, and affected SRC recommendation(s), I have decided:

- that there is sufficient evidence to support an individual customary and traditional use determination for (name) for (species) in (unit(s)/subunit(s))
- that there is **NOT** sufficient evidence to support an individual customary and traditional use determination for (name) for (species) in (unit(s)/subunit(s))

Regional Director or Designee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Regional Director, Alaska Region
National Park Service
240 W. 5th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Regional Director:

This letter delegates specific regulatory authority from the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) to the Alaska Regional Director of the National Park Service (NPS) to adopt individual customary and traditional use (C&T) determinations for those individuals authorized to engage in subsistence uses in a national park or monument, including those holding a NPS subsistence permit issued pursuant to 36 CFR 13.440 and those living within a Resident Zone Community. This delegation only applies to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife in national parks and monuments subject to Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Title VIII jurisdiction.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

1. Delegation: The Alaska Regional Director of the National Park Service, or his/her designated representative, is hereby delegated authority to adopt individual C&T determinations for those individuals issued a NPS §13.440 subsistence permit, or living within a Resident Zone Community, as outlined under the **Scope of Delegation**. Individual C&T is governed by Federal regulation at 36 CFR 242.16, 36 CFR 242.24, 50 CFR 100.16, and 50 CFR 100.24. National Park Service subsistence permits are governed by Federal regulation at 36 CFR 13.440.

2. Authority: This delegation of authority is established pursuant to 36 CFR 242.10(d)(6) and 50 CFR 100.10(d)(6), which allow the Board to delegate certain management decisions to agency field officials within a framework established by the Board. Authority to recognize which rural Alaska areas or communities have customary and traditional subsistence uses of specific fish and wildlife populations is established under 36 CFR 242.10(d)(4)(iii) and 50 CFR 100.10(d)(4)(iii).

3. Scope of Delegation: The regulatory authority hereby delegated is limited to the following authorities within the limits set by regulation at 36 CFR 242.16, 50 CFR 100.16, 36 CFR 242.24, and 50 CFR 100.24:

- To adopt individual C&T determinations for those individuals issued a NPS §13.440 subsistence permit or those living within a Resident Zone Community.

Individual C&T determinations may be issued only to holders of subsistence permits and are limited to national parks and monuments, as described in the Federal regulation at 36 CFR 242.16, 50 CFR 100.16, and 36 CFR 13.440.

4. Effective Period: This delegation of authority is effective from the date of this letter and continues until superseded or rescinded.

5. Guidelines for Delegation: You will become familiar with the requirements for issuing individual C&T determinations. You will develop a process to evaluate individual C&T applications that incorporates the factors exemplifying customary and traditional use, as described at 36 CFR 100.16 and 50 CFR 100.26. You will provide subsistence users in the region a local point of contact to facilitate communication about this process and its requirements.

You will issue decisions and notify C&T applicants in a timely manner. You will notify the Board, the Interagency Staff Committee, the Office of Subsistence Management and the appropriate Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council(s) about new individual C&T determinations, and you will maintain a list of existing individual C&T determinations for each park unit.

6. Support Services: Administrative support will be provided by the Office of Subsistence Management.

Sincerely,

Anthony Christianson
Chair

Enclosures

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

Comparison of Current and Proposed Review Processes for National Park Service Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations

Step in process	Current Process	Proposed Process
Application window	Narrow window during call for regulatory proposals every two years	Open continuously
Application review	Proposals may be invalidated if incomplete or 13.440 permit is needed	NPS staff interview the applicant to ensure that all information regarding 8 factors is documented and process 13.440 permit application if needed
Proposal analysis	Follows standard format for C&T proposals using 8 factors. Analysis is prepared by NPS staff in combination with OSM staff	Follows standard format for C&T proposals using 8 factors. Analysis is prepared NPS staff
Advisory committee review	Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council	National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission
Decisionmaker	Federal Subsistence Board	NPS Alaska Regional Director
Decision timeline	Fixed schedule -- at annual regulatory meeting	Flexible schedule -- following receipt of SRC recommendation



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

Contact: Regulatory Affairs Division Chief
(907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456
subsistence@fws.gov

How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

Alaska residents and subsistence users are an integral part of the Federal regulatory process. Any person or group can submit proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations, comment on proposals, or testify at meetings. By becoming involved in the process, subsistence users assist with effective management of subsistence activities and ensure consideration of traditional and local knowledge in subsistence management decisions. Subsistence users also provide valuable wildlife harvest information.

A call for proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing regulations is issued in January of even-numbered years and odd-numbered years for wildlife. The period during which proposals are accepted is no less than 30 calendar days. Proposals must be submitted in writing within this time frame.

You may propose changes to Federal subsistence season dates, harvest limits, methods and means of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations.

What your proposal should contain:

There is no form to submit your proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations. Include the following information in your proposal submission (you may submit as many as you like):

- Your name and contact information (address, phone, fax, or E-mail address)
- Your organization (if applicable).
- What regulations you wish to change. Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state, “new regulation.”
- Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations.
- Explain why this regulation change should be made.
- You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) in evaluating the proposed change.

You may submit your proposals by:

1. By mail or hand delivery to:
Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121
Anchorage, AK 99503
2. At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting (A schedule will be published in the Federal Register and be announced statewide, bi-annually, prior to the meeting cycles)
3. On the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>

Submit a separate proposal for each proposed change; however, do not submit the same proposal by different accepted methods listed above. To cite which regulation(s) you want to change, you may reference [50 CFR 100](#) or [36 CFR 242](#) or the proposed regulations published in the Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. All proposals and comments, including personal information, are posted on the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

For the proposal processing timeline and additional information contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456/ (907) 786-3888 or go to <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/proposal/submit.cfm>.

How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:

1. Once a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is received by the Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) validates the proposal, assigns a proposal number and lead analyst.
2. The proposals are compiled into a book for statewide distribution and posted online at the Program website. The proposals are also sent out the applicable Councils and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) for review. The period during which comments are accepted is no less than 45 calendar days. Comments must be submitted within this time frame.
3. The lead analyst works with appropriate agencies and proponents to develop an analysis on the proposal.
4. The analysis is sent to the Councils, ADF&G and the ISC for comments and recommendations to the Board. The public is welcome and encouraged to provide comments directly to the Councils and the Board at their meetings. The final analysis contains all of the comments and recommendations received by interested/affected parties. This packet of information is then presented to the Board for action.
5. The decision to adopt, adopt with modification, defer or reject the proposal is then made by the Board. The public is provided the opportunity to provide comment directly to the Board prior to the Board's final decision.
6. The final rule is published in the Federal Register and a public regulations booklet is created and distributed statewide and on the Program's website.

A step-by-step guide to submitting your proposal on www.regulations.gov:

1. Connect to www.regulations.gov – there is no password or username required.
2. In the white space provided in the large blue box, type in the document number listed in the news release or available on the program webpage, (for example: FWS-R7-SM2014-0062) and select the light blue “Search” button to the right.

3. Search results will populate and may have more than one result. Make sure the Proposed Rule you select is by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and **not** by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).
4. Select the proposed rule and in the upper right select the blue box that says, “Comment Now!”
5. Enter your comments in the “Comment” box.
6. Upload your files by selecting “Choose files” (this is optional).
7. Enter your first and last name in the spaces provided.
8. Select the appropriate checkbox stating whether or not you are providing the information directly or submitting on behalf of a third party.
9. Fill out the contact information in the drop down section as requested.
10. Select, “Continue.” You will be given an opportunity to review your submission.
11. If everything appears correct, click the box at the bottom that states, “I read and understand the statement above,” and select the box, “Submit Comment.” A receipt will be provided to you. Keep this as proof of submission.
12. If everything does not appear as you would like it to, select, “Edit” to make any necessary changes and then go through the previous step again to “Submit Comment.”

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you’d like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov. Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 270
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone 907-842-1063
Fax 907-842-5402



INFORMATION BULLETIN - January 2021

Cooperative Salmon Escapement Monitoring Projects. Contact: Pat Walsh

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has monitored Chinook, chum and sockeye salmon escapement on the Middle Fork Goodnews River since 1980. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (Togiak Refuge) has worked with ADF&G since 1992 to assist in staffing the weir until 2017, after which reduced funding prevented providing staff assistance.

On the Kanektok River, ADF&G, Native Village of Kwinhagak, Coastal Villages and Togiak Refuge have worked cooperatively to monitor salmon and Dolly Varden runs since 2001. However, this project has been cancelled since 2016 due to lack of funding.

The Togiak Refuge fisheries biologist retired in 2017 and the position has not been refilled. However, the current Togiak Refuge manager has identified re-filling this position as a high priority, as well as re-engaging in cooperative salmon monitoring projects.

Mulchatna Caribou Contact: Andy Aderman

Togiak Refuge assisted ADF&G with telemetry and law enforcement flights, satellite data acquisition, data entry and database management. A July 2020 post-calving survey estimated the Mulchatna herd at approximately 13,500 caribou, similar to the 2019 estimate, and well below the population objective of 30,000-80,000 caribou.

Togiak Refuge Manager Moos, under authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, opened caribou hunting (Aug. 1-Sept. 20, 1 bull) and closed Federal public lands in the hunt area for caribou hunting except by federally qualified rural residents. The Federal hunt ran concurrently with the State of Alaska registration permit hunt **RC503** for Mulchatna caribou. As of December 28, the reported harvest was 54 bulls.

Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Contact: Andy Aderman

Reported harvest for the 2019-2020 hunt was 307 caribou (132 bulls, 166 cows, 9 unknown sex), of which 288 were taken under the Federal FC1702 permit, 12 under the State RC501 permit, and 7 taken illegally. Over the last four seasons hunters have reported a total of 799 caribou. A photocensus of the Nushagak Peninsula Herd on July 7, 2020 found a minimum of 209 caribou in 2 groups which resulted in a total population estimate of 226 +/- 47 (209-273) caribou at the 95% confidence interval. A similar effort in 2019 found a minimum of 710 caribou in 5 groups

resulting in an estimate of 822 +/- 164 (710-986) caribou. Hunting related mortality (reported and unreported harvest, wounding loss) accounted for the majority of the population decline. Predation on caribou occurs primarily by brown bears and wolves, however, other predators (coyotes, wolverine, lynx) occur on the Nushagak Peninsula that likely kill some caribou.

The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee met via teleconference July 28, 2020 and reviewed results of previous hunts, population and lichen monitoring and the harvest strategy changes made at the October 2019 meeting. Those changes included lowering both the population objective and optimum level to 200-600 and 400, respectively. Agency biologists agreed a limited harvest of bulls (ten or less) would not impact the growth of the herd. A majority of the Committee favored having a hunt with a total of 5 permits (bulls only), with all permits going to Manokotak. Refuge Manager Moos' decision was to open the Federal caribou hunt on the Nushagak Peninsula from August 1-September 20 with a harvest objective of 5 bulls and all 5 permits going to the Manokotak Village Council. No caribou have been reported harvested in the 2020-2021 Federal permit hunt.

Moose Contact: Andy Aderman

In October 2019 a moose survey conducted in Unit 17A estimated 2139 +/-495 (1644-2634) moose at the 90% confidence interval. This was about a 10% decline from the March 2017 estimate 2370 +/- 564 (1806-2934) moose at the 90% confidence interval. Moose seen during the October 2019 survey (249 cows, 224 bulls, and 26 calves) resulted in estimates of 90 bulls and 10.4 calves per 100 cows.

During the 2019-2020 winter moose hunts in Unit 17A (RM 575 and RM 576), hunters reported harvesting 9 bulls and 36 cows. In the Goodnews area winter moose hunt (RM 621), hunters reported harvesting 2 moose.

Staff from the Togiak Refuge and ADF&G-Bethel conducted minimum count surveys in the Goodnews and Kanektok/Arolik moose hunt areas during February/March 2019. In the Goodnews area a minimum of 450 moose (386 adults, 64 calves) were observed. The Goodnews area moose population has more than doubled since the last minimum count of 203 in March 2012. In the Kanektok/Arolik area a minimum of 236 moose (205 adults, 31 calves) were observed. The Kanektok/Arolik moose population increased 35 percent since the last minimum count of 173 in March 2018. A moose population minimum count is planned for the combined Goodnews and Kanektok/Arolik areas during February/March 2021.

The relationships of wolf and brown bear predation with moose population density and growth at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and BLM Goodnews Block, Alaska Contact: Pat Walsh

In summer 2014, Togiak Refuge, the USFWS Genetics Lab, ADF&G, and BLM initiated a study to understand the effects of wolf and brown bear predation in regulating the populations of moose. The study relies on radio telemetry and stable isotope analysis. Our approach is to relate the predation impact by wolves and bears on moose at varying levels of moose population density. We will use existing population estimates for brown bears, and through the use of radio telemetry, we will estimate the number and composition of wolf packs on the Refuge. We will model wolf and bear predation on moose based on the quantity of wolves and bears and diet composition of both species determined through analysis of carbon and nitrogen isotopes

occurring in bear and wolf hair. Hair is being collected from wolves when captured during radio collaring operations, and has been collected from brown bears using break-away hair snares. So far, we have captured and radioed 41 wolves from seven packs. During summers 2014-2016, we deployed over 400 snares, and collected over 200 brown bear hair samples. Initial analysis in 2017 identified data gaps, so additional bear hair was collected in 2018. Lab analyses are complete and modelling is currently underway.

Walrus Contact: Doug Holt

The Togiak Refuge has annually monitored the number and timing of Pacific walrus at haul-outs since 1985, using ground counts (1985-2008), aerial surveys (2003-2011) and time lapse photography (2010-2019). Overall, walrus numbers observed at haul-outs on Togiak Refuge have declined, with the greatest declines at Cape Peirce and Cape Newenham. Peak counts in the most current year when every day was counted (2016) were 401 at Cape Peirce, 897 on Hagemester Island, and 454 at Cape Newenham. Walrus using haul-outs in Bristol Bay are typically recorded from late spring to late fall but were observed at Cape Newenham every month since cameras were deployed in fall of 2014 until February 2017. Data were recovered at all sites during summer 2019 and are currently being examined. In an effort to reduce potential spread of COVID-19 in the community travel to field sites was strictly limited and sites were not visited during 2020. The most recent report was completed in August 2019 and is available to the public at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/168185>.

Seabirds Contact: Pat Walsh

The abundance and reproductive success of black-legged kittiwakes, common murre, and pelagic cormorants was monitored annually at Cape Peirce from 1990-2014 and 2016-2019. Monitoring was postponed in 2020. In the past 29 years, the long-term average number of birds counted on study plots was 1,075 kittiwakes (range = 238-1,906), 2,595 murre (range = 53-4,563), and 80 cormorants (range = 15-123). Twenty-nine years of seabird monitoring at Cape Peirce has revealed high variation in nesting adult counts and reproductive success, but never four consecutive years of reproductive success as low as 2016-2019 for all three species. Population and productivity monitoring will continue in June 2021 at Cape Peirce.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Surveys Contact: Kara Hilwig

Elodea spp. is a highly invasive and difficult to control aquatic plant implicated in the degradation and loss of fish habitat across the world. It was confirmed present in Alaska in 2009 and is now found in several waterbodies across the State. In 2020, Refuge and Park staff cooperated to complete the third round of *Elodea* surveys within the Togiak Refuge, Wood-Tikchik State Park and the surrounding area. Twenty-five annual monitoring sites have been established in high use areas such as lodge docks, boat ramps, and popular float plane destinations. Thus far, no *Elodea* has been detected. Funding proposals are currently being submitted to continue this work in 2021.

Water Temperature Monitoring Contact: Doug Holt

Stream temperature monitoring has been conducted at 21 locations on 14 rivers in Togiak Refuge since August 2001. Continuous hourly water temperatures were recorded at each site. Over 2.4 million temperature records were collected, quality-graded, and digitally stored in a relational database through October 2019. The warmest month each year was July. The maximum recorded mean daily summer temperatures varied by location, with median values of 9.8–22.9°C

across sites. The warmest temperatures were observed in the Kukaktlim Lake outlet and the coolest temperatures were observed in the Weary River. The most recent stream temperature monitoring report was completed in September 2018 and is available to the public at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFiles/169087>. A report detailing measurements recorded through summer 2019 is currently under review and a link to that report will be provided when the report is finalized and posted.

We used moored all-season temperature arrays to record hourly temperatures throughout the water column in 2 lakes on or near the Togiak Refuge 2011-2018. The lakes differed significantly in surface area, water volume, and elevation with Ongivinuk Lake being smaller and at higher elevation than Snake Lake. We observed variation in lake ice phenology and fewer days of ice cover on Snake Lake than on Ongivinuk Lake each winter when data were available for both lakes. We observed that both lakes were dimictic, exhibiting turnover events in spring and fall. We observed water temperatures in excess of standards for fish rearing and migration habitats during summer down to 12.5 m in Snake Lake and down to 5 m in Ongivinuk Lake. The most recent lake water temperature monitoring report was completed in March 2019 and is available to the public at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/169088>. In an effort to reduce spread of COVID-19 sites were not visited during 2020.

Quantifying River Discharge Contact: Pat Walsh

Togiak Refuge and the USFWS Water Resources Branch have worked cooperatively since 1999 to acquire baseline hydrologic data of the flow regime (magnitude, duration, timing, frequency, and rate of change) and water quality. A network of stream discharge gages collected stream flow data from 1999-2005 at 20 locations. A subset of five of these stations continued to collect data through fall 2009, after which three of the five stations were removed. We will monitor discharge in the Togiak and Kulukak Rivers indefinitely, although due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, no field work occurred in 2020.

Recovery of overgrazed lichen on Hagemeister Island Contact: Pat Walsh

Reindeer were removed from Hagemeister Island in 1993 following overgrazing that resulted in starvation in about 1/3 of the herd and damage to reindeer habitat. Since then, Togiak Refuge biologists have monitored the recovery of lichen communities and have found that average lichen biomass increased from 450 lb/acre in 2003 to 709 lb/acre in 2015. We calculated time to recovery with three competing growth curves which estimate grazeable biomass may be reached in 34-41 years and full recovery in 71 – approximately 400 years. Lichen communities were composed of various mixtures of at least 78 lichen species, but were dominated by important reindeer forage species. While reindeer overgrazing diminished forage quantity, it did not eradicate preferred forage. Results from this study have been accepted for publication in the journal *Rangifer*.

Education and Outreach Contact: Terry Fuller and Jon Dyazuk

Togiak Refuge has an active education and outreach program, conducting an average of 60+ classroom visits throughout 12 Bristol Bay villages annually, during a normal school year. That total was cut short for the end of the 2019-2020 calendar year due to covid-19. Classroom visits include lessons about the Migratory Bird Calendar, National Wildlife Refuge Week, careers in natural resource conservation, and numerous teacher requested classroom presentations. The

Refuge works with several school districts and private schools including the Southwest Region, Lower Kuskokwim, Dillingham City school districts and the Dillingham 7th Day Adventist School. Some topics often include bird walks, wilderness survival skills, archery, salmon life cycles, aquatic resources, and bear safety. At this time, outreach is still being impacted by covid-19; we are hopeful for a return to full outreach efforts in the near future. The refuge website is also an education tool and is available at <http://togiak.fws.gov>.

Togiak Refuge, in partnership with ADF&G and the Southwest Region School District, also conducts hunter safety courses throughout western Bristol Bay Villages. Classes have impacted more than 100 students in Manokotak, Dillingham, Twin Hills, Togiak, Aleknagik and Quinhagak. The refuge plans to continue these courses, as requested, in 2021 and is in the planning stages to add a National Archery in School Program to its offerings in the future, pending a return to normal outreach efforts.

The Refuge education program also produces Bristol Bay Field Notes, an award-winning weekly radio program on KDLG 670 AM that covers an array of outdoor-related topics (past episodes can be found on KDLG's website). Togiak Refuge has an active and heavily followed Facebook page which disseminates information on a daily basis to a rapidly growing global audience. These outreach efforts have not been affected by covid-19 and are available for public consumption at their regular rate of production.

The Refuge normally hosts an Open House event, in celebration of National Public Lands Day and National Hunting and Fishing Day. It was not held in 2020. This event is usually attended by 100-200 people and includes a wide range of displays, hands on activities, food and beverages.

Togiak Refuge staff continues to work with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and the ADF&G to conduct household subsistence waterfowl surveys. Refuge staff and volunteers conducted surveys in a number of southwest Alaska communities, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Togiak, Clark's Point, Newhalen, Nondalton, Chignik Lake and Chignik Lagoon. Surveys will be put on hold for this year, due to covid-19.

Also, the Refuge partners with others to conduct three environmental education camps. As with other Service sponsored education camps, those camps were cancelled for 2020, due to covid-19 related concerns. The descriptions that follow are from the 2019 camps.

Cape Peirce Marine Science and Yup'ik Culture Camp Contact: Terry Fuller

In July 2019 an enthusiastic group of seven area junior high students representing three villages (Dillingham, Togiak and Platinum) traveled to Cape Peirce for this camp. Students were able to observe seabirds, marine mammals, and learn how field work is conducted, as well as learning about the food webs and ecological relationships found at the Cape Peirce area. Students also learned about traditional Yup'ik uses of animals and plants and about Native survival skills. This camp is designed to help students gain a better understanding of the biological diversity of a marine ecosystem. It also strengthens their sense of stewardship for local natural resources. Other topics at this camp included tide pools, wilderness survival skills, archery, bear safety, Leave No Trace camping practices and careers with USFWS. Refuge Interpreter Jon Dyasuk spoke with students about traditional resource uses. A special offering for this year's camp was

the chance for the students to try their hand drawing with Colorado pastel artist Penny Creasy. Traditional councils and school districts from throughout western Bristol Bay are cooperators with this camp.

Southwest Alaska Science Academy (Salmon Camp) Contact: Terry Fuller

In July 2019, Togiak Refuge helped with the 19th year of a summer camp aimed at teaching middle and high school students about fisheries science and the importance of salmon to our ecosystem. Students were selected from the Bristol Bay region. During the camp students worked in the field alongside fisheries professionals. Cooperators with the Refuge on this project included the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute, University of Alaska, University of Washington School of Fisheries, the Dillingham City and Southwest Region school districts, and ADF&G.

Summer Outdoor Skills and River Ecology Float Camp Contact: Terry Fuller

The 2019 Float Camp took place on the Togiak River early August. At this camp, four high school students learned about river ecosystems and how to enjoy them safely and responsibly while taking part in a float trip conducted on a refuge river. Students observed and learned about the many fish, wildlife and plant species found on the Togiak and its tributaries. Rafting skills, water safety, different angling practices (Catch and Release), Leave No Trace camping practices and bear safety were topics during the trip. Students also participated in other outdoor activities such as wilderness survival skills. This camp helps students grasp the biological diversity of riparian ecosystems and the importance of salmon as a nutrient source, while developing a deeper sense of stewardship for local natural resources. Montana Artist Mara Menahan was along as an “Artist-in-Residence” and all of the students had an opportunity to work with Mara on natural history illustration while in the field. Traditional councils and school districts in western Bristol Bay are cooperators with this camp.

Division of Refuge Law Enforcement Contact: Derek Thompson

Federal Wildlife Officers work to protect wildlife and habitat and make refuges safe places for visitors and staff. Senior Federal Wildlife Officer (SFWO) Derek Thompson is stationed in Dillingham, AK. He is the Officer responsible for patrolling Togiak Refuge and managing its law enforcement program.

2020 has been a unique year. SFWO Thompson saw a decrease in commercial activity in Togiak Refuge and steady use from local users. Many patrols were focused on caribou. Caribou (Nushagak Peninsula and Mulchatna) enforcement patrols will continue to be a priority for SFWO Thompson. SFWO Thompson routinely works with other state and federal agencies to achieve efficient and effective law enforcement. This year SFWO Thompson teamed with the Bureau of Land Management’s law enforcement Rangers to patrol the Mulchatna Caribou herd.

SFWO Thompson encourages anyone with questions regarding USFWS law enforcement to contact him; and reminds all who enjoy and rely upon the resources in the Bristol Bay Region that the USFWS Division of Refuge Law Enforcement is here to help protect those resources for future generations.

Staff Update

New hires to announce:

Jannelle Trowbridge, Wildlife Biologist. Jannelle is a recent graduate from UAA and is from Nome.

Stan Cullings, Deputy Manager. Stan arrived in October from Arizona.

We still have a couple vacancies and hope to fill them in the near future.



Bureau of Land Management – Anchorage Field Office

Updates to the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

February 9 - 10, 2021

FISHERIES

Fly Fishing Academy - BLM Fisheries staff is planning to participate in this year's Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy, teaching young adult guide trainees to become leaders in salmon stewardship. The students will learn about the salmon lifecycle, habitat, ecology, the importance of riparian areas, and salmon management practices.

WATER RIGHTS

Jacksmith and Cripple Creeks - Goodnews Block - Aquatics staff is planning a trip to these sites during the winter to better characterize winter flow conditions in support of the preparation of instream flow applications for fisheries resource protection.

ECOLOGY

Spruce Bark Beetle - BLM is partnering with the University of Alaska on a research project to learn how to construct fuel breaks that are more resilient to spruce bark beetle attack and wind events. The project will establish three experimental fuel break treatment plots plus one control plot on Campbell Tract. The treatments will be carried out at the end of summer 2021. Spruce trees in the three treatment plots will be thinned to 8-12-foot spacing. The three treatments vary in how the felled material will be processed: 1) stand thinned and trees left exactly as felled, 2) stand thinned and trees cut to 4-6-foot lengths and scattered within the treatment area, and 3) stand thinned and felled trees chipped and scattered within the treatment area.

MINE SITE MONITORING/RECLAMATION

Platinum Mine Site - Aquatics and Mine Compliance staff are developing a plan to reconnect fish passage through the historic tailings of the Platinum Mine Site. Monitoring data at the Salmon River have shown that fish passage in the system is restricted during much of the summer by three reaches of the stream that periodically flow subsurface. Staff will be monitoring water quality and quantity on the Salmon River in support of this effort.

RECREATION

Guide Permits - The BLM authorized new Special Recreation Permits (SRP) for two hunting guides near Lake Iliamna. One previously had an SRP with the BLM Fairbanks Office. The other holds a National Park Service permit in Katmai National Park and wanted to be able to hunt the adjoining BLM land.

REALTY

ANCSA D1 Withdrawal Revocations – The Realty staff is wrapping up recommendations on the revocation of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act D1 Withdrawal. For more information on the history and purpose of D1 withdrawals and the revocation process visit https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/d-1_withdrawals

Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotments - Applications are being accepted through Dec. 29, 2025 for the Alaska Native Vietnam-era Veterans Land Allotment Program of 2019. The program provides the opportunity for eligible Vietnam-era veterans or their heirs to select 2.5 to 160 acres of Federal land. For more information visit <https://www.blm.gov/alaska/2019AKNativeVetsLand>

COLLABORATIVE CAMPBELL TRACT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Campbell Creek Monitoring- Aquatics staff will resurvey and analyze 33 cross sections on Campbell Creek to characterize the hydrogeomorphic response of Campbell Creek to natural and recreational stressors by comparing them to measurements made by the USGS in 2001.

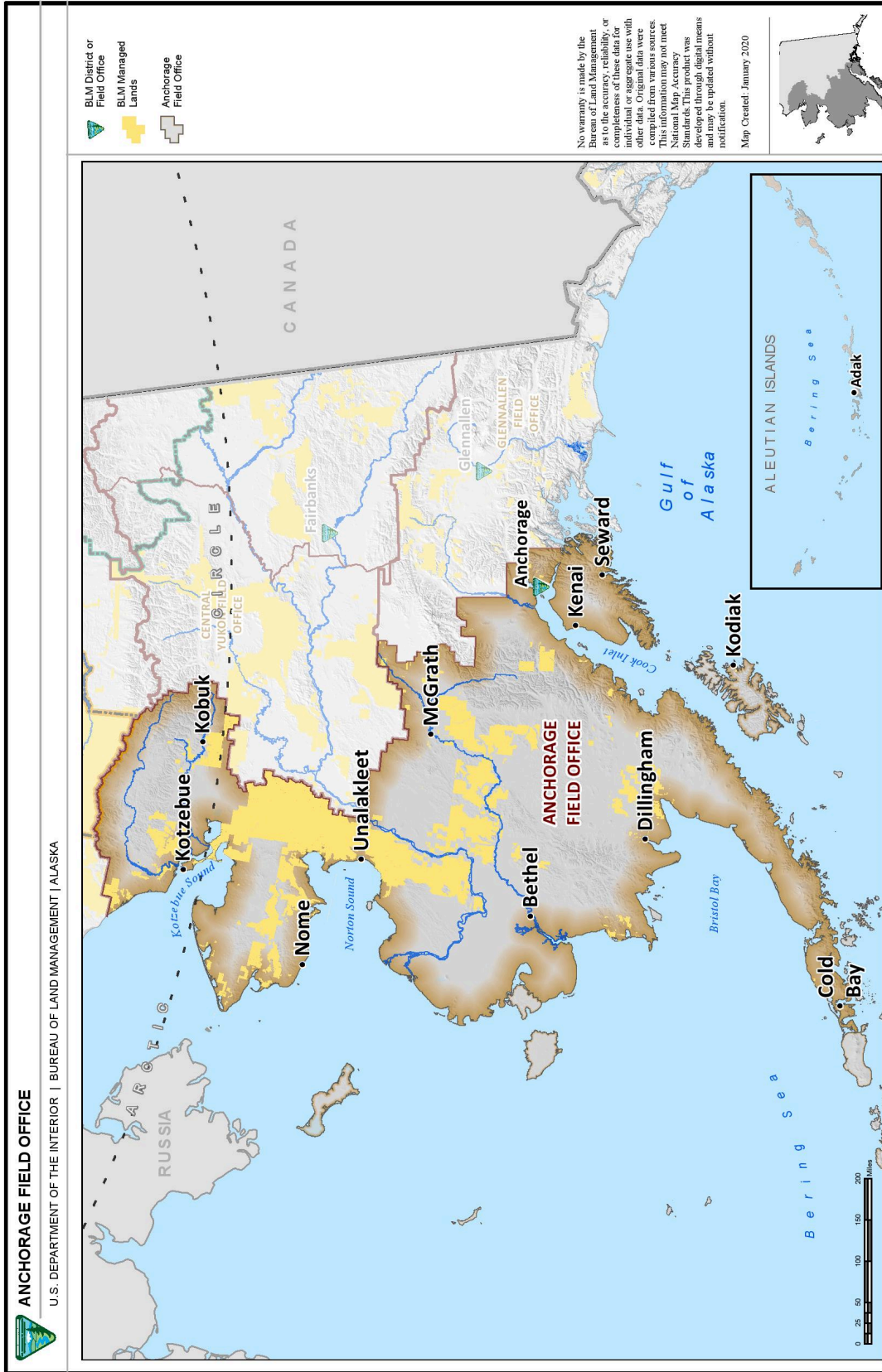
Curriculum Midsummer Night's Science Series- Aquatics staff will lead a discussion with the public during one of the Campbell Creek Science Center's Summer Science Series. The presentation will focus on efforts to characterize the hydrogeomorphic response of Campbell Creek to natural and recreational induced stressors.

Development- Aquatics staff is working with Campbell Creek Science Center staff in developing a stream hydrology curriculum for primary school aged students.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

COVID-19 - BLM Law Enforcement conducted patrols in accordance with village requests to limit travel in and out of the villages due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Caribou Patrol - BLM Law Enforcement assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in patrolling the Mulchatna caribou herd. The agencies request that any information about poaching be reported as soon as possible.



Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) recognizes the value of the Regional Advisory Councils' role in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Board realizes that the Councils must interact with fish and wildlife resource agencies, organizations, and the public as part of their official duties, and that this interaction may include correspondence. Since the beginning of the Federal Subsistence Program, Regional Advisory Councils have prepared correspondence to entities other than the Board. Informally, Councils were asked to provide drafts of correspondence to the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) for review prior to mailing. Recently, the Board was asked to clarify its position regarding Council correspondence. This policy is intended to formalize guidance from the Board to the Regional Advisory Councils in preparing correspondence.

The Board is mindful of its obligation to provide the Regional Advisory Councils with clear operating guidelines and policies, and has approved the correspondence policy set out below. The intent of the Regional Advisory Council correspondence policy is to ensure that Councils are able to correspond appropriately with other entities. In addition, the correspondence policy will assist Councils in directing their concerns to others most effectively and forestall any breach of department policy.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII required the creation of Alaska's Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to serve as advisors to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to provide meaningful local participation in the management of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. Within the framework of Title VIII and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Congress assigned specific powers and duties to the Regional Advisory Councils. These are also reflected in the Councils' charters. (*Reference: ANILCA Title VIII §805, §808, and §810; Implementing regulations for Title VIII, 50 CFR 100 __.11 and 36 CFR 242 __.11; Implementing regulations for FACA, 41 CFR Part 102-3.70 and 3.75*)

The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture created the Federal Subsistence Board and delegated to it the responsibility for managing fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. The Board was also given the duty of establishing rules and procedures for the operation of the Regional Advisory Councils. The Office of Subsistence Management was established within the Federal Subsistence Management Program's lead agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to administer the Program. (*Reference: 36 CFR Part 242 and 50 CFR Part 100 Subparts C and D*)

Policy

1. The subject matter of Council correspondence shall be limited to matters over which the Council has authority under §805(a)(3), §808, §810 of Title VIII, Subpart B §____.11(c) of regulation, and as described in the Council charters.
2. Councils may, and are encouraged to, correspond directly with the Board. The Councils are advisors to the Board.
3. Councils are urged to also make use of the annual report process to bring matters to the Board's attention.

4. As a general rule, Councils discuss and agree upon proposed correspondence during a public meeting. Occasionally, a Council chair may be requested to write a letter when it is not feasible to wait until a public Council meeting. In such cases, the content of the letter shall be limited to the known position of the Council as discussed in previous Council meetings.
5. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8 of this policy, Councils will transmit all correspondence to the Assistant Regional Director (ARD) of OSM for review prior to mailing. This includes, but is not limited to, letters of support, resolutions, letters offering comment or recommendations, and any other correspondence to any government agency or any tribal or private organization or individual.
 - a. Recognizing that such correspondence is the result of an official Council action and may be urgent, the ARD will respond in a timely manner.
 - b. Modifications identified as necessary by the ARD will be discussed with the Council chair. Councils will make the modifications before sending out the correspondence.
6. Councils may submit written comments requested by Federal land management agencies under ANILCA §810 or requested by regional Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) under §808 directly to the requesting agency. Section 808 correspondence includes comments and information solicited by the SRCs and notification of appointment by the Council to an SRC.
7. Councils may submit proposed regulatory changes or written comments regarding proposed regulatory changes affecting subsistence uses within their regions to the Alaska Board of Fisheries or the Alaska Board of Game directly. A copy of any comments or proposals will be forwarded to the ARD when the original is submitted.
8. Administrative correspondence such as letters of appreciation, requests for agency reports at Council meetings, and cover letters for meeting agendas will go through the Council's regional coordinator to the appropriate OSM division chief for review.
9. Councils will submit copies of all correspondence generated by and received by them to OSM to be filed in the administrative record system.
10. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8, Councils or individual Council members acting on behalf of or as representative of the Council may not, through correspondence or any other means of communication, attempt to persuade any elected or appointed political officials, any government agency, or any tribal or private organization or individual to take a particular action on an issue. This does not prohibit Council members from acting in their capacity as private citizens or through other organizations with which they are affiliated.

Approved by the Federal Subsistence Board on June 15, 2004.

Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199
Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898
Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

RAC BB

Mr. Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to submit this annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) under the provisions of Section 805(a)(3)(D) and Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting held in via teleconference, October 28-29, 2020, the Council brought forward the following concerns and recommendations for its FY2020 Annual Report. The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns dealing with implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Bristol Bay Region.

1. Regional Advisory Council Teleconference Public Meetings

The Council held its public meeting via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was unable to meet in person. At the meeting with the Council and public participation, it is important to have a meaningful participation from all those attending the meeting via teleconference. The OSM staff used Microsoft Teams, video conferencing, as a way to introduce agency reports and other issues displayed in front of the Council to follow. During the pandemic, this is a meaningful way to get the Council members engaged, as well as other participants. Video conferencing should be investigated for future teleconference public meeting to accommodate documents to be displayed visually.

During the Regional Advisory Council Public Meetings held via teleconference, a lack of public participation through the teleconference method was noted, and the OSM can conduct additional outreach efforts to notify the public and encourage the public to participate when holding public meetings via teleconference.

2. Chignik Salmon Fishery

The Chignik Salmon fishery run continues to be a stock of concern for the Council. The Council prioritized the research of Sockeye Salmon as a need in the Chignik watershed. Research for this fishery may provide answers to the cause of the runs to decrease and other environmental factors. Funding for this fishery should continue to be a priority.

3. Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (State) in Dillingham, has been without a staff wildlife biologist. The staff biologist has been able to provide biological information to residents of the area regarding the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge has been able to assist with biological information. Without proper staffing, it is hard for residents to get information on State management strategies on the herd. The Council relies on biological information from the State and Federal wildlife biologist on the herd's status. The State and Refuge biologists coordinate together closely cooperative management and research.

Additionally, the Unit 17A winter moose hunt is State managed, a significant portion occurs on Refuge lands. An onsite local State wildlife biologist is important for information on Unit 17A moose management strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity for this Council to assist the Federal Subsistence Program to meet its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal Public lands and waters. We look forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users in the Bristol Bay Region. If you have questions about this report, please contact me via Donald Mike, Regional Council Coordinator, with the Office of Subsistence Management at 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3629.

Sincerely,

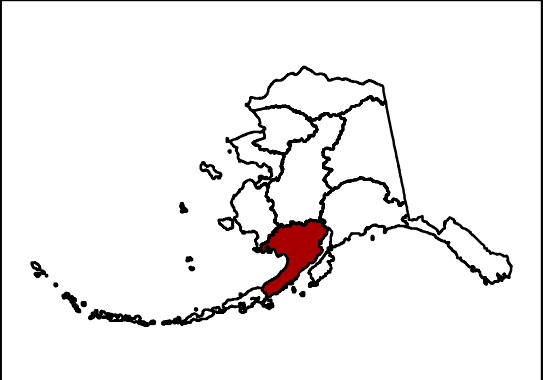
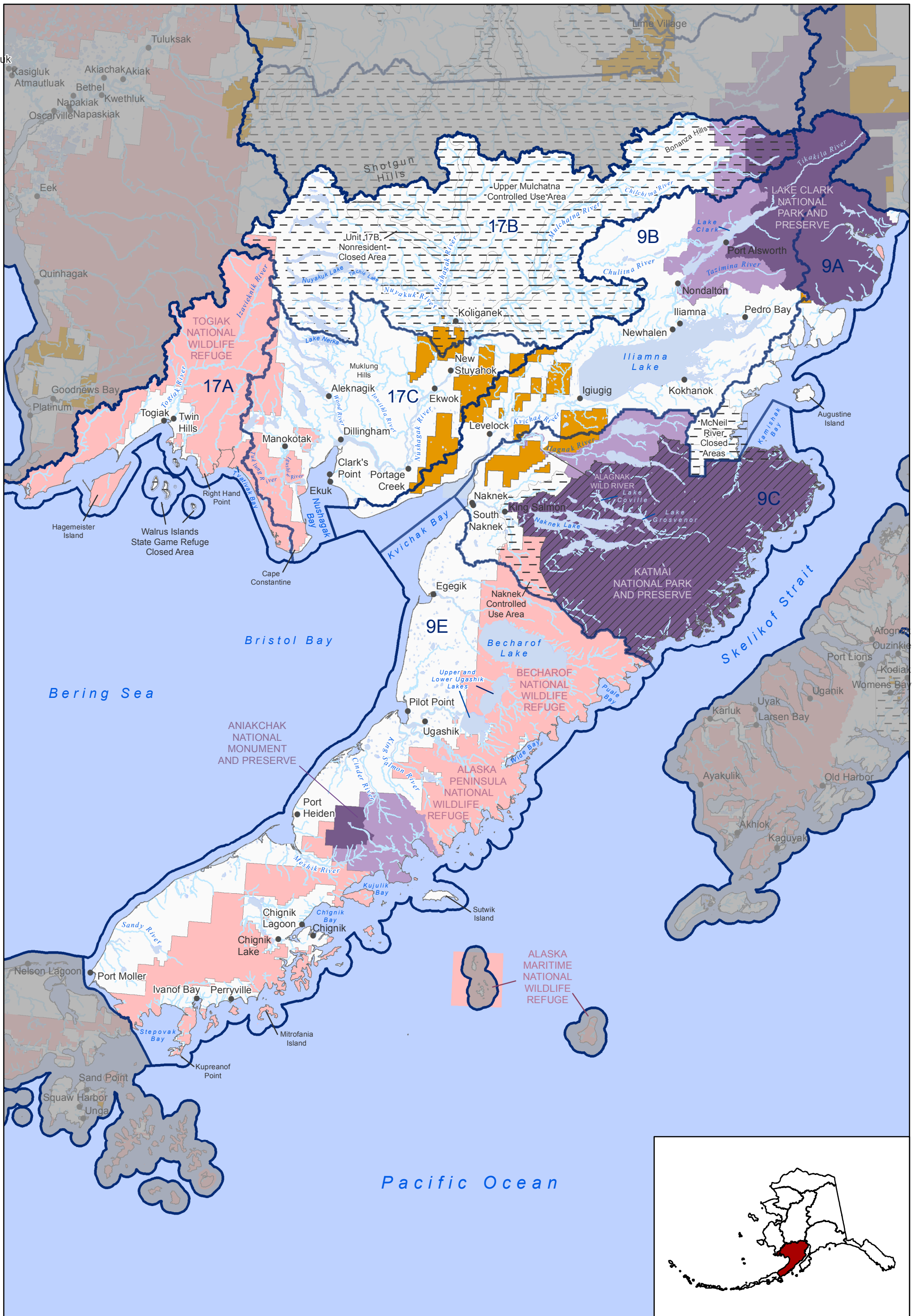
Nanci Morris Lyon
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Susan Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Katya Wessels, Acting Subsistence Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
_____ Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
George Pappas, Acting Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Brent Vickers, Anthropology Division Supervisor
Office of Subsistence Management
_____, Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Subsistence Management
Donald Mike, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management

Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

DRAFT



Region 4

Bristol Bay Region

Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use

- Special Use Areas
- Closed to Subsistence
- NPS Administered Parks
- NPS Administered Preserves
- USFWS Administered Lands
- BLM Administered Lands
- USFS Administered Lands



0 60 120 Miles

Fall 2021 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated 11/4/2020

Due to travel budget limitations placed by Department of the Interior on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Subsistence Management, the dates and locations of these meetings will be subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 15	Aug. 8 Window Opens	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 13
Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20
Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Sep. 1	Sep. 2	Sep. 3	Sep. 4
Sep. 5	Sep. 6 Labor Day Holiday	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9	Sep. 10	Sep. 11
Sep. 12	Sep. 13	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 16	Sep. 17	Sep. 18
Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Sep. 21	Sep. 22	Sep. 23	Sep. 24	Sep. 25
Sep. 26	Sep. 27	Sep. 28	Sep. 29	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2
	KA - Unalaska					
Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9
				EIRAC - Fairbanks		
			YKD			
Oct. 10	Oct. 11 Columbus Day Holiday	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16
			WIRAC - Anchorage			
			SC - Anchorage			
Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23
		SEA - Craig				
		EIRAC - alternate dates				
Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30
		SPRAC - Nome				
			BBRAC - Dilligham			
Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5 Window Closes	Nov. 6
	NWARAC - Kotzebue					

Winter 2022 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated 12/8/2020

Due to travel budget limitations placed by Department of the Interior on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Subsistence Management, the dates and locations of these meetings will be subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb. 6</i>	<i>Feb. 7 Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 8</i>	<i>Feb. 9</i>	<i>Feb. 10</i>	<i>Feb. 11</i>	<i>Feb. 12</i>
<i>Feb. 13</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>	<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i>	<i>Feb. 19</i>
<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>Feb. 21 PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY</i>	<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Feb. 23</i>	<i>Feb. 24</i>	<i>Feb. 25</i>	<i>Feb. 26</i>
<i>Feb. 27</i>	<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Mar. 1</i>	<i>Mar. 2</i>	<i>Mar. 3</i>	<i>Mar. 4</i>	<i>Mar. 5</i>
<i>Mar. 6</i>	<i>Mar. 7</i>	<i>Mar. 8</i>	<i>Mar. 9</i>	<i>Mar. 10</i>	<i>Mar. 11</i>	<i>Mar. 12</i>
<i>Mar. 13</i>	<i>Mar. 14</i>	<i>Mar. 15</i>	<i>Mar. 16</i>	<i>Mar. 17</i>	<i>Mar. 18</i>	<i>Mar. 19</i>
<i>Mar. 20</i>	<i>Mar. 21</i>	<i>Mar. 22</i>	<i>Mar. 23</i>	<i>Mar. 24</i>	<i>Mar. 25 Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 26</i>

**Department of the Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

CHARTER

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).
- 2. Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)), and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the Region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the Region.
- 4. Description of Duties.** Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:
 - a. Recommend the initiation, review, and evaluation of proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decision-making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the Region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region;
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region;

- (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs; and
 - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
- e. Appoint three members to the Lake Clark National Park and three members to the Aniakchak National Monument Subsistence Resource Commissions, in accordance with section 808 of the ANILCA.
- f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
- g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
- h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
- i. Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary's Orders, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
 - (2) Policies and programs that:
 - (a) increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focus on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;
 - (b) expand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service lands in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;
 - (c) increase energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; and
 - (d) create greater collaboration with States, Tribes, and/or Territories.

- j. **Provide recommendations for implementation of the regulatory reform initiatives and policies specified in section 2 of Executive Order 13777: Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs; Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review, as amended; and section 6 of Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:**

Identifying regulations for repeal, replacement, or modification considering, at a minimum, those regulations that:

- (1) eliminate jobs, or inhibit job creation;**
- (2) are outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective;**
- (3) impose costs that exceed benefits;**
- (4) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with regulatory reform initiative and policies;**
- (5) rely, in part or in whole, on data or methods that are not publicly available or insufficiently transparent to meet the standard for reproducibility; or**
- (6) derive from or implement Executive Orders or other Presidential and Secretarial directives that have been subsequently rescinded or substantially modified.**

All current and future Executive Orders, Secretary's Orders, and Secretarial Memos should be included for discussion and recommendations as they are released. At the conclusion of each meeting or shortly thereafter, provide a detailed recommendation meeting report, including meeting minutes, to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

- 5. Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
- 6. Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
- 7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$155,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.0 Federal staff years.
- 8. Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director - Subsistence, Region 11, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time

Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:

- (a) Approve or call all of the Council and subcommittee meetings;
- (b) Prepare and approve all meeting agendas;
- (c) Attend all Council and subcommittee meetings;
- (d) Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest; and
- (e) Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will be inactive 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

Ten members who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are residents of the Region represented by the Council.

To ensure that each Council represents a diversity of interests, the Federal Subsistence Board in their nomination recommendations to the Secretary will strive to ensure that seven of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the Region and three of the members (30 percent) represent commercial and sport interests within the Region. The portion of membership representing commercial and sport interests must include, where possible, at least one representative from the sport community and one representative from the commercial community.

The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members based on the recommendations from the Federal Subsistence Board and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

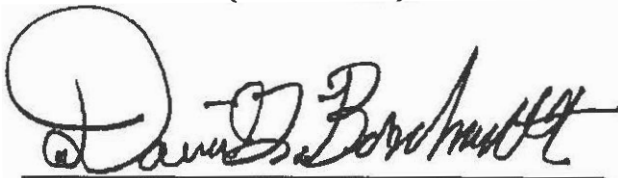
Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Alternate members may be appointed to the Council to fill vacancies if they occur out of cycle. An alternate member must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending the meeting as a representative. The term for an appointed alternate member will be the same as the term of the member whose vacancy is being filled.

Council members will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for a 1-year term.

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under section 5703 of title 5 of the United States Code.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any Council or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFOs approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information and conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records must be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).



Secretary of the Interior

DEC 12 2019

Date Signed

DEC 13 2019

Date Filed

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