



NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

February 18-19, 2021



NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

By Teleconference
February 18-19, 2021
Convening at 9:00 am daily

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: 1-866-864-5314, then when prompted enter the passcode: 3091862

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. Moment of Silence** (Chair)
- 2. Call to Order** (Chair)
- 3. Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (Secretary)
- 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)..... 3
- 8. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 9. Service Awards**
- 10. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)

11. Old Business (Chair)

- Review draft wildlife temporary special action (Hannah Voorhees)
- Update on NPS individual C&T determinations

11. New Business (Chair)

- Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals*
 - Wildlife status updates from ADF&G and Federal staff, if requested by the Council Chair
- Council Charter Review* 21
- Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program Information Update (*OSM*)
- Law Enforcement Update

12. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

- Tribal Governments
- Native Organizations
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
 - Western Arctic National Parklands
 - Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
- Bureau of Land Management
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Office of Subsistence Management

13. Future Meeting Dates*

- Confirm Fall 2021 meeting date and location.....26
- Select Winter 2022 meeting date and location.....27

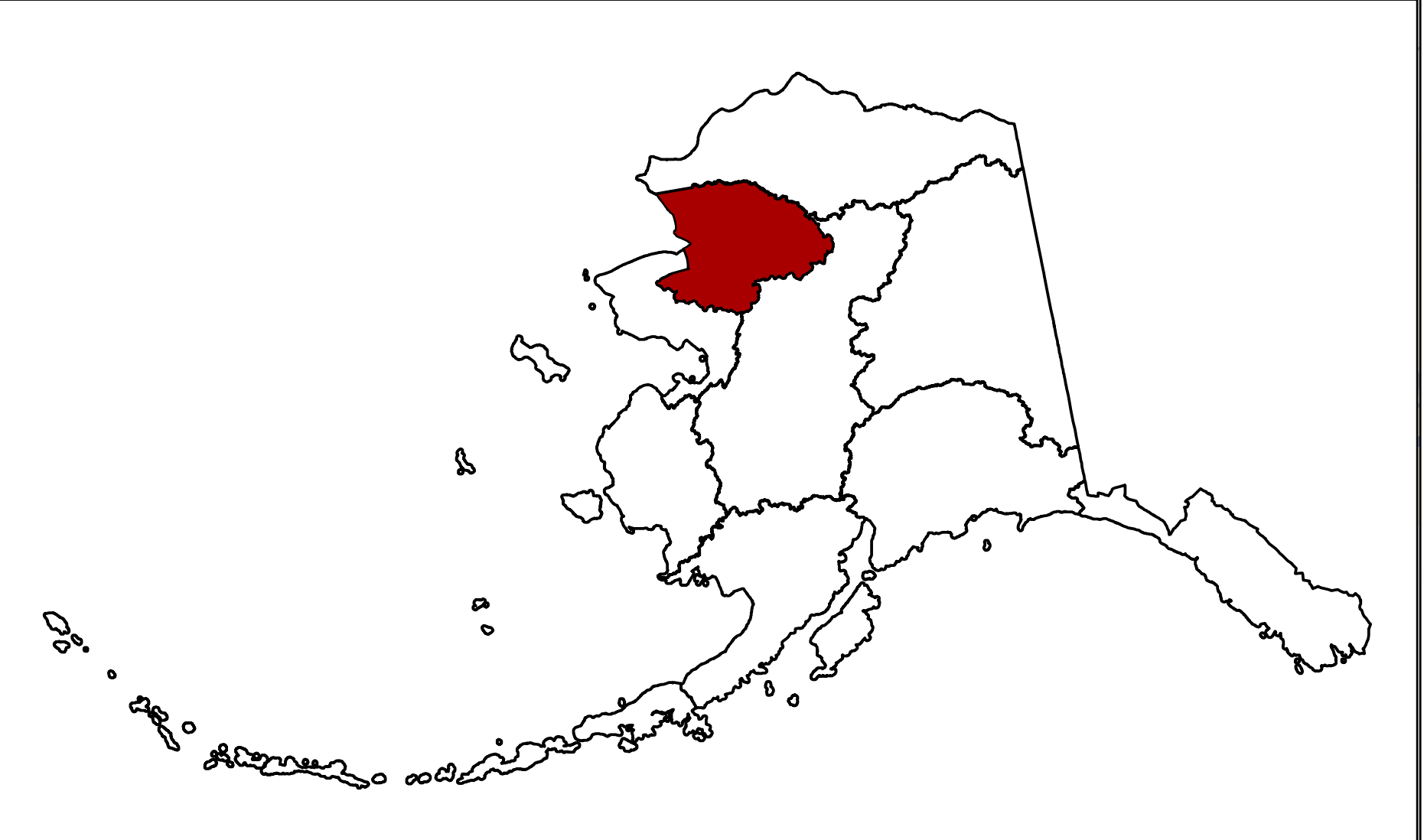
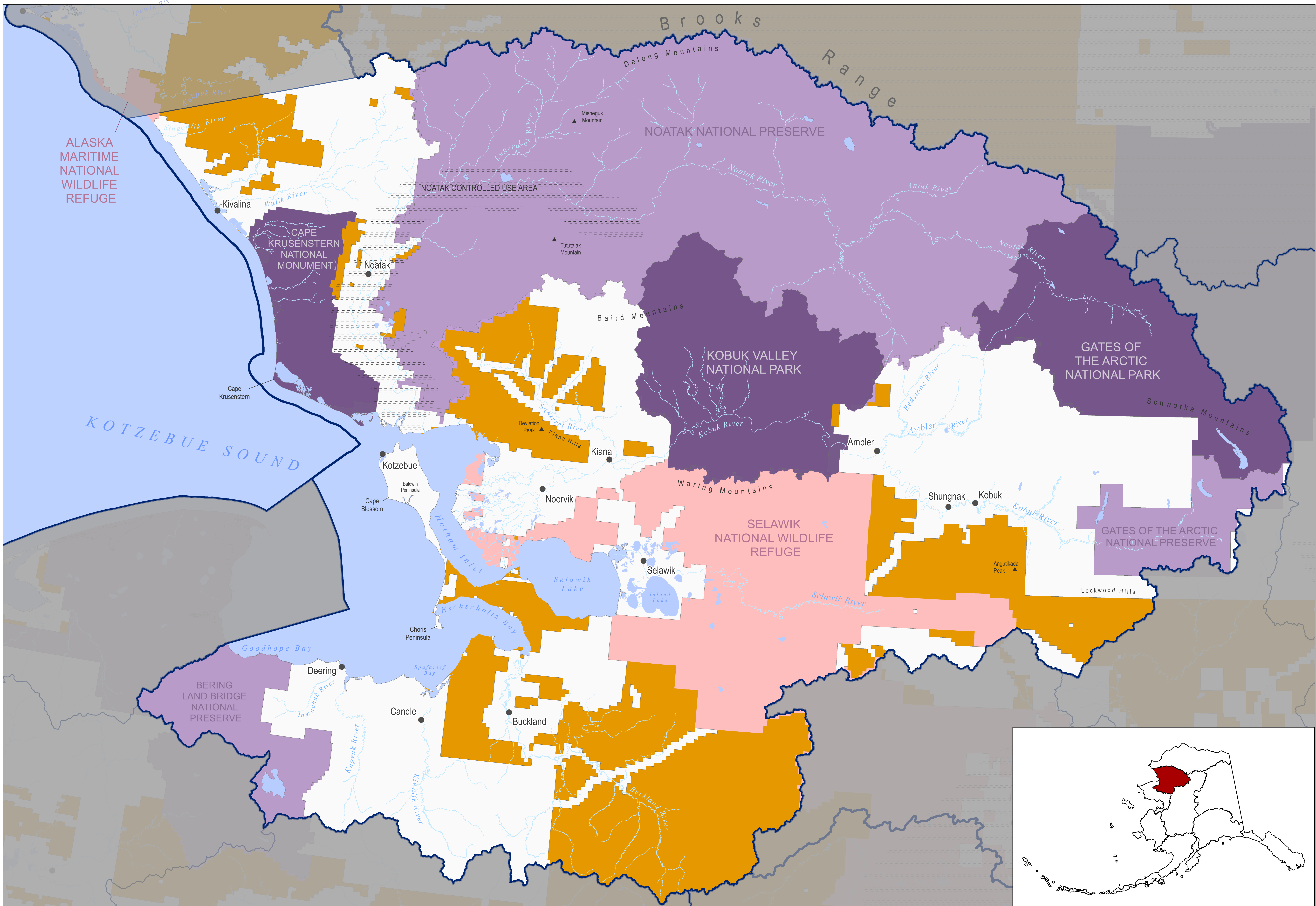
14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (Chair)

To call into the meeting, dial the toll free number: 1-[866-864-5314], then when prompted enter the passcode: [3091862]

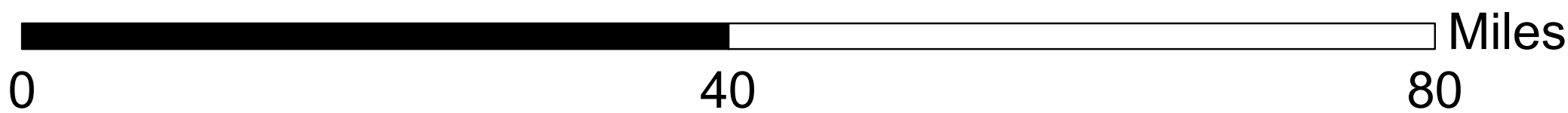
Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for special accommodation needs to Zachary Stevenson, 907-786-3674, zachary_stevenson@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 10, 2020.



Region 8

Northwest Arctic Region



- Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use**
- Unit Boundaries
 - Special Use Areas
 - NPS Administered Parks
 - NPS Administered Preserves
 - BLM Administered Lands
 - USFS Administered Lands
 - USFWS Administered Lands

Created by OSM: 9/29/2017
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NORTHWEST ARCTIC
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes

via teleconference
November 3, 2020

Invocation

Mr. Enoch Shiedt gave an invocation/moment of silence.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment

The meeting was called to order on November 3, 2020 at 9:06 am. Council members Barbara Atoruk, Thomas Baker, Michael Kramer, Replogle Swan, and Enoch Shiedt, Sr. participated via teleconference. Louie Commack and Raymond Lee, Jr. were not present. Mr. Commack was excused for medical reasons. A quorum was established with seated Council members participating by phone.

Attendees:

Via teleconference

- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) – Zach Stevenson, George Pappas, Orville Lind, Lisa Maas, Karen Hyer, Robbin Lavine, and Hannah Vorhees
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) –Susan Georgette, Christina Nelson, Bill Carter, and Krista Wildsworth
- National Park Service (NPS) – Maija Lukin, Raime Fronstin, Martha Fronstin, Marcy Okada, Joseph Dallemolle, Hannah Atkison, Kyle Joly, Justin Young, Letty Hughes, and Dr. Joshua Ream
- NANA Regional Corporation- Damon Schaeffer
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) –Brendan Scanlon, Mark Burch, Alex Hansen, Beth Milow, and Brandon Saito
- Alaska State Troopers- Steve Canteen
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – Pat Petrivelli
- Bureau of Lands Management (BLM) – Tom Sparks, and Walter Gusse
- University of Alaska, Fairbanks- Kim Jochum

Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion by Ms. Atoruk, seconded by Mr. Shiedt, with the following changes;

- Allow a moment of silence rather than an invocation
- Add election of officers to agenda item 10A
- Add report by Marcy Okada under agenda item 12.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Atoruk seconded by Mr. Shiedt, to approve the winter 2020 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Council Member and Chair Reports

Barbara Atoruk of Kiana reported that caribou did not show this year. She noted that many hunters switched to hunting moose. Barb noted that the wildlife special action should not have been for the entire year, and noted that this needs to be temporary closure. She noted that we need to reach out to other RACs to put in a temporary wildlife special action, say for 3-4 months, instead of a whole year. She also asked about permits. Who gave permits to hunt the Squirrel and Noatak Rivers? Many local people were treated badly and called names by outsiders. We need to know who is allowing this to happen.

Thomas Baker of Kotzebue reported a lean fall, with no harvest of caribou or moose, and that it was a poor year to harvest meat. There were a lot of non-local outfitters flying in non-local hunters; this may have kept caribou away. There was not a minimal subsistence harvest from Kotzebue.

Enoch Shiedt, Sr. of Kotzebue reported that the breakup of near-shore ice was different this year. There wasn't solid ice; ice was scary and dangerous. Salmon arrived late, and water in the rivers was warm. There were lots of salmon available last summer, even for commercial fishermen. The salmon were very lean and the poor berry crop affected bears. Bears and lots of wolves were hungry. Mr. Shiedt noted that only one caribou was harvested from his cabin. He noted that he was adversely impacted by outfitters and transporters putting hunters in the path of migrating caribou. Mr. Shiedt said the RAC needs to meet the North Slope and stakeholders in Nome to come up with a plan to deal with this issue. Mr. Shiedt also said helicopters and planes landed, and took off near the Aggie River. Mr. Shiedt noted that he feels that outside hunters chased off the caribou, and local hunters suffer and need meat as a result. He wants to meet with the NPS to reduce the number of outside hunters. He noted that no sheep were taken from his camp and that there were lots of geese this year. There was a need to share this year, but he had nothing.

Mike Kramer of Kotzebue reported that the salmon run was poor and that the fish faced abnormally warm water temperatures. Many fish died on the sides of the rivers. Noatak saw lots of birds with "rice belly". Caribou had a difficult fall season. Lots of Kotzebue hunters were unsuccessful, but Noatak did awesome. Why didn't caribou come to other areas? Mr. Kramer noted that there was lots of transporter activity even with COVID-19. He noted that his wildlife special action was rejected and that there had been lots of disrespect toward people of the region from outside. He said that it seems that money is more important than lives of humans. Why are nonlocal hunters allowed and why aren't State and Federal governments protecting the subsistence priority. He is unhappy and disgusted. COVID-19 levels are rising and there are deaths in the region. The virus will spread. Mr. Kramer explained that he did not hunt moose because of eye surgery and that he had a new son in the spring. He heard lots of issues with wolves stalking

humans, and there were lots of run-ins with bears. There was the first report of a Stellar Sea Eagle in the region. He noted that it had been a difficult year for all. He did not make it to Kobuk.

Election of Officers

Ms. Atoruk nominated Mr. Shiedt as Chair of the Council, and Mr. Kramer as Vice-Chair. Mr. Shiedt seconded these motions. The motions passed unanimously. Ms. Atoruk was asked to serve as Secretary for this meeting.

New Business

Service Awards were presented to Mike Kramer (10 years) and Louie Commack (5 years) Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews

There were no fisheries proposals or closures for consideration.

The Federal Subsistence Board 805(c) Report

The Council does not wish to include any items in an Annual Report.

2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP)

Ms. Karen Hyer of OSM presented the FRMP Priority Information Needs (PINs) working group discussion results. The Council agreed on topics for PINs.

Proposed Review Process for NPS Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations

Ms. Atkinson presented the Council with the proposed changes to the NSP individual C&T determination review process, and requested the Council's opinion on changes. Changes might include expanding the application timeframe window to remain open continuously, rather than every two years, and to provide greater opportunity to Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRCs) and Regional Advisory Councils to apply. Mr. Atoruk made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shiedt to defer this to NPS SRCs. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agency Reports:

- Damon Schaffer of NANA Regional Corporation reported on the formation, purpose and need for the Western Arctic Conservation Law Enforcement Working Group. Mr. described efforts to work across jurisdictions with partners, share resources, and described joint efforts to support shared law enforcement and conservation objectives.
- Majia Lukin of the NPS, Western Arctic Parklands addressed changes in personnel and how the COVID-19 pandemic affected visitor center operations and the status of numerous ongoing wildlife studies. She also responded to questions from Council members about the funds generated by transporters and guide services.
- Raime Fronstin of NPS provided an overview of wildlife studies conducted by region and species. He also answered questions about the distribution, location and movements of wolves.
- Joseph Dollemolle of the NPS addressed law enforcement matters pertaining the Western Arctic Caribou Herd on Federal Public lands in Unit 23.

- Steven Canteen talked about the State of Alaska's wildlife trooper's activities in Kotzebue. He also reported on the obligations facing ADF&G regarding providing hunting opportunities for all Alaskans.
- Susan Goergette from USFWS, Selawik NWR addressed changes in the personnel and how the pandemic affected visitor center operations and the status of wildlife studies. She also responded to questions about the amount of funds generated by transporters and guide operations.
- Tom Sparks of BLM in Nome addressed the status of caribou on the Seward Peninsula and provided a law enforcement update. He also provided an update on the Ambler Road.
- George Pappas presented the OSM update.

Future Meeting Dates:

The winter 2021 meeting to be held February 18-19 in Kotzebue.

The fall 2021 meeting to be held November 1-2 in Kotzebue.

Zach Stevenson, Designated Federal Officer
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Enoch Shiedt, Chair
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Northwest Arctic 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 Zach Stevenson at 1-800-478-1456, or 1-907-412-0821, email Zach_Stevenson@fws.gov.



Bureau of Land Management – Anchorage Field Office

Updates to the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
February 18-19, 2021

WILDLIFE

Moose Count – BLM assisted ADF&G with a fall classification count for moose in GMU 22A in late November. BLM was not able to participate in the field due to COVID-19 restrictions, but instead purchased aviation fuel for the survey.

Moose Population Estimate – ADF&G and BLM will conduct a geospatial population estimate in GMU 22A in February and March. The survey will be conducted from Unalakleet. BLM will provide a plane, pilot, and observer for the survey, depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

Muskox Count – BLM plans to assist ADF&G with muskox classification counts on the Seward peninsula in March and April, by providing a helicopter and field staff from Nome to count muskox groups for the 2021 peninsula-wide muskox count.

WACH – The BLM participated in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group conference call Dec. 9. The working group voted to maintain current management goals until a new population count can be completed in summer 2021. The last count of 244,000 animals was completed in 2019, down from 259,000 in 2018.

FISHERIES

Kigluaik Mountain Char Inventory and Monitoring – Aquatics staff will conduct an aviation-supported inventory of Char in the high lakes of the Kigluaik Mountains outside of Nome. Staff will sample fish DNA, and water samples will be collected and analyzed for environmental DNA to assist in further characterization of genetics and distribution of the genetically isolated communities of Char.

ECOLOGY

Firewood Permits – BLM renewed two firewood harvest permits and issued one new firewood harvest permit for residents on the Seward Peninsula.

Reindeer Grazing – During summer 2021, BLM will maintain and repair seven grazing exclosures located on the Seward Peninsula. The exclosures were installed almost ten years ago to monitor the impacts of permitted grazing operations and wildlife populations (caribou, muskox, moose) on vegetation and lichen.

ASSESSMENT INVENTORY AND MONITORING (AIM) SURVEYS

Stream sampling – BLM Aquatics staff will conduct 20 days of helicopter-supported Aquatic AIM data collection out of Galena and Aniak. These efforts will complete a sample of 50 points throughout the area to establish baseline conditions for stream resources.

Range Monitoring – BLM developed a terrestrial AIM program for the Kobuk Seward Peninsula Planning Area. The planning area has been divided into four zones to optimize travel logistics and ensure a statistically robust sampling design. Data on plant cover, bare ground, invasive species, sensitive species, and soil structure will be collected at 60 sites during July and August 2021. In addition to these national core monitoring indicators, BLM has developed new methods to collect data on lichen cover and disturbance to determine rangeland health in areas where BLM permits reindeer grazing. The data will also inform changes in caribou habitat over time.

PERMAFROST AND CLIMATE MONITORING

Nulato Hills Remote Automatic Weather Stations (RAWS) sites – Aquatic and Ecology programs will continue support of maintenance and data collection at three RAWS stations in the Nulato Hills: Box River Station, Shaktoolik River Station, and Buckland Uplands Station. Realtime data from these three stations are available online <https://wrcc.dri.edu/wraws/akF.html>.

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 Withdrawals. 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

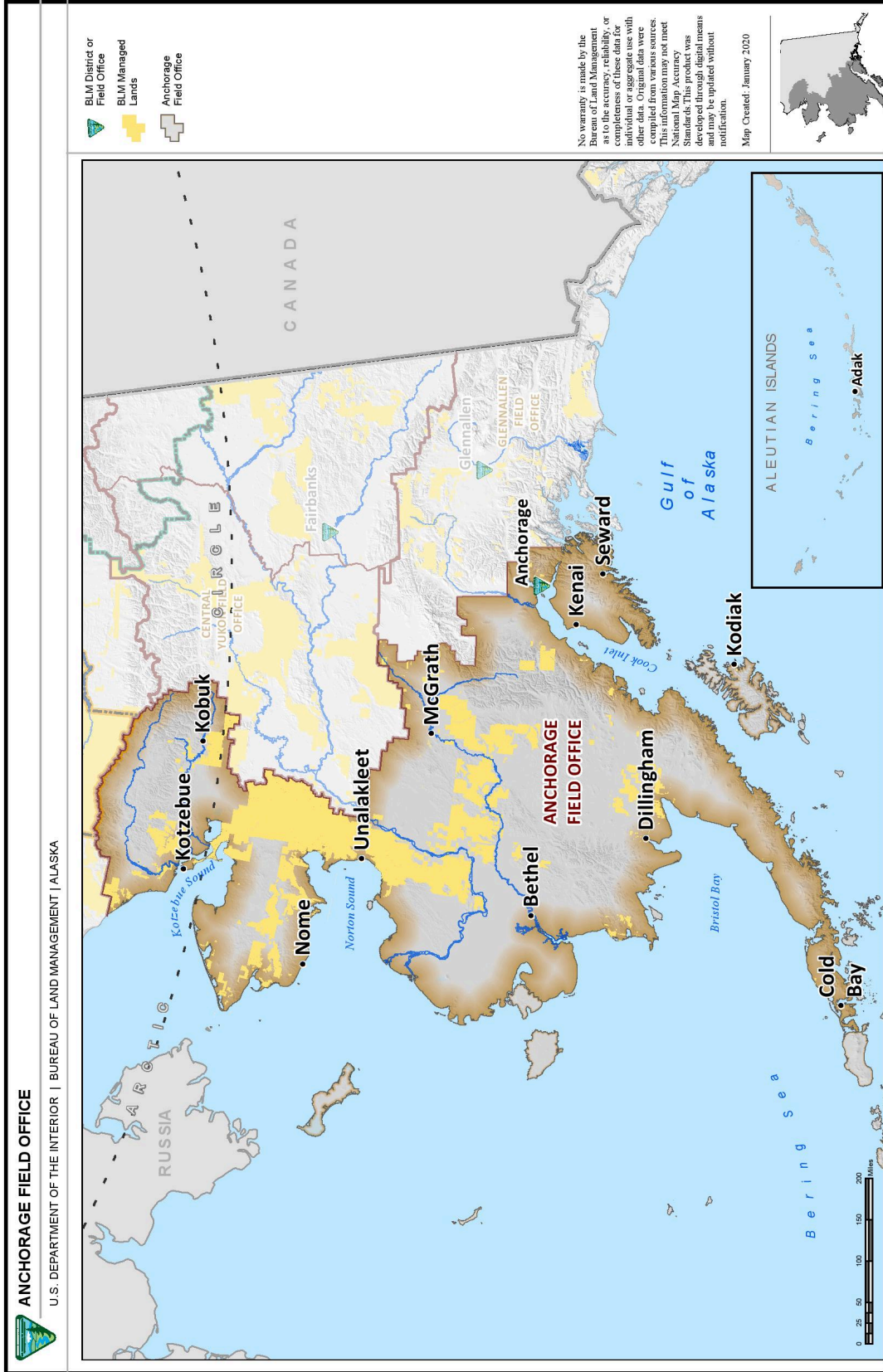
Campbell Creek Monitoring – Aquatics staff will resurvey and analyze 33 cross sections on Campbell Creek to characterize the creek’s response to natural and recreational stressors by comparing them to measurements made by the USGS in 2001.

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 Campbell Creek’s response to natural and recreational induced stressors.

Development – Aquatics staff is working with Campbell Creek Science Center staff to develop a stream hydrology curriculum for primary school 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.





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.

1011 East Tudor Road MS-121 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199 • subsistence@fws.gov • (800) 478-1456 / (907) 786-3888
This document has been cleared for public release #0605132015.

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.

To submit a Special Action request, please provide the following information:

Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
1011 E. Tudor Rd. M/S 121 Anchorage, AK 99503

Describe the action you are requesting. Reference the current regulations you wish to change.

The closure of Federal public lands in Unit 23 and 26A to caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally qualified users for August and September, 2021 (see proposed regulations below).

Have there been unusual or significant changes in resource abundance or unusual conditions affecting harvest opportunities that could not reasonably have been anticipated and that potentially could have significant adverse effects on the health of fish and wildlife populations or subsistence users?

The Council is very concerned about the late migration of caribou through Unit 23 because local people rely upon caribou to meet their subsistence needs. The Council stated that the entire region except for Noatak could not harvest caribou in the fall because caribou had not migrated through their areas. During their meeting in early November 2020, Council members stated that caribou were just starting to trickle through Kiana and Ambler, although none had been seen in Selawik yet. Council members stated winter harvest may be possible, but is uncertain, and many local residents are stressed by empty freezers.

The Council is particularly concerned about the effect transporters and non-local hunters are having on the migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, and believe that transporter activity in Units 23 and 26A may be delaying caribou migration. The Council hopes this request would reduce aircraft traffic, creating an easier path for migrating caribou.

The Council also supports closing moose hunting to non-Federally qualified users because of declining moose populations.

Is the requested action needed to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of fish or wildlife, ensure continued viability of a fish or wildlife population, to continue subsistence uses of fish or wildlife, or for public safety reasons?

Yes, the requested action is needed to continue subsistence uses of caribou and to ensure conservation of the moose population.

What are the extenuating circumstances that necessitate a regulatory change before the next regulatory review?

Caribou migration was delayed in 2019 and 2020, and the Council anticipates a delay in 2021 unless action is taken. When the migration is delayed, local subsistence users cannot harvest caribou in the fall, which greatly stresses local residents. Federally qualified subsistence users rely upon caribou to meet their subsistence needs.

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 23–Caribou

Unit 23—that portion which includes all drainages north and west of, and including, the Singoalik River drainage—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

<i>Bulls may be harvested</i>	<i>July 1–June 30</i>
<i>Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 15–Oct. 14.</i>	<i>July 15–Apr. 30</i>

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1–Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 23, remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

<i>Bulls may be harvested</i>	<i>July 1–June 30</i>
<i>Cows may be harvested. However, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 31–Oct. 14.</i>	<i>July 31–Mar. 31</i>

Federal public lands within a 10-mile-wide corridor (5 miles either side) along the Noatak River from the western boundary of Noatak National Preserve upstream to the confluence with the Cutler River; within the northern and southern boundaries of the Eli and Agashashok River drainages, respectively; and within the Squirrel River drainage are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 23—Moose

Unit 23—that portion north and west of and including the Singoalik River drainage, and all lands draining into the Kukpuk and Ipewik Rivers—1 antlered bull. No person may take a calf. July 1-Dec. 31.

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 23, remainder—1 antlered bull. No person may take a calf. Aug. 1-Dec. 31.

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A—Caribou

Unit 26A—that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from the Anaktuvuk River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Utukok River drainage—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Calves may not be taken

Bulls may be harvested July 1-Oct. 14.
Dec. 6-June 30.

Cows may be harvested; however, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 16-Mar. 15.
July 16-Oct. 15

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A remainder—5 caribou per day by State registration permit as follows:

Calves may not be taken

Bulls may be harvested

*July 1-Oct. 15.
Dec. 6-June 30.*

Up to 3 cows per day may be harvested; however, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 16-Oct. 15.

July 16-Mar. 15.

Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A–Moose

Unit 26A—that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage—1 bull

Aug. 1-Sep. 14

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A—that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage—1 moose; however, you may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

Feb. 15-Apr. 15.

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A—that portion west of 156°00' W longitude excluding the Colville River drainage—1 moose, however, you may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

July 1-Sep. 14.

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Unit 26A, remainder—1 bull

Aug. 1-Sep. 14.

Federal public lands are closed to moose hunting from Aug. 1-Sep. 30, 2021 except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

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.

6/15/04

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

Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Northwest Arctic 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 of, review, and evaluate 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.
 - cl. 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.
 - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
- e. Appoint three members to each of the Cape Krusenstern National Monument and the Kobuk Valley National Park Subsistence Resource Commissions and one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with section 808 of 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 \$150,000, 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 full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:
 - (a) Approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings;
 - (b) Prepare and approve all meeting agendas;
 - (c) Attend all committee 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 DFO's 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 or other subgroups 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

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>

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