



SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA  
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Materials

*February 24-25, 2021*



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**SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Via Teleconference and Videoconference

February 24 - 25, 2021

9:00 a.m. daily

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

**VIDEO:** Call **1-800-478-1456** or **1-907-351-0081** for the link to **Microsoft Teams videoconference** (VIDEO ONLY: for audio, call conference line above)

**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. 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. Nonrural Determination Process Update (Robbin LaVine)..... 15

b. Update on NPS individual C&T determinations (NPS) ..... 16

c. Denali Subsistence Resource Commission Appointment..... 38

d. State Board of Fisheries Proposals

    BOF Proposal #6: Require inseason reporting of subsistence, sport fish, and personal use harvest and effort (similar to FP21-11) ..... 40

    BOF Proposal #7: Prohibit guiding in subsistence finfish fisheries ..... 41

    BOF Proposal #8: Prohibit dipnetting near tributary mouths of the Upper Copper River District ..... 41

    BOF Proposal #9 & #10: Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict - Upper Copper River District..... 42

    BOF Proposal #14: Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets (monofilament/multifilament material before Aug 15) ..... 43

    BOF Proposal #15: Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets (monofilament/multifilament/web material) on the Copper River..... 43

    BOF Proposal #16: Prohibit the use of depth/fish finders on boats in Upper Copper River District from June 1 to September 30 ..... 43

Other BOF Proposals

**11. New Business (Chair)**

a. Southcentral Federal Subsistence Fisheries & Wildlife Harvest Update ..... 47

b. Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals\* ..... 50

c. Council Charter Review\* ..... 57

d. Review and approve FY2020 Annual Report\* ..... 57

**12. Agency Reports**

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

- a. Ninilchik Traditional Council
- b. Native Village of Eyak

Native Organizations

- a. Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission

US Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA - Forest Service ..... 61

National Park Service

a. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve  
Bureau of Land Management..... 63  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Office of Subsistence Management

**13. Future Meeting Dates\***

Confirm Fall 2021 meeting date and location (Oct. 13-14, 2021, TBD) ..... 65  
Select Winter 2022 meeting date and location ..... 66

**14. Closing Comments**

**15. Adjourn (Chair)**

**Please note that the audio portion of this meeting will be by teleconference only. 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066**

**Speakers and presentations can be seen through Microsoft Teams videoconference platform. Call 1-800-478-1456 or 1-907-351-0081 for the website link. No download is required.**

*Reasonable Accommodations*

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to DeAnna Perry, 907-209-7817, deanna.perry@usda.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 8, 2021.

**REGION 2**  
**Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**  
*as of date of publishing meeting book*

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Year Appointed Term Expires</b>	<b>Member Name and Community</b>
<b>1</b>	2016 2022	<b>Edward H. Holston</b> Cooper Landing
<b>2</b>	2019	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>3</b>	2003 2022	<b>Richard G. Encelewski</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Chair</b></span> Ninilchik
<b>4</b>	2016 2022	<b>Diane A. Selanoff</b> Valdez
<b>5</b>	2019	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>6</b>	2020	<b>VACANT</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Vice Chair</b></span>
<b>7</b>	2020	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>8</b>	2020	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>9</b>	2020	<b>VACANT</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Secretary</b></span>
<b>10</b>	2021	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>11</b>	2018 2021	<b>Aaron J. Bloomquist</b> Copper Center/Palmer
<b>12</b>	2018 2021	<b>John C. Whissel</b> Cordova
<b>13</b>	2021	<b>VACANT</b>

## **SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Via tele-video conference

October 7 – 8, 2020

#### **Invocation**

Gloria Stickwan gave an invocation.

#### **Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment**

The meeting was called to order Wednesday, October 7, 2020, at approximately 9:00 a.m. Council members Ed Holsten, Richard (Greg) Encelewski, Diane Selanoff, Gloria Stickwan, Dennis Zadra, Michael Opheim, Andrew McLaughlin, Aaron Bloomquist, and John Whissel were present. The Council has four vacant seats. A quorum was established with nine of nine seated Council members participating by phone/video.

#### **Attendees:**

##### ***By Teleconference or Videoconference***

- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Anchorage: ***Jarred Stone, Tom Kron, Robbin LaVine, Lisa Maas, Karen Hyer, Hannah Vorhees***
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Juneau: ***David Schmid, Wayne Owen, DeAnna Perry, Jessica Warmbrodt***; Anchorage: ***Deyna Kuntzsch, Bret Christensen***; Cordova: ***Milo Burcham, Daniel Donnelly***; Seward: ***Jordan Rymer***
- Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC): ***Karen Linnell, Odin Miller***
- Native Village of Eyak (NVE): ***Matte Piche***
- Ninilchik Traditional Council: ***Darrell Williams***
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Anchorage: ***Pat Petrivelli***
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Anchorage: ***Carol Damberg***
- Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): ***Ken Gates, Todd Eskelin***
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Anchorage: ***Paul (Chris) McKee***; Glennallen: ***Valerie Lenhartzen, Brian Ubelaker***
- National Park Service (NPS), Anchorage: ***Joshua Ream***
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (NPP), NPS: ***Judy Putera, Barbara Cellarius, David Sarafin***
- Denali National Park, NPS, Anchorage: ***Amy Craver***
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Anchorage: ***Mark Burch, Jackie Keating, Jason Dye, Jeremy Boats***

- Members of the Public: **Judy Caminer, Christine Brummer, Tom Carpenter, Willow Hetrick, Rachel Fischer, Jeff Estes, Jesse Carter, Mike Butler, Chelsea Kovalcsik, Heath Kocan, Sara Miller, Faye Ewan, and Mercedes Knighten.**

### **Review and Adopt Agenda**

Motion by Mr. Whissel, seconded by Mr. Opheim, to adopt the agenda as read with no changes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Whissel, seconded by Mr. Opheim, to approve the winter 2020 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Council Member and Chair Reports**

Edward Holsten of Cooper Landing reported that there was a good first run of sockeye at the Russian River falls, but that the run was a week or two late. Some Pink Salmon were observed in the upper river. Hard impacts have been felt by the community for the last two years: The current COVID-19 pandemic caused Princess Lodge, a major employer in the area, to shut down which left many locals without a job, and overall there were less bookings for guiding businesses and bed and breakfast lodging. Last year, the community was shut down because of the wildfire. Cooper Landing bypass (a 5 year project) is now under construction.

Diane Selanoff of Valdez reported that the salmon season was a bit slow this year and that numbers did not show normal abundance. People subsistence fished and gathered more because of COVID-19 travel restrictions and the decrease in salmon numbers was noticeable.

Gloria Stickwan of Tazlina reported that her community observed low fish runs, and so there were few Sockeyes or Chinook harvested. The water levels were high in the area for most of the summer and this could have contributed to the low fish run. The summer was not as hot as last year. A hard year [for subsisting] is expected because few people harvested a moose.

Dennis Zadra of Cordova reported that there was also a weak salmon run in his area on the Copper River and that the runs in Prince William Sound were also relatively weak. The Sockeyes coming back to Main Bay Hatchery were small and returned in fewer numbers. Esther Hatchery saw Chum Salmon but struggled to get their cost recovery and brood stocks. Commercial fleet had only five 12-hour fishing periods the entire early season. The minimum escapement goal at Mile Lake may not have been reached, and if so, the cause needs to be addressed. It was a fantastic berry season. There was an increase in black bears in the area. The local subsistence moose hunt went well.

Michael Opheim of Seldovia reported that there have been bear issues all summer in the community. Salmon returns were not good and it was a bad berry year. One bear was euthanized because of getting



into garbage. One moose and six bears have been harvested in the area. Their fish weir was blown out before the expected big run. Early, very few tourists came to the area due to COVID-19, and a normal return of people to the community was not observed until August. He is involved with a clam project locally and is working with the Alutiiq Tribe shellfish hatchery and hopes that the clams planted in the area will continue to grow and replenish the bay. There seems to be an increase in the snowshoe hare population but less spruce hens this year.

Andrew McLaughlin of Chenega Bay reported that the Coho Salmon showed up late. In local streams, Pink Salmon (including some hatchery strays) were washed out of streams. It was an incredible year for blueberries and salmonberries; however, it was observed that the berries weren't as plentiful below 500 feet elevation, suggesting that it may have been a pollinator issue. A decreased number of Sockeye were observed going through nets due to their small size. There is no clamming in the area due to paralytic shellfish poisoning in other communities that are fed by the same waters as those in Chenega Bay, and people may try to clam in the safer winter months, depending on water temperature. The village closed its borders due to COVID-19, so there was very little seine boat activity. Bear populations increased as have deer populations, but are still lower than average. Snow has not yet pushed goats to lower elevations where they can be accessible and hunted.

Aaron Bloomquist of Palmer/Copper Center reported quite a few bears in his area, and so his guide business did a relatively normal amount of business despite COVID-19. There were fewer snowshoe hares, but large numbers of furbearers evident during the spring. Sockeyes were harder to get with fish wheels than from dipnetting. There was a low run of King Salmon in Gulkana, but not exceptionally low, compared with some previous years and other drainages in the valley had good King Salmon fishing. The weather was not good for the moose season. The sheep had a bad winter throughout the Interior and seemed to be worse in the north. Not many caribou have been observed on the Richardson Highway. Grouse numbers seem to be down. There is disappointment from local families unable to hunt due to the new wildlife special actions in place.

John Whissel of Cordova reported that deer populations are good and continue to increase according to deer survey data. It was a good year for berries, and they are still able to harvest blueberries right now. Although recent storms resulted in house and property damage, it is beneficial to churn up layers of water and reduce sea surface temperatures. The salmon run this year was terrible. Escapement was met, but timing was different than normal. It is hoped that this means that good stock is coming back to the Gulkana hatchery. Sportfishing pressure has been reduced due to COVID-19. Moose population continues to thrive despite increased harvest pressure. There was successful shrimp, halibut, and rockfish harvests.

Greg Encelewski of Ninilchik reported that the Ninilchik clinic performed a lot of testing for COVID-19 on residents as well as people from Soldotna and Homer. The community has grown with the addition of a general store, a mobile clinic, health club, and emergency services that have, or will be added soon. Traffic has increased on the Kenai Peninsula despite a lot of local events being cancelled. Moose hunting wasn't as prolific this year but many people (including himself) were still able to get a moose. The local

clam beach is still closed and people going across the inlet to get clams have observed decreased numbers in that area too. Commercial fishermen had a terrible year. There were few Sockeyes observed, but the river was flooded with Pink Salmon in early August. The Ninilchik Tribal Council's subsistence net on the Kenai was successful this year, and all Federal permits for the community were filled. Conversely, the educational net on the Kasilof did not produce. There is an abundance of spruce hens in the area. This was not a good berry year which may have contributed to bear issues in the community.

## **Old Business**

805(c) Report: This report, which outlines the actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) on issues for the Southcentral Region, was printed in the meeting books. Council took no further action.

## **New Business**

The Council received a Federal Subsistence Fisheries Update for the Southcentral Region as well as a report on the food security special action request (FSA20-04) for a dip net fishery on the lower Copper River which was rejected by the Board earlier this year.

### ***Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews***

#### **Regional:**

FP21-09: Revise Kenai River regulations to remove terms

Motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Holsten, to support FP21-09.

The Council supported this proposal based on the information provided by OSM because it was 'administrative action' and it did not shorten nor lengthen any season and did not change Harvest. This proposal would simply clarify regulations for the user.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FP21-10: Create new dip net fishery for Sockeye Salmon in the lower Copper River

Motion by Mr. Whissel, seconded by Mr. Opheim, to support FP21-10 as modified by OSM (to include the 48 hour take reporting requirement to area managers).

The Council majority supports this proposal based on the information provided by OSM, showing that there would be a minimal impact on the salmon run. The Council acknowledged that some users stated their subsistence needs were not being met for both upper river and lower river, and there is a need to provide additional harvest opportunities. ANILCA's provision for rural subsistence priority supports creating this fishery (as Federal food resource should take precedence over any State use) and it is important for those underserved Federally-qualified subsistence users who do not own boats. The Council recognized that this was an issue that polarizes the community; however, they felt that the request and modification was reasonable, and that allowing this fishery would provide easier and safer access to

harvest this important resource. Subsistence users should be provided the opportunity to obtain their fish and any restrictions to address a conservation concern should first come from other user groups.

Three Council members voted in opposition to this proposal due to: conservation concerns and concerns about escapement goals not being met. There are alternative fish sources available through subsistence State fisheries and commercial 'home packs.' The Gulkana brood stock has met only half of their brood stock going up the Gulkana River to spawn, so there will be another conservation shortage of fish in the future. An .804 determination may have to be made if users cannot get their share. There is a concern that this precedent will open the door to personal use downriver which will be capitalized by charter boat operators. There are concerns about enforcement.

The motion as amended (to include OSM modification) passed with 6 votes in favor to 3 against.

Crossover:

FP21-11: Require recording daily harvest and report to the agency

Motion by Mr. Holsten, seconded by Mr. Opheim, to support FP21-11.

The Council majority supported this regulation that would provide timely in-season, in-river data to aid in fisheries management, and although the Council does not support more requirements for the Federally qualified subsistence user, they do not feel this requirement was overly burdensome (as many other hunts/fisheries have similar reporting requirements in place to benefit management of the resource.) The Council voiced their hope that the State would follow suit and require the same reporting under State regulations to gather this important information as the Federal harvest is only 8 – 10% of the harvest on the Copper River.

Two Council members voted in opposition to this proposal for these reasons: There is a concern that this will create an extra burden and opportunities for citations, in vain - that the information gathered will not be used. Reporting should be optional as it would be a burden for Ahtna people to report.

The motion passed with 7 votes in favor to 2 against.

FP21-12: Limiting use of monofilament or multifilament mesh dip nets

Motion by Mr. Holsten, seconded by Mr. Bloomquist, to support FP21-12.

The Council majority does not want to recommend a regulation that would be convoluted and create an additional requirement on Federally qualified subsistence users only. The Council stated that the damage and mortality of fish was due more to the mesh size and the amount of time the fish is out of the water than the material of the net. Though there should be a move to the conservation of the species, this proposal would not result in the desired outcome. If fish are not available for harvest, then other users should be eliminated and the harvest preference needs to go to the subsistence fishermen. The Council also voiced concern that this regulation would be challenging for law officers to enforce but that this is the easiest and most efficient way to catch a fish if dipnetting.

Three Council members supported the proposal for these reasons: The Council heard testimony that fish are being damaged and the proponent has seen a lot of damage in his many years of being a guide; damaged fish may be too weak to reach spawning grounds and something needs to be done to get more fish to the spawning grounds; putting undue burdens on Federal subsistence users are necessary in order to conserve those King Salmon. These members voiced their hope that the State would go first (in changing this type of regulations).

The motion failed with 3 votes in favor to 6 against.

FP21-13: Prohibit fishing with dip nets from boats or craft floating in the river; only allow dip net use from banks, upper Copper River

Motion by Ms. Stickwan, seconded by Mr. Whissel, to support FP21-13.

The Council majority agreed with the rationale provided by OSM in its analysis and felt that this proposal would be an unnecessary restriction on Federally qualified subsistence users. This would limit how those users could harvest their fish and 'drifting' could make harvesting more efficient and less time-consuming. Further, this proposal would affect only a small number of Federal subsistence users as this is not a method used by many fishermen. The restrictions would be contrary to the intent of ANILCA. It is concerning that the many people who are observed boat dipnetting are State subsistence users with a commercial operator. This burden would be too much on the small group of Federal subsistence users.

One Council member supported this proposal because fishing from a boat is gaining in popularity and more fish may be targeted and overharvested – there could be an unknown over abundance of harvest taking place. There is an enforcement concern. Fishing from a boat is creating more of an impact on the fisheries and there is a conservation concern that is important to all people upriver.

The motion failed with 1 vote in favor to 8 against.

FP21-14: Prohibit use of onboard device that indicates bathymetry and/or fish locations

Motion by Mr. Whissel, seconded by Ms. Stickwan, to support FP21-14.

The Council majority felt this restriction on the Federally qualified subsistence user could prohibit the user's ability to quickly and successfully harvest fish. The Council felt that if a conservation concern is determined for this area, then, per ANILCA, any necessary restrictions should be placed on other user groups before restrictions are placed on the Federally qualified subsistence user. The Council also addressed the importance for all users on the river to learn to navigate the waters by 'reading' the river and not relying on bathymetry devices.

Three Council minority supported this proposal for these reasons: Most fish finders are not helpful once boats start moving, and only expensive sonars, owned by a limited number of people, can really show fish. These devices are useless for navigating the river. It is unknown how many fish people are catching or whether the harvest reporting is accurate. Brood stock had not reached Gulkana Hatchery and everything should be done to help spawning fish reach the upper Copper River. There is a conservation

concern expected next year, and everything possible should be done to protect the fishery. The challenges of enforcement of this regulation were also discussed.

The motion failed with 3 voted in favor to 6 against.

FCR21-06: Closure on Toklat River, Tanana drainage, to subsistence fishing for all fish

Motion by Mr. Whissel, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, to rescind/remove the closure (FCR21-06).

The Council discussed the significance of the resource and the importance to open this area back up for harvest. This closure was carried over from State regulations when Federal regulations were established.

Data shows there has been sustainable escapement for some time now and people should be able to use the resource. There are no conservation concerns, and the closure should be rescinded/removed to provide more subsistence harvest opportunity.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

### ***State Board of Fisheries – Board of Game Proposal Review***

The Council discussed the need to provide comment on those proposals going before the state that are similar to the Federal Proposals FP21-11 to FP21-14 to the Alaska Board of Fish (BOF).

Motion by Mr. Whissel, seconded by Mr. Holsten, to send a letter in support of BOF Proposals 6, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16 was withdrawn. Second motion by Mr. Whissel, seconded by Mr. Holsten, to send individual comments in support of BOF #6 was withdrawn. Due to the delay in publication of the BOF proposal book and because the BOF meeting was postponed until next March, the Council decided to revisit this agenda item at its winter meeting in February, 2021.

There was no discussion on Board of Game proposals.

### ***2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program***

Mr. Jarred Stone and Ms. Robbin LaVine with OSM presented the Council with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) Priority Information Needs (PINs) working group discussion results. From the working group, Mr. Whissel informed the Council that the draft PINs document being considered was a result of the group reviewing priorities in different geographic areas and trying to be as inclusive as possible. Also, Ms. Stickwan shared that the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission supported two PINs. The Council offered suggested edits to the working group list and the Council unanimously approved the final list of PINs, as moved by Mr. Whissel and seconded by Ms. Selanoff.

### ***RP19-01 Moose Pass Nonrural Determination Proposal Analysis***

Ms. Robbin LaVine with OSM presented the Council with the analysis for the nonrural determination proposal, and the OSM preliminary conclusion to support the proposal with modification to define the community of Moose Pass as encompassing the Moose Pass, Crown Point and Primrose census designated places.

Motion by Mr. Whissel, seconded by Ms. Selanoff, to support RP19-01, as originally written by the proponent (requesting that Moose Pass be designated as a rural community, independent of the greater Seward area, which is designated ‘nonrural;’ and does not include any other communities).

The Council supported the proposal based on testimony heard at its meetings as well as the public hearing held in Moose Pass in the fall of 2019. The Council toured Moose Pass in October, 2019, and acknowledged it as a rural community. They recognized that the Moose Pass residents live the subsistence lifestyle – utilizing and sharing the resources. The Council discussed the rural characteristics of Moose Pass during this and the fall 2019 meeting (including rural culture, economic indicators, uses of fish and wildlife resources for sustenance, art and firewood; the sparse population of the area, and lack of community services such as schools, airfield, police). The Council felt the discussion on this proposal was adequately stated in the final analysis as well as in transcripts of past meetings since the proposal was submitted.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

### ***Identifying Issues for FY2020 Annual Report***

The Council identified the following topics for inclusion into the FY-19 Annual Report:

- Council Vacancies – seats not filled during last appointment cycle
- Climate Change
  - unpredictable effects on subsistence resources (migratory patterns, travel conditions)
  - ocean acidification: poor performance of Southcentral region Sockeye
- Postponement of action by the Board on the NPS Individual C&T delegation of authority process
- State prioritizing de facto subsistence priority
- Federal regulations should not be more restrictive than State regulations for resources, per ANILCA

Motion by Ms. Stickwan, seconded by Mr. Whissel, to draft the annual report with the items offered by the Council. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

### ***Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC)***

Wrangell-St. Elias SRC: Ms. Barbara Cellarius, NPS – WSTE SRC, presented the Council with information about the SRC and the eligibility criteria for someone to serve on the commission.

Motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Ms. Selanoff, to reappoint Southcentral Regional Advisory Council Member, Gloria Stickwan, to be the Council’s representative on the WSTE SRC.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Denali SRC: Amy Craver, NPS – Denali SRC, presented the Council with information about the SRC and advised that there was no one who met the eligibility criteria to serve on the commission at this time.

The Council took no action, but hopes to appoint someone in the near future, if an Advisory Committee member who is seated at its next meeting is eligible to serve on the Denali SRC.

***Proposed Review Processes for NPS Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations***

Ms. Amy Craver 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.

Motion by Ms. Stickwan, seconded by Mr. Whissel, to postpone a recommendation to the Board on this matter.

The Council believed there were too many unanswered questions to adequately deliberate and provide a recommendation on this issue. The Council was concerned about establishing a precedent through this process and did not want to rush a decision. The Council was informed that the WSTE SRC has requested additional information and the Council asked that this information be shared with the Council at its next meeting before the Council makes a recommendation.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion by Ms. Stickwan, seconded by Mr. Whissel, to send a letter to the Board requesting that it postpone action on this matter until the issue could be vetted by the WSTE SRC.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

**Agency Reports:**

- Darrel Williams presented the Ninilchik Traditional Council Subsistence Fishery report
- Karen Linnell, Executive Director, presented the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission report
- Matt Piche, Biologist and Natural Resources Coordinator, presented the Native Village of Eyak report on Copper River Chinook Salmon Monitoring Program (a Partners Program project)
- Willow Hetrick, Executive Director, presented the Chugach Regional Resources Commission – InterTribal Consortium report
- Lisa Maas, Acting Policy Coordinator, presented the OSM program updates and special action request results
- Todd Eskelin, Wildlife Biologist, presented by USFWS – Kenai National Wildlife Refuge report
- Jordan Rymer, Officer, presented the USFS – Law Enforcement report
- Milo Burcham, Chugach NF Subsistence Program Leader, presented the USFS – Chugach National Forest updates
- Judy Putera, Wildlife Biologist; Dave Sarafin, Fisheries Biologist; and Barbara Cellarius, WSTE Subsistence Coordinator, presented NPS updates on fisheries, wildlife, subsistence, anthropology
- Valerie Lenhartzen, Assistant Manager, Glennallen Field Office, presented the BLM report

- Jackie Keating, Lead Researcher for Division of Subsistence for Southcentral Region, presented the ADF&G report

**Future Meeting Dates:**

Winter 2021 meeting to be held February 24-25, 2021 in Cordova

Fall 2021 meeting to be held October 13-14 in a location to be determined

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DeAnna Perry, Designated Federal Officer  
USDA Forest Service

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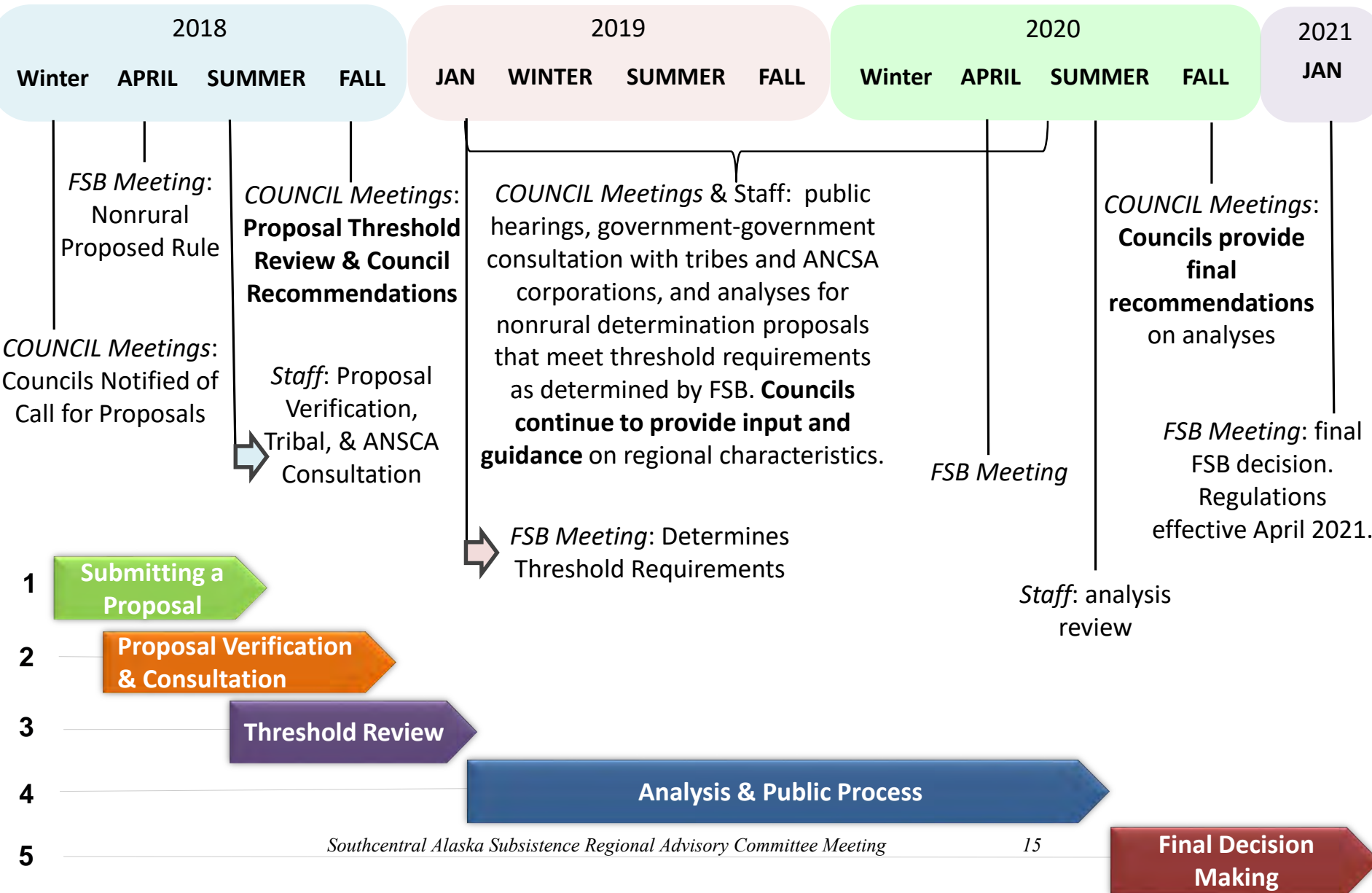
Richard (Greg) Encelewski, Chair  
Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Southcentral 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 DeAnna Perry at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-209-7817, email [deanna.perry@usda.gov](mailto:deanna.perry@usda.gov).



# 2021 Nonrural Determination Cycle



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

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

Regional Director, Alaska Region  
National Park Service  
240 W. 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## Standard Operating Procedures for Issuance of Subsistence Eligibility Permits and Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 application<sup>2</sup> (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

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<sup>2</sup> 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 ONLY<sup>3</sup>
- 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):

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> 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?

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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?

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

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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?

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

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

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

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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.

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9. Please describe your pattern of subsistence use more generally – which resources do 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?

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

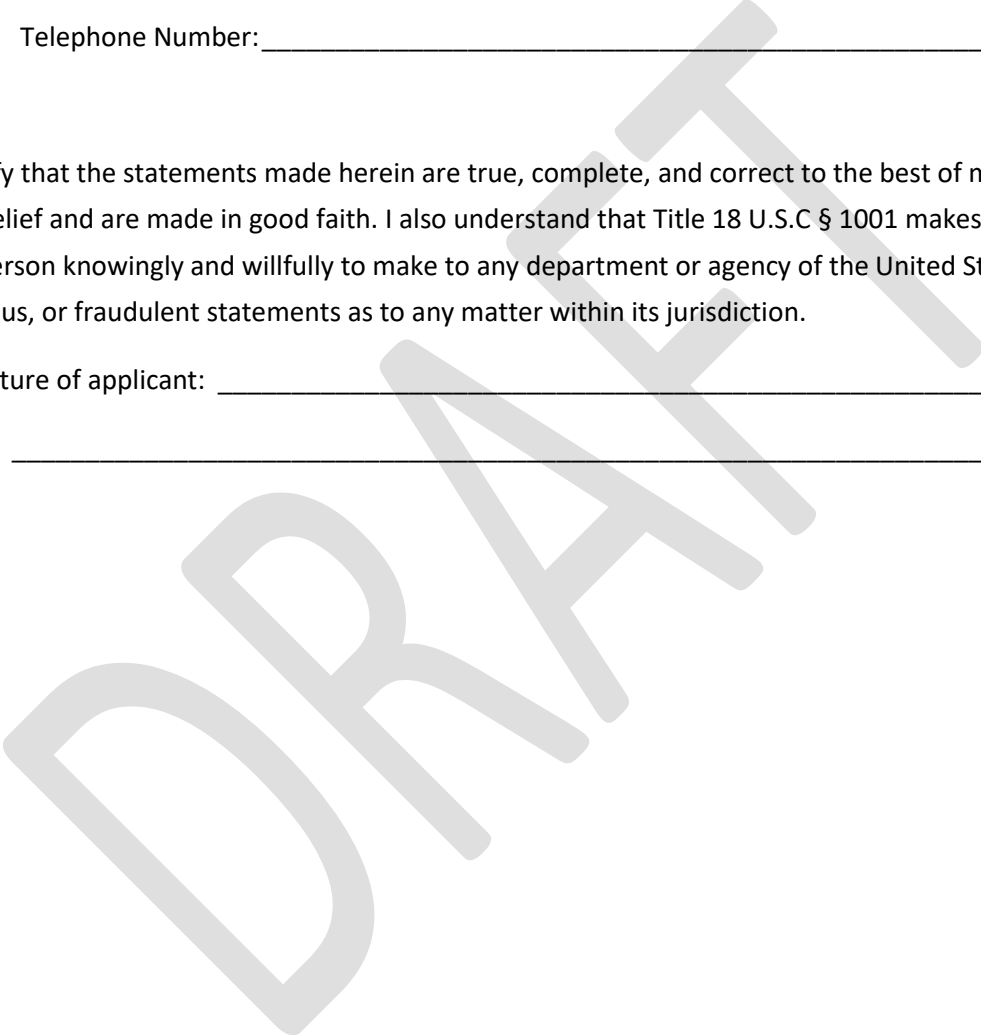
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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 use<sup>4</sup> 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)?

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<sup>4</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission - August 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointing Source</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
VACANT			
Victor W. Lord Nenana, AK 99760	Secretary of the Interior	Subsistence User,	11/01/19
James Roberts Tanana, AK 99777	Secretary of the Interior	Subsistence User	11/01/19
VACANT	Southcentral Regional Advisory Council	Subsistence User	
Charlie Wright Alternate – Tim McMannus	Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council	Subsistence User	11/04/2021
Justin Mason	Southcentral Regional Advisory Council	Subsistence User	
Miki Collins Lake Minchumina, AK 99757	Governor of Alaska	Subsistence User	11/04/21
Pamela Green Lake Minchumina, AK 99757	Governor of Alaska	Subsistence User	11/04/21
Michael Alexia Nikoali, AK 99691	Governor of Alaska	Subsistence User	11/04/21

The Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) charter allows the Secretary of the Interior, the Governor of Alaska, and appropriate Federal subsistence regional advisory councils (RAC) to each appoint three members. Congress statutorily created the nine member advisory committee under provisions within Section 808 of Public Law 96-487, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). SRC members serve three-year terms at the pleasure of their appointing source. The charter allows members to continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until the appointing source (i.e. Secretary of Interior, Governor of Alaska or appropriate regional advisory councils) reappoints incumbents or appoint new members. The expiration of a term does not automatically cause a vacancy. RAC appointees have special appointment requirements. The charter requires all RAC appointees to be: 1) a member of either a Federal regional advisory council or State local advisory committee within the region; and 2) qualified to engage in subsistence uses within the park.

For more information contact: Designated Federal Official, Don Striker, Superintendent, (907) 683-9581, or via email at [don\\_striker@nps.gov](mailto:don_striker@nps.gov) and Amy Craver, Subsistence Coordinator, at (907) 644-3604 or via email at [amy\\_craver@nps.gov](mailto:amy_craver@nps.gov)





# ADF&G • Boards Support Section

www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us

## ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES 2020/2021 Cycle Tentative Meeting Schedule

Prince William Sound Finfish and Shellfish (except shrimp); Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish; Statewide All Shellfish (including Prince William Sound shrimp, excluding all other Prince William Sound shellfish, Southeast, and Yakutat)

**REVISED PROPOSAL DEADLINE:** Friday, April 24, 2020

Meeting Dates	Topics	Location	Comment Deadline
<b>October 15–16, 2020</b> [2 days]	<b>Work Session</b> ACRs, cycle organization, Stocks of Concern	<b>Via</b> <b>videoconference</b>	September 30, 2020
<b>March 4, 2021</b> [1 day]	<b>Hatchery Committee</b>	<b>Anchorage</b> Egan Civic Center	February 18, 2021
<b>March 5-10, 2021</b> [6 days]	<b>Statewide All Shellfish</b> (Except Prince William Sound, Southeast and Yakutat) <b>and</b> <b>Prince William Sound Shrimp</b> <b>only</b>	<b>Anchorage</b> Egan Civic Center	February 18, 2021
<b>March 30-April 5, 2021</b> [6 days]	<b>Prince William Sound/Upper Copper and Upper Susitna Rivers Finfish and Shellfish</b> (Except shrimp)	<b>Cordova</b> The Cordova Center	March 16, 2021
<b>April 17-29, 2021</b> [13 days]	<b>Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish</b>	<b>Ketchikan</b> Ted Ferry Civic Center	April 2, 2021

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 13, 2020 [60 days prior to fall worksession]  
Rev. October 20, 2020

**Copper River Salmon Management/Policy**

**PROPOSAL 5**

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Establish an optimal escapement goal for Copper River king salmon, as follows:

Adopt an optimum escapement goal for Copper River King Salmon:

Sustainable Escapement Goal, current	24,000 lower bound
Sustainable Escapement Goal, ADF&G revision	21,000-31,000
<b><u>Optimum Escapement Goal, proposed</u></b>	<b><u>24,000-40,000</u></b>

The proposed OEG can be expected to provide high levels of both yield and recruitment. ADFG Memorandum of March 16, 2020 reported that the optimum yield profiles suggest yields diminish as you approach 40,000 spawners, which justifies an upper boundary for an escapement goal.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A precautionary escapement goal is necessary for Copper River King Salmon because the aggregate goal is unlikely to provide adequate protection for the dozens of populations that occur in this very large and diverse basin. The aggregated goal may not provide adequate protections to maximize yield or recruitment of different populations with different run timings and varying levels of productivity. This problem is reflected in a very high degree of variability in the historical stock-recruitment data for the aggregate stock where escapements between 21,000 and 31,000 can produce run sizes of anywhere from 30,000 and 110,000.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F20-044)  
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**Upper Copper River Personal Use and Subsistence**

**PROPOSAL 6**

**5 AAC 01.630. Subsistence fishing permits; 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan; and 5 AAC 52.XXX. New section.**

Require inseason reporting of subsistence, sport fish, and personal use harvest and effort, as follows:

Daily harvest reporting is already required on the Copper River for all fisheries except sport. In-season reporting would be relatively simple and could be done using an online app.

Participants in this fishery are required to report their recorded daily harvests to the department within three (3) days of when those harvests occur. Participants must report harvest attempts for any days during which their fishing gear was in the water, even if these harvest attempts are unsuccessful.

Harvest reports can be made using an online app or a call-in number.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Copper River fisheries managers currently rely on an abundance-based management model that does not collect in-season

harvest data and has very little empirical data about actual escapement onto the spawning grounds. This model assumes that escapement can be accurately estimated using on abundance at the Miles Lake sonar and harvests from previous years.

However, recent events suggest that the in-river harvest exceeds what can be biologically sustained and is not detected by our current harvest reporting system. The Gulkana hatchery has not been able to obtain its brood stock since 2015, while the 2018 sockeye run failure caught managers by surprise.

Obtaining accurate in-season harvest information would help to protect against the possibility of over harvest due to variable harvest levels and under reporting post-season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Karen Linnell (EF-F20-117, EF-F20-119, EF-F20-120)

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**PROPOSAL 7**

**5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Prohibit guiding in subsistence finfish fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 01.620

e) The permit holder must personally operate the fish wheel or dipnet. A subsistence fish wheel or dipnet permit may not be loaned or transferred except as permitted under 5 AAC 01.011.

**NEW. (1). No guide or transport service shall charge a fee of a permit holder participating in fishery and no permit holder may give a fee to participate in the fishery.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lack of clarity for commercial enterprises starting to capitalize on subsistence fisheries. There are regulations for no fees to be involved with community permits for subsistence game hunts reference 5 AAC 92.072. It seems counter intuitive then to allow commercial guide entry into a subsistence fishery who then in turn charge people to navigate the boat for them, show them how and where to fish, help them fish, land, and process the catch all for a widely advertised fee structure.

**PROPOSED BY:** Shawn Gilman (EF-F20-070)

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**PROPOSAL 8**

**5 AAC 01.647. Copper River Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Prohibit dipnetting near tributary mouths of the Upper Copper River District, as follows:

No dip netting in the confluence 500 yards below and 100 yards above any river or stream in the upper Copper River.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Dip netting in the upper Copper River. If we do nothing we will continue to see our wild stock and Gulkana Brood stock decline.

In some drainages that are very small we could lose that entire wild stock. Wild stocks are stopping and resting in these areas before continuing up river. The wild stocks are time sensitive and travel in small groups leaving them very vulnerable to over harvest in these areas. Remember these stocks are in some cases very small. There have been very little studies in these areas and there is virtually no data to support keeping these areas open until there is some kind of analysis. We already have an example of this that exists in the Gulkana confluence and 500 yards below that is fly fishing only. This only lets a sport fisher to take 3 reds and 1 king. The way the current dip net regulation reads, you can fish in the same area and the limit is 200 and in some cases more. This goes against the idea of trying to protect wild up river stocks and brood stock at the Gulkana hatchery. They have not met their goals at the hatchery in the past 5 years and in some cases very low. This is only one example of how we can start to bring back our brood stocks, both wild and Gulkana hatchery. Something needs to be done soon about this problem. I have done my best to write this proposal in laymen's terms. I could quote several sections from ANILCA that directly relate to this issue. Also there is very little scientific data on this issue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kirk Wilson

(EF-F20-008)

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### **PROPOSAL 9**

#### **5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:

Eliminate Dip netting from boats as a method to take from the Glennallen sub district (up-stream from the bridge at Chitina).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A lot of dip netters take fish at the mouths of tributaries off the Copper River. Currently there are markers only on the mouth of the Gulkana River. There are already fish wheels north of the Bridge at Chitina. You can dip net below the bridge at Chitina as well, so there is opportunity to get fish dip netting. By not allowing dip netting above the bridge more fish will make it to spawning areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Copper Basin Fish & Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F20-031)

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### **PROPOSAL 10**

#### **5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Upper Copper River District, as follows:

Dipnet fishers in the must harvest from shore, from islands in the river, or from stationary objects connected to shore. Dipnet fishing from boats or craft floating in the river is not permitted.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Many Copper Basin residents with intensive local knowledge of salmon ecology have raised concerns about the health of Copper River salmon stocks. The Gulkana Hatchery has not had enough brood-stock to meet its egg-take goals since 2014. Although overall escapement levels have been reasonable in the Copper

Fish wheels are stationary, so their operators cannot simply go elsewhere to avoid encroachment or conflict. Moreover, there are only a limited number of fish wheel sites on many sections of the river.

**PROPOSED BY:** Faye Ewan (HQ-F20-039)

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**PROPOSAL 14**

**5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets, as follows:

Dip nets rigged with monofilament and multifilament mesh may not be used before August 15. Before this date only dip nets rigged with branded, inelastic mesh are permitted.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Recent Copper River abundance and escapement estimates have raised concern about the drainage-wide health of Chinook salmon populations. For this reason, fishers have been permitted to keep only 5 Chinook salmon per year. However, the use of dip nets with monofilament or multifilament mesh (i.e. Gillnet material) has raised concern about survival rates of Chinooks that are caught and released. Compared with braided inelastic mesh nets (I.e. seine-style), salmon tend to become far more entangled in monofilament-type nets. It can take as long as ten minutes to untangle and release a salmon from such a net. Salmon experience stress and increased mortality rates in proportion to the length of time they are out of the water. Additionally, these entanglements frequently cause injuries, such as split tail-fins, witch further increase their mortality.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kirk Wilson (EF-F20-011)

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**PROPOSAL 15**

**5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets, as follows:

Eliminate Monofilament/Multifilament/web gill net material on dip nets on the Copper River.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When you catch fish in multifilament dip nets it is really hard to get fish out. When you do finally get fish out of the net if you have a King and have to release they will probably die when you release. The advantage of monofilament/multifilament nets is that the nets glide in the water easier than other material

**PROPOSED BY:** Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-032)

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**PROPOSAL 16**

**5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Prohibit the use of depth or fish finders on boats in the Upper Copper River District, as follows:

No electronic devices that indicate bathymetry and/or fish locations are permitted on boats while they are participating in this fishery in the upper Copper River drainage from June 1 to September 30.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The use of electronic devices that indicate bathymetry and/or fish locations (i.e. fish finders) is contributing to unsustainable harvest practices on the upper Copper River. These devices enable fishers to locate and target specific holding areas in the river. Wild stocks are very vulnerable in these areas. These stocks are very time-sensitive and probably travel in small groups and use these areas to hold before continuing upriver. If we do not address this issue, we will continue to see our wild stocks and Gulkana brood-stocks not meet their objectives. The Gulkana Hatchery has not met their brood-stock goals for the past five years, and this is surely also the case for some wild stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kirk Wilson (EF-F20-014), Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-033), Karen Linnell (EF-F20-121)

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**PROPOSAL 17**

5 AAC 01.645. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits; annual limits.

Establish specific permit and bag limits when dipnetting from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:

If using a standard subsistence permit, dipnet fishers in the Glennallen subdistrict must harvest from shore, from islands in the river, or from stationary objects connected to shore. Upon request, subsistence fishers may obtain a supplemental permit to dipnet harvest salmon from boats, with the following limits applying to boat-caught salmon:

- (A) no more than a total of 30 salmon for a permit issued to a household with one person, of which no more than five may be king salmon;
- (B) no more than a total of 60 salmon for a permit issued to a household with two or more persons, of which no more than five may be king salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Many Copper Basin residents with intensive local knowledge of salmon ecology have raised concerns about the health of Copper River salmon stocks. The Gulkana Hatchery has not had enough brood-stock to meet its egg-take goals since 2014. Although overall escapement levels have been reasonable in the Copper drainage, very little tributary-by-tributary data are collected. Smaller stocks can easily be damaged by overharvest.

Dipnetting from boats in the subsistence fishery raises some particular concerns. Wild salmon stocks tend to hole up in deep areas and rest on their way up the river, especially during high water. Fishermen who fish from boats are able to target salmon that are concentrated in these areas. The increased popularity of dipnetting from boats since 2010, combined with the high numbers of fish that each subsistence dipnetter can harvest, could be contributing to the depletion of some smaller stocks.

## Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission

P.O. Box 439  
Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy.  
Copper Center, AK 99573

October 27, 2020

Märit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
c/o ADF&G Boards Support Section  
ATTN: Board of Game Comments  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: Comments on 2020-2021 Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals for Prince William Sound Finfish and Shellfish

Dear Ms. Carlson-Van Dort:

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) met by teleconference on October 5 and 6, 2020. The commission is a federal advisory committee that represents subsistence users of federal lands within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. At this meeting, the SRC reviewed the Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals being considered during 2020-2021 meeting cycle and would like to provide the following comments.

### **PROPOSAL 6: Require in-season reporting of subsistence, sport fish, and personal use harvest and effort**

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission supported Proposal 6 with a vote of 6 support, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention. Requiring in-season reporting of subsistence, sport fish and personal use harvest and effort will provide information for better in-season management, especially in low run years. Managers will have information to inform potential restrictions or closures of the personal use or subsistence fisheries.

### **PROPOSAL 13: Prohibit dip netting from a boat within 75 feet of an operating fish wheel in the Glennallen Subdistrict**

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission supported Proposal 13 with a vote of 5 in support and 2 opposed. The commission heard public testimony about an increasing number of boats on the river, and some boats are fishing directly in front of fish wheels. When they come close to the fish wheels, boats can create a wake that disturbs the fish wheels, resulting in dangerous conditions for the fish wheel operator. Prohibiting dip netting from a boat within 75 feet of an operating fish wheel would help to alleviate the problem.

Chair: Daniel Stevens; Members: Mike Christenson, Sam Demmert, Sue Entsminger, Don Horrell, Suzanne McCarthy, Kaleb Rowland, and Gloria Stickwan

**PROPOSAL 14: Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets**

**PROPOSAL 15: Prohibit the use of gillnet mesh in dip nets**

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission opposed both Proposal 14 and Proposal 15 with a vote of 1 in support and 7 opposed. In the experience of SRC members who have commercial fished, net material doesn't make a difference in whether fish become entangled in a net. When one SRC member commercial fished one summer, for example, salmon were often gilled on an inelastic braided net. Net size or mesh size, in their experience, were bigger factors than the material. Another concern is a lack of availability of dip nets made from alternate materials. The person who supported the proposal cited testimony on both sides, with some saying the monofilament nets cause damage, and expressed concern about avoiding any potential negative impacts to the fisheries.

**PROPOSAL 16: Prohibit the use of depth or fish finders on boats in the Upper Copper River District**

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission supported Proposal 16 with a vote of 6 in favor and 2 opposed. When the Chitina personal use fishery is open, many people fishing in the Chitina area of the Glennallen Subdistrict don't get any fish. And the use of fish finders makes this worse.

**PROPOSAL 18: Extend the lower boundary of the Chitina Subdistrict downstream ½ mile**

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission unanimously opposed Proposal 18. There is plenty of room for people to fish, including the area upstream of Woods Canyon, but many boats are gathering where the river enters the canyon, trying to take advantage of the funneling of the canyon. Additionally, the proposed boundary extension could exacerbate the problem with upstream fishers not getting any fish in their wheels when the personal use fishery is open.

**PROPOSAL 19: Reduce the maximum harvest level in the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishery when the Copper River commercial fishery harvest is 50% below the 10-year average on June 1**

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission opposed Proposal 19 with a vote of 2 in support and 5 opposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Stevens  
Chair

cc: NPS Alaska Regional Director  
Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Chair: Daniel Stevens; Members: Mike Christenson, Sam Demmert, Sue Entsminger, Don Horrell, Suzanne McCarthy, Kaleb Rowland, and Gloria Stickwan





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

*How to Submit a Proposal*



Forest Service

## Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer

**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](http://www.regulations.gov):**

1. Connect to [www.regulations.gov](http://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.”

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**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](mailto: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](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm) or by visiting [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](http://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

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

**Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

**Charter**

- 1.e Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).e
- 2.e 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).e
- 3.e 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.e
- 4.e Description of Duties.** Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:
  - a.e** 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.e
  - b.e** 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.e
  - c.e** 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.e
  - d.e** Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
    - (1)e** An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region.e
    - (2)e** An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region.e

- (3)eA recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populationse within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.e
  - (4)eRecommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulationse to implement the strategy.e
- e.e Appoint one member to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistencee Resource Commission and two members to the Denali National Park Subsistencee Resource Commission in accordance with section 808 of the Alaska Nationale Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).e
- f.e Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use ofe subsistence resources.e
- g.e Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.e
- h.e Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal locale advisory committees.e
- i.e Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary’s Order 3347:e Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary’s Order 3356:e Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories.e Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:e
  - (1)eAssessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary’s Orders, ande recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;e
  - (2)ePolicies and programs that:e
    - (a)eincrease outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focuse on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities thate traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;e
    - (b)eexpand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management,e U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service lands in ae manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;e
    - (c)eincrease energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projectse while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; ande
    - (d)ecreate greater collaboration with States, Tribes, and/or Territories.e

- j.e 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.e **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.e **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.e **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$170,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.15 Federal staff years.
- 8.e **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 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.e 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.e Duration.** Continuing.

**11.e 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.e Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

Thirteen 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 nine of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the Region and four 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.

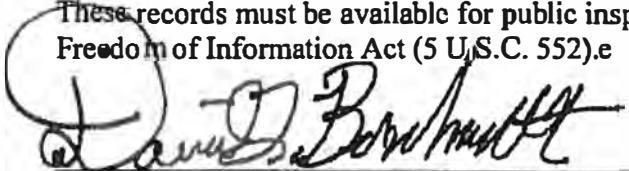
Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

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.e 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.e 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.e Recordkeeping.** Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, must be handled in accordance with the 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



## ANNUAL REPORTS

### **Background**

ANILCA established the Annual Reports as the way to bring regional subsistence uses and needs to the Secretaries' attention. The Secretaries delegated this responsibility to the Board. Section 805(c) deference includes matters brought forward in the Annual Report.

The Annual Report provides the Councils an opportunity to address the directors of each of the four Department of Interior agencies and the Department of Agriculture Forest Service in their capacity as members of the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board is required to discuss and reply to each issue in every Annual Report and to take action when within the Board's authority. In many cases, if the issue is outside of the Board's authority, the Board will provide information to the Council on how to contact personnel at the correct agency. As agency directors, the Board members have authority to implement most of the actions which would effect the changes recommended by the Councils, even those not covered in Section 805(c). The Councils are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

### **Report Content**

Both Title VIII Section 805 and 50 CFR §100.11 (Subpart B of the regulations) describe what may be contained in an Annual Report from the councils to the Board. This description includes issues that are not generally addressed by the normal regulatory process:

- an identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region;
- an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations from the public lands within the region;
- a recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs related to the public lands; and
- recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.

Please avoid filler or fluff language that does not specifically raise an issue of concern or information to the Board.

### **Report Clarity**

In order for the Board to adequately respond to each Council's annual report, it is important for the annual report itself to state issues clearly.

- If addressing an existing Board policy, Councils should please state whether there is something unclear about the policy, if there is uncertainty about the reason for the policy, or if the Council needs information on how the policy is applied.
- Council members should discuss in detail at Council meetings the issues for the annual report and assist the Council Coordinator in understanding and stating the issues clearly.

- Council Coordinators and OSM staff should assist the Council members during the meeting in ensuring that the issue is stated clearly.

Thus, if the Councils can be clear about their issues of concern and ensure that the Council Coordinator is relaying them sufficiently, then the Board and OSM staff will endeavor to provide as concise and responsive of a reply as is possible.

### **Report Format**

While no particular format is necessary for the Annual Reports, the report must clearly state the following for each item the Council wants the Board to address:

1. Numbering of the issues,
2. A description of each issue,
3. Whether the Council seeks Board action on the matter and, if so, what action the Council recommends, and
4. As much evidence or explanation as necessary to support the Council's request or statements relating to the item of interest.



**Southcentral Alaska 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

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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 Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) submits this FY2020 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) under the provisions of Section 805(a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting via tele/video conference on October 7-8, 2020, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. The Council approved this annual report at its winter 2021 meeting in Anchorage. The Council wishes to share information and voice concerns dealing with the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Southcentral Alaska Region.

**1. Council Vacancies**

There are currently four vacancies on this 13-member Council. On December 2, 2020, there will be four more vacancies if incumbent seats are not filled. The Council reiterates its concern for the loss of crucial representation across the Southcentral Region as noted in its last Annual Report. This lack of appropriate diversity on the Council creates challenges for the Council members who must often make decisions affecting areas and groups in the absence of a local member who can best represent the citizenry of his or her community. The Council continues to be concerned with the Executive Order on Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees, dated June 14, 2019, and the impacts of this Executive Order on the Program and Regional Advisory Councils.

In its 2019 Annual Report Reply, the Board encouraged the Council to “expand its outreach effort in its communities and throughout the Region to attract a wider pool of applicants, if the Council wishes to see all seats filled.” The Council does not believe that outreach is the issue. Twelve applications were received to fill 7 vacancies for the December 2019 appointments and

10 applications were received to fill 8 vacant seats for the December, 2020 appointment. In the last two years, only one applicant was found to be ineligible for Council membership, yet four seats remained unfilled with the December 2019 appointments. **\*may expand this language depending on 2020 appointments\***

The Council asked the Board to send a letter to Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture regarding its concern on this matter in its last Annual Report. Although the Council was advised that the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) responded to an information request from the Department of Interior, it appears that no letter was sent from the Board to the Secretaries conveying this Council's concern that all Regional Advisory Councils across the State experienced a significant decrease in representation. It is necessary to send this letter to advise the Secretaries of the substantial impacts these Council membership reductions have on the work of the Councils. The Council respectfully makes a second request that the Board send the requested letter to the Secretaries to remind them that these Councils are provided for under ANILCA and that a lack of representation on the Regional Advisory Councils is detrimental to the intent of ANILCA.

## **2. Changing Climate Effects**

This Council exists to help change regulations to provide priority for opportunities to harvest. Changes in the Southcentral climate affect the ability of this Council to support or oppose seasons and bag limits and otherwise make knowledgeable recommendations. Previous actions by the Council have been made with traditional ecological knowledge on what was roughly a regular 20-year cycle pattern. Now, with influences such as changing wind patterns, migratory patterns, and travel conditions, the ability to predict the condition of the various subsistence resources is extremely difficult and therefore, to recommend changes for harvesting these resources is problematic.

The performance of the fisheries across Southcentral has been poor this past year. A number of fisheries were closed to different user groups because of conservation concerns. The Council is concerned that this trend will continue and that it will be harder for subsistence users to maintain critical food supplies for their communities. There is an obvious need for extra resources to be utilized to maintain salmon runs on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, the Copper River, and elsewhere across the Region.

The Board informed the Council of research being conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office and the University of Alaska, Anchorage, regarding stream temperature monitoring. In its 2019 Annual Report Reply, the Board stated that this research was expected to include work in the Gulkana River in 2020. The Council requests the results of any research, including fine-scale mapping of stream temperatures and the use of various parts of the drainage system by juvenile and adult salmon in the Gulkana River area.

The Council will continue to express its concerns regarding environmental observations made by its members, the public, and subsistence users across the region to the Board. Council members recognize the need to stay vigilant in monitoring these effects to make informed recommendations to effectively adapt Federal regulations to the dynamic parameters of climate change in southcentral Alaska.

### **3. Individual National Park Service (NPS) Customary and Traditional Use Process**

The Council appreciates that this Board deferred its action on the proposed delegation of authority to NPS in determining Individual Customary and Traditional uses to allow the Regional Advisory Councils provide input on this matter. The Council received information on this proposed process at its fall 2020 meeting and learned that the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission (WRST SRC) requested more information from NPS. The Council had many questions and chose to take no action based on the information presented.

The Council would like to consider the additional information coming from the NPS to the WRST SRC before it makes any recommendation. It is imperative that the possibilities and ramifications of such a delegation of authority from this Board are fully explored. It is the Council's understanding that many other Regional Advisory Councils had questions and wanted additional information on this matter. It seems that overall, this issue is not well understood by the Regional Advisory Councils, nor by the subsistence users they represent. For these reasons, the Council respectfully requests that this Board postpone any action on this issue until critical questions are answered and vital information, needed to make an informed recommendation, is known.

### **4. State of Alaska Prioritizing Personal Use**

The Council is concerned about the movements at the State level towards prioritizing de facto subsistence activity in non-subsistence areas. There are dangers in prioritizing 'personal use' of resources in areas around major urban centers where State subsistence activities are prohibited. The Council believes that the State managers are making political decisions by giving an identified population access in these non-subsistence areas. These decisions are not practical and will result in a significant reduction of resources in those areas.

The Council notes that several Federal fishing proposals were submitted recently that requested more restrictions than those existing under State fishing regulations. ANILCA provides a preference for harvest opportunity to the Federally qualified subsistence user. Subsistence regulations cannot be more restrictive than other regulated uses of the resource. Other user groups should be restricted before Federal subsistence users; however, with increased Federal proposals requesting restrictions on the Federal user and the increased prioritization of personal use in non-subsistence areas by the State, Federally qualified subsistence users are targeted to be the sole group burdened with sacrificing harvest to conserve the species.

The Council requests support for any ANILCA .804 analysis that may be required in the future, due to a shortage of subsistence resources.

The Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council appreciates the Board's attention to these matters and the opportunity to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program to meet its charge of protecting subsistence resources and the uses of these resources on Federal Public lands and waters. The Council looks forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users of the Southcentral Alaska Region. If you have

questions about this report, please contact me via DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator with the Forest Service, at 907-209-7817, or [deanna.perry@usda.gov](mailto:deanna.perry@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Richard Greg Encelewski  
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Members  
Sue Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management  
Deputy Assistance Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management  
Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management  
Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management  
George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management  
Tom Kron, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor,  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record

**Date:** December 21, 2020

To: Greg Encelewski, Southcentral Regional Advisory Council Chair  
Subject: **Chugach National Forest update for Southcentral Regional Advisory Council; October 7-8, 2020**

**Staff**

**Deyna Kuntzsch** – Forest Resources & Planning Staff Officer; Anchorage  
**Bret Christensen** – Forest Wildlife Biologist; Anchorage  
**Milo Burcham** – Wildlife Biologist/Subsistence Manager; Cordova  
**vacant** –Kenai Peninsula Zone Biological Science Technician Natural Resources; Moose Pass  
**Steve Namitz** – District Ranger, in-season manager; Cordova  
**Francisco Sanchez** – District Ranger, in-season manager; Moose Pass  
**Andy Morse** – Chugach NF Law Enforcement Officer, Cordova  
**Jordan Rymer** - Chugach NF Law Enforcement Officer, Moose Pass

**Special actions**

No special actions were approved in 2020

**Prince William Sound Zone**

**Cooperative agreement with Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

A cost share agreement was finalized at the end of fy20, to fund Unit 6 Mountain Goat and Moose surveys as well as Black Bear data analysis. More money will be added to this agreement in fy21.

**Moose**

A Unit 6C moose composition survey was conducted by ADFG in December 2020 but results are not yet available.

Season ongoing

**Deer**

Season ongoing

**Black Bear**

Work has continued with ADFG on the cooperative Prince William Sound Black Bear project. This spring we were able to replace the failed radio collar of a female in her den and this summer we retrieved dropped collars from bears captured in 2016. Collars of bears captured in

2017 will release this fall. We are working with an ADFG biometrician to begin data analysis and publish early results. Remaining collars will continue to collect data through fall 2021.

**Salmon**

The Coper River dipnetting proposal FP21-10 was supported by the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and will be taken up by the Federal Subsistence Board in January.

Harvest reports for Copper River Delta fishery are not yet available

**Kenai Peninsula Zone**

**Moose/Caribou**

A total of 45 subsistence Moose permits and 41 subsistence Caribou permits were issued for Unit 7. No moose were harvested, and the caribou season is ongoing

**Mountain Goat**

After the FSB adopted the Unit 7 Federal subsistence Mountain Goat hunt in April, the Forest held a random drawing for two Mountain Goat permits. Two hunters were drawn, and no goats were harvested.

**Salmon**

Harvest data not yet available

**Personnel updates**

Greg Risdahl of the Office of Subsistence Management has accepted the position as the Regional Subsistence Coordinator and is scheduled to start in late December 2020.

**For Questions:** please contact Milo Burcham; [milo.burcham@usda.gov](mailto:milo.burcham@usda.gov); 907-424-4759



**SouthCentral Alaska Regional Advisory Council**  
**February 24-25, 2021**

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Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen Field Office Agency Report  
Valerie Lenhartz, Associate Field Manager

**I. General Update**

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to work collaboratively with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) to monitor subsistence resource populations among BLM and State lands within GMU13.
- Currently no permanent wildlife biologist. Detailer(s) will work remotely until a wildlife biologist is on site.
- 2020/2021 season: FM1301 Moose
  - 82 % hunt reports returned
  - 1290 permits issued (1245 permits issued in 2019)
  - 62 bulls harvested
  - 586 permits attempted – 10.9% success rate
  - 5 year average harvest = 81
- 2020/2021 season: FC1302 Caribou (data as of 12/14/20)
  - 2906 permits issued (2789 permits issued in 2019)
  - 266 caribou harvested (171 male, 94 female)
  - 5 year average harvest = 383

**II. Issuing Federal Subsistence Permits during COVID 19 pandemic**

- The Glennallen Field Office (GFO) has remained closed to the public due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Permits were issued over the phone this year to anyone who had been issued permits previously and permittees had the option of having their permits mailed to them or they could schedule an appointment to pick up their permits. In Delta Junction in July, hunters stayed in their cars and documents were ferried back and forth by staff. All new hunters were required to make an appointment so regulations could be explained, qualifying documents checked, and permits signed. These precautions were taken to limit exposure to both staff and the public.

### **III. Decisions and Emergency Orders affecting the Federal Subsistence Hunt in 2020**

- On July 16th, 2020, the Federal Subsistence Board approved temporary wildlife Special Action WSA20-03 with modification to close Federal public lands in Units 13A and 13B to moose and caribou hunting by non-Federally qualified users for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 seasons.
  - GFO responded to numerous calls from state hunters wanting to know where they could hunt. Callers were emailed the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) fact sheet related to the closure and a copy of GFO's more detailed federal subsistence maps, explaining the areas that were closed to non-Federally qualified users. The greatest impact to state hunters seemed to be the closure of the Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic River corridor portions of the federal area, because those planning to access hunt areas by boat had few alternatives.
- On September 11, 2020, an Emergency Order was issued by the ADF&G to extend the State season for caribou (all caribou state tags including both seasons for the Tier 1 tag) to allow additional hunting opportunity for state hunters from September 21st through September 30th.
  - This is the third year that the State has extended their caribou hunt. This creates more potential for public safety concerns and user conflicts but is also dependent on when the caribou come through the area.
  - Glennallen BLM initially received many calls from citizens asking about extending the Federal caribou season and/or opening early for the late season. They were directed to contact OSM for directions on how to submit a special action request. Many caribou remained in the unit through December, which contributed to continued federal hunter success.

# 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 <b>Labor Day Holiday</b>	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
	<b>KA - Unalaska</b>					
Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9
				<b>EIRAC - Fairbanks</b>		
			<b>YKD</b>			
Oct. 10	Oct. 11 <b>Columbus Day Holiday</b>	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16
			<b>WIRAC - Anchorage</b>			
			<b>SC - Anchorage</b>			
Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23
		<b>SEA - Craig</b>				
		<b>EIRAC - alternate dates</b>				
Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30
		<b>SPRAC - Nome</b>				
		<b>BBRAC - Dillingham</b>				
Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5 Window Closes	Nov. 6
	<b>NWARAC - Kotzebue</b>					

# 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 <b>PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY</b></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>

## 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*)

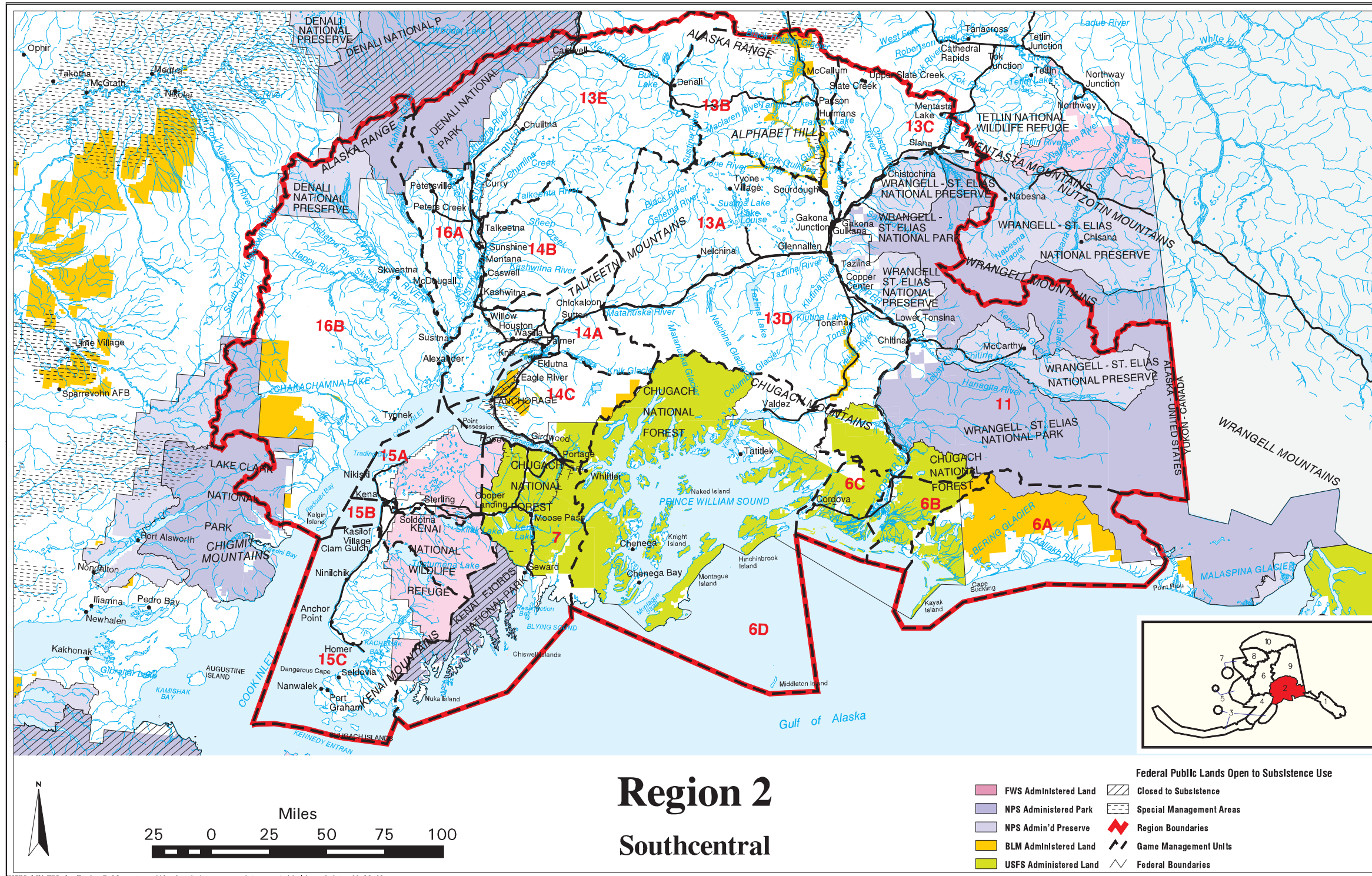
### Policy

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.

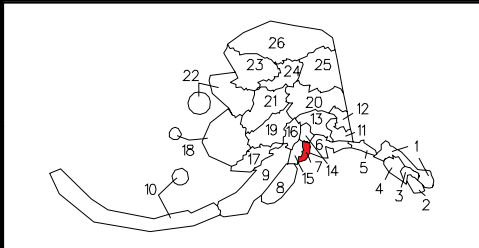
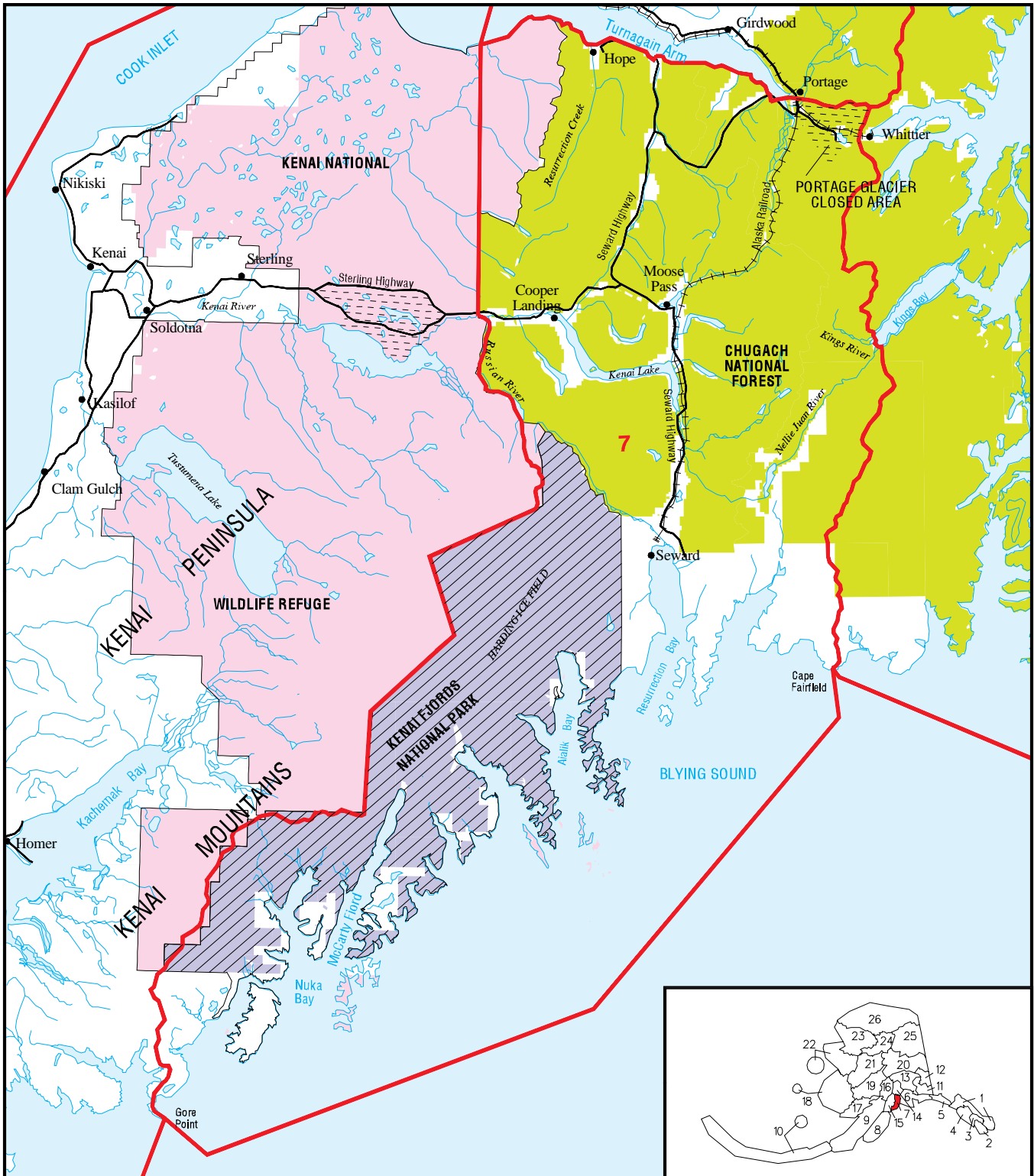
Approved by the Federal Subsistence Board on June 15, 2004.

6/15/04









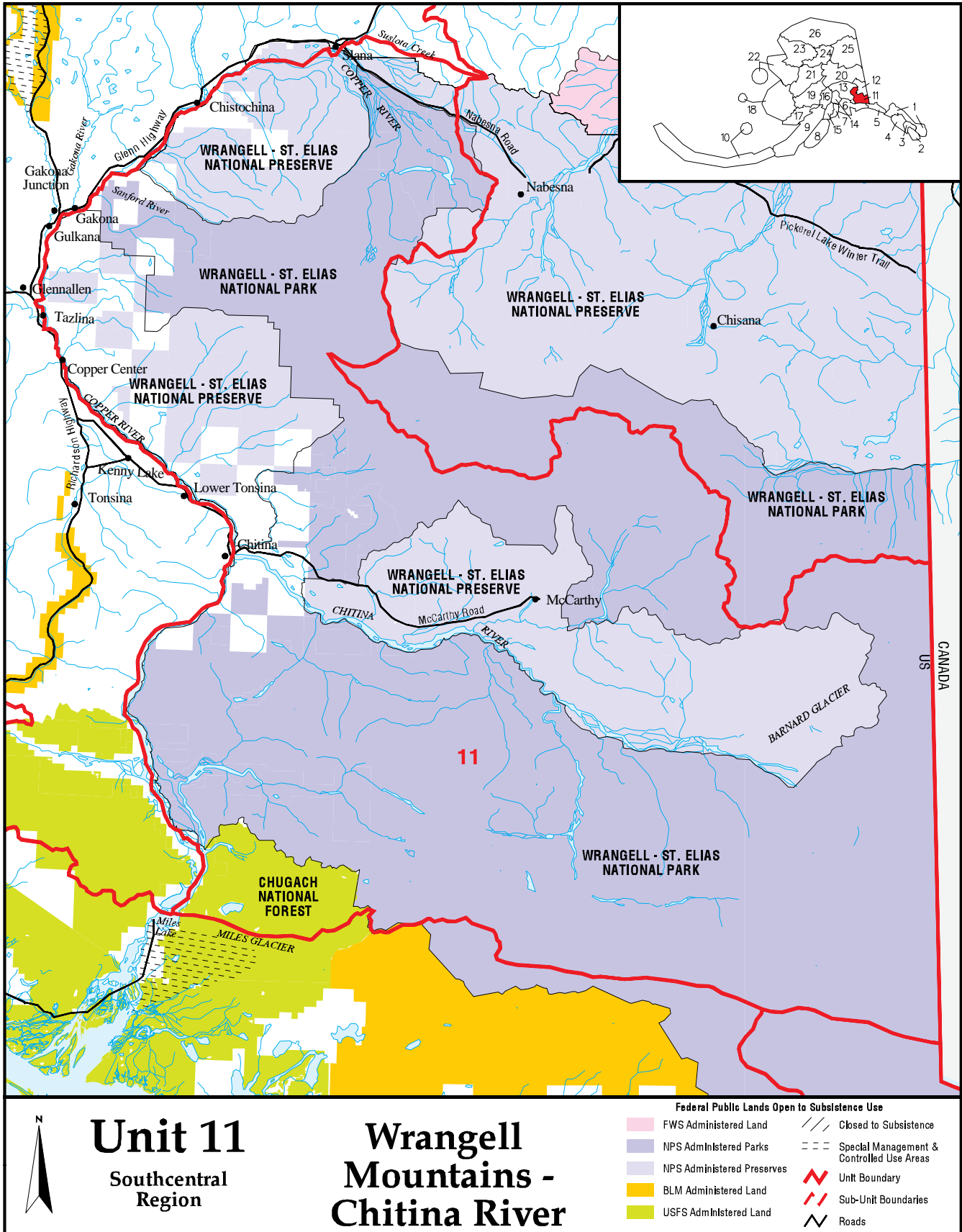
# Unit 7

Southcentral Region

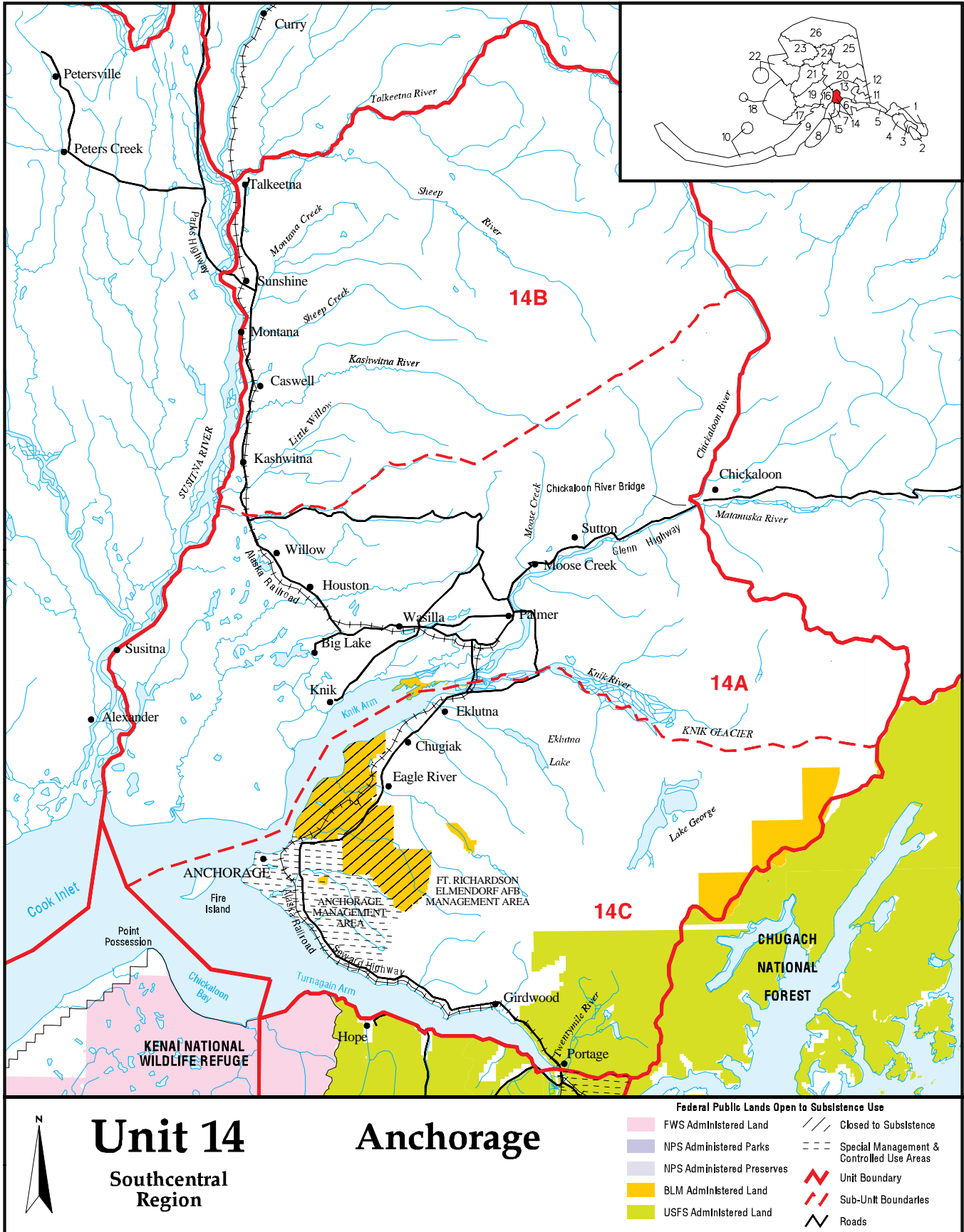
# Seward

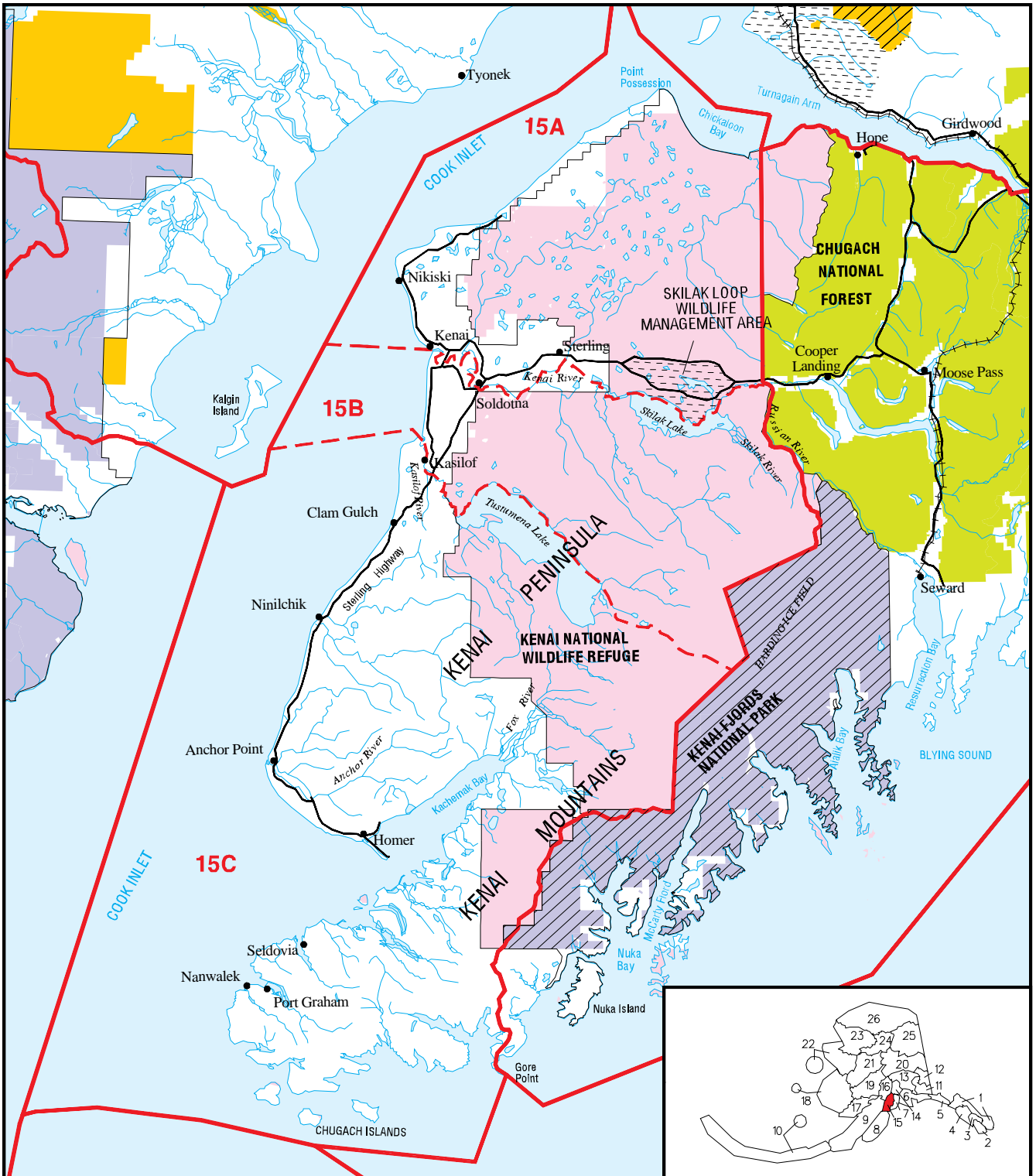
**Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use**

FWS Administered Land	Closed to Subsistence
NPS Administered Parks	Special Management & Controlled Use Areas
NPS Administered Preserves	Unit Boundary
BLM Administered Land	Sub-Unit Boundaries
USFS Administered Land	Roads









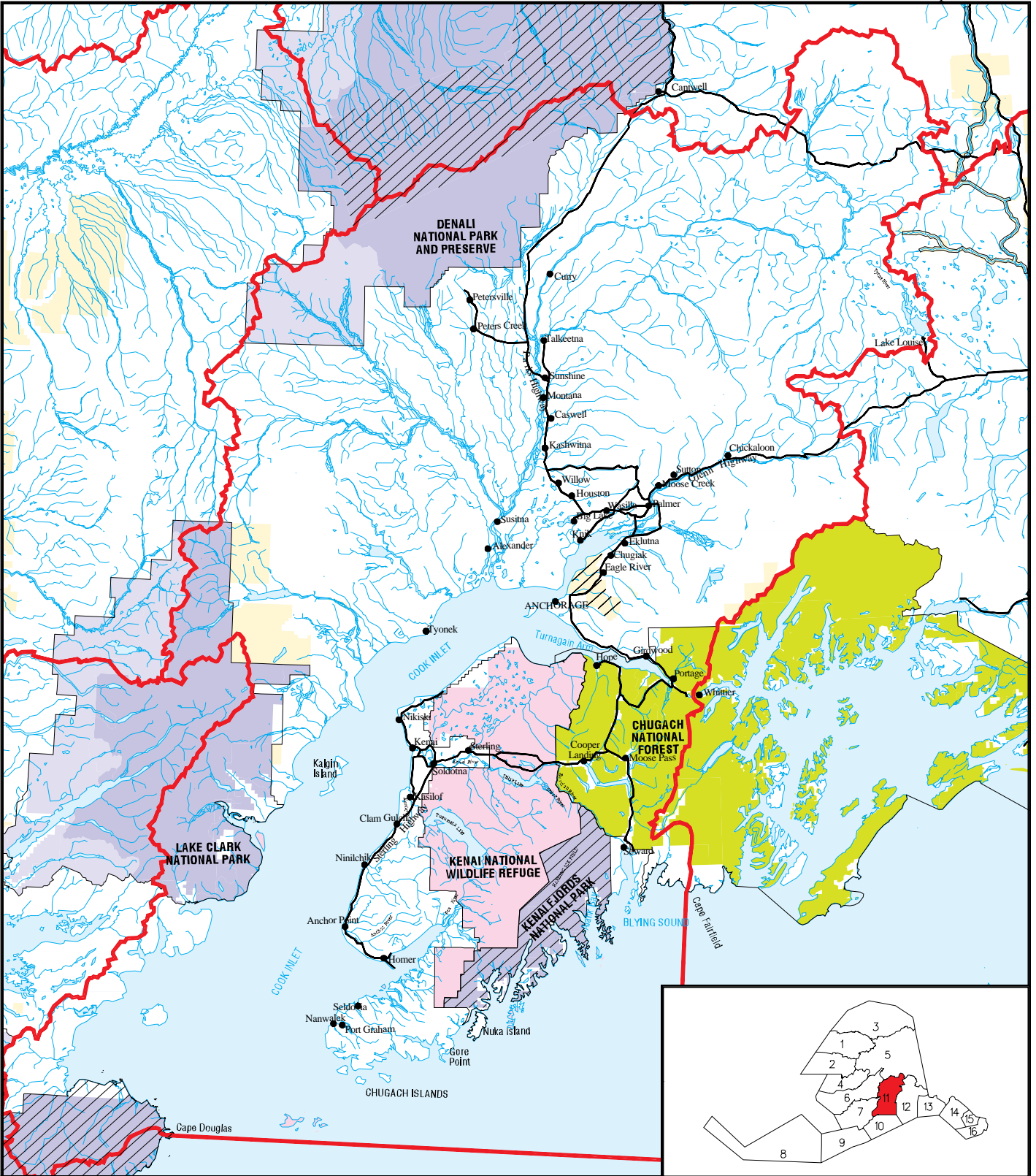
# Unit 15

Southcentral Region

# Kenai

**Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use**

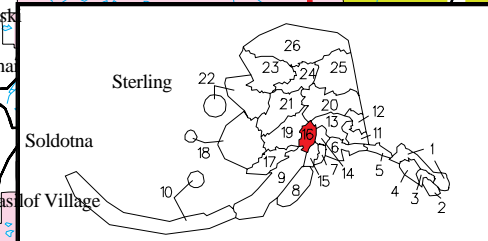
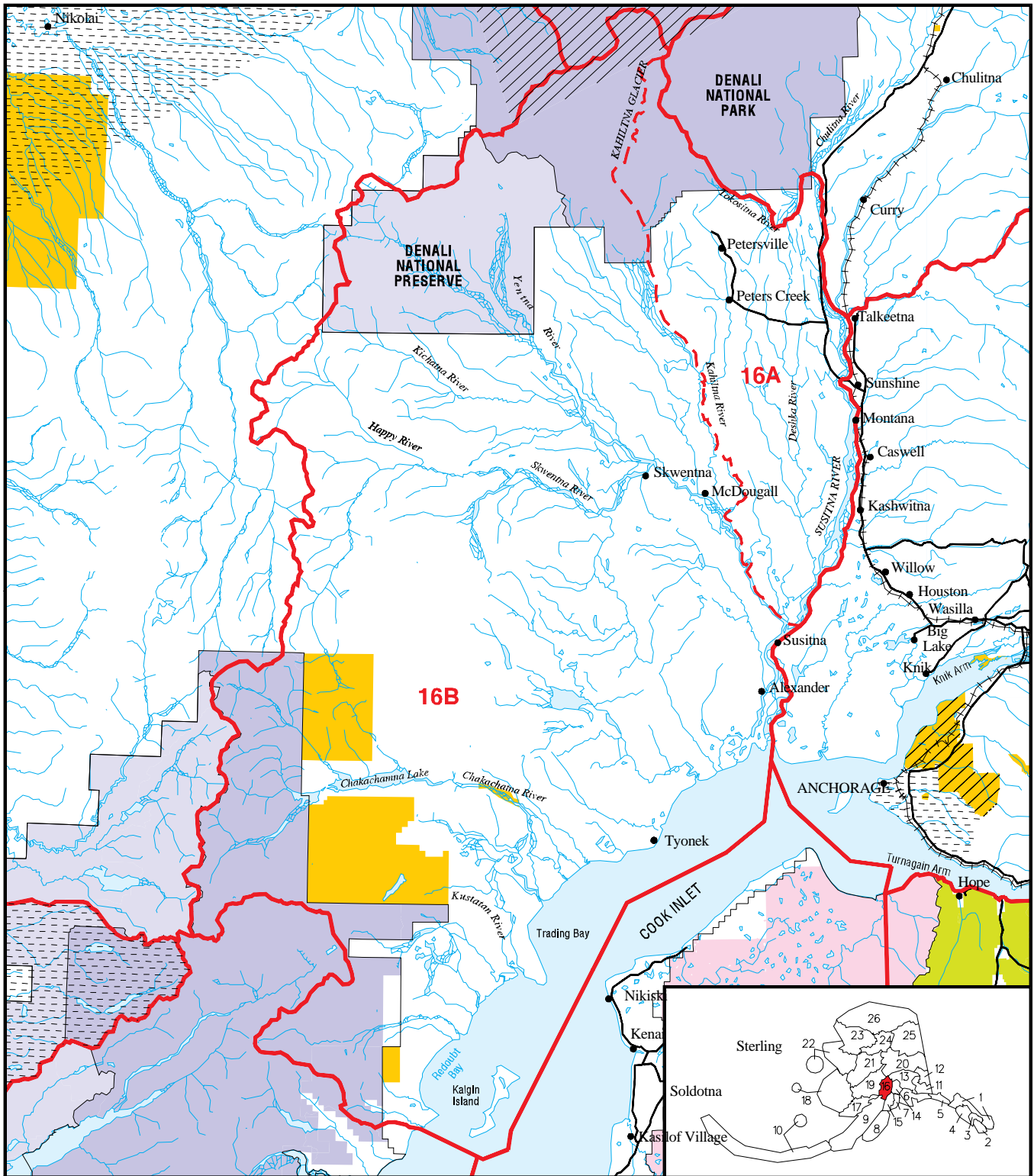
- FWS Administered Land
- NPS Administered Parks
- NPS Administered Preserves
- BLM Administered Land
- USFS Administered Land
- Closed to Subsistence
- Special Management & Controlled Use Areas
- Unit Boundary
- Sub-Unit Boundaries
- Roads



# Map 11 Cook Inlet Area



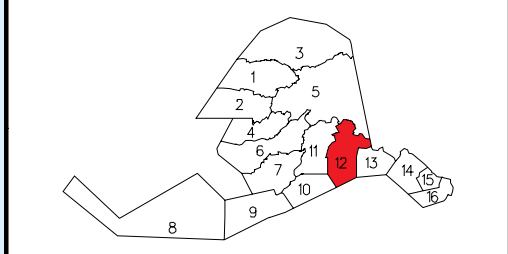
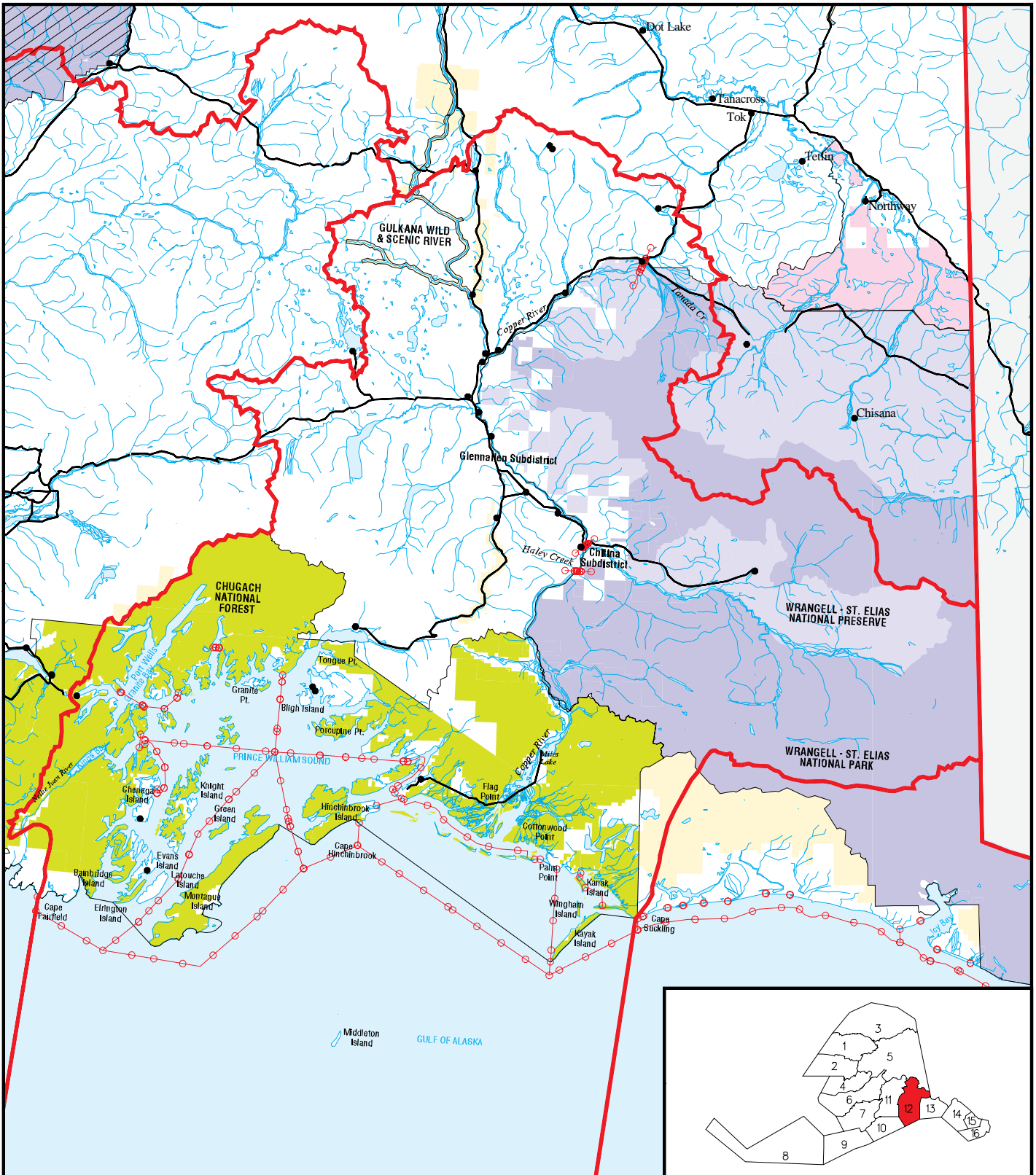
- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| FWS Administered Land         | USFS Administered Land |
| NPS Administered Parks        | Closed to Subsistence  |
| NPS Administered Preserves    | Roads                  |
| BLM Administered Land         | Area Boundary          |
| BLM Non-navigable Waters Only | Federal Boundary       |



# Unit 16 Lower Susitna

Southcentral Region

- Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use**
- FWS Administered Land
  - NPS Administered Parks
  - NPS Administered Preserves
  - BLM Administered Land
  - USFS Administered Land
  - Closed to Subsistence
  - Special Management & Controlled Use Areas
  - Unit Boundary
  - Sub-Unit Boundaries
  - Roads



**Map 12**  
**Prince William Sound Area**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f8d7da; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb;"></span> FWS Administered Land</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d1ecf1; border: 1px solid #bee5eb;"></span> NPS Administered Parks</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d1ecf1; border: 1px solid #bee5eb;"></span> NPS Administered Preserves</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #fff3cd; border: 1px solid #ffeeba;"></span> BLM Administered Land</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #fff3cd; border: 1px solid #ffeeba;"></span> BLM Non-navigable Waters Only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d4edda; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb;"></span> USFS Administered Land</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 1px dashed black;"></span> Closed to Subsistence</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> Roads</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 2px solid red;"></span> Area Boundary</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 1px dashed black;"></span> Federal Boundary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border-bottom: 1px dashed red;"></span> Fishing Districts</li> </ul>
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