



SEWARD PENINSULA
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

March 11 - 12, 2021



REGION 7
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Appointed Term Expires	Member Name and Community
1	2018 2021	Lloyd S. Kiyutelluk Shishmaref
2	2019	VACANT
3	2010 2022	Louis H. Green, Jr. Nome Chair
4	2003 2022	Tom L. Gray Nome Vice-Chair
5	2017 2023	Deahl Katchatag Unalakleet
6	2016 2023	Leland H. Oyoumick Unalakleet
7	2023	Martin Aukongak Golovin
8	1994 2021	Elmer K. Seetot, Jr. Brevig Mission Secretary
9	2012 2021	Charles F. Saccheus Elim
10	2015 2021	Ronald D. Kirk Stebbins

SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Via Teleconference

March 11-12, 2021, convening at 9:00 a.m. daily

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your concerns and knowledge. 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. Welcome and Introductions** *(Chair)*
- 5. Review and Adopt Agenda*** *(Chair)*2
- 6. Service Awards**
- 7. Election of Officers***
 - Chair *(DFO)*
 - Vice-Chair *(New Chair)*
 - Secretary *(New Chair)*
- 8. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** *(Chair)*8
- 9. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 10. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)
- 11. Old Business** *(Chair)*

12. New Business (Chair)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

- Unit 22 Wildlife Updates (*Bill Dunker, ADF&G*)
- Small Game Regulatory Updates (*Rick Merizon, ADF&G*)

Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals*

Council Charter Review*29

Review and approve FY2020 Annual Report*17

13. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA)

- Bycatch Update (*Diana Stram, NOAA*)
- Northern Bering Sea Juvenile Salmon Ecology (*Sabrina Garcia, ADF&G*)

National Park Service

- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Update

Bureau of Land Management

- Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (*Bonnie Million, BLM, Anchorage*)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

- Norton Sound Red King Crab Updates
- Fisheries Updates

Office of Subsistence Management

14. Future Meeting Dates*26

Confirm Fall, 2021 meeting date and location

Select Winter, 2022 meeting date and location

15. Closing Comments

16. Adjourn (Chair)

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

Reasonable Accommodations

Agenda

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for special accommodation needs to Karen Deatherage, 907-474-2270, karen_deatherage@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY) by close of business on March 2, 2021.



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

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

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

How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

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

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

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

What your proposal should contain:

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

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

You may submit your proposals by:

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

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

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

How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:

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

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

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

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

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

SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Via Teleconference Due to Covid-19
October 28, 2020

Invocation

Elmer Seetot, Jr. gave an invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment

The meeting was called to order Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 9:07 a.m. Council members Tom Gray, Elmer Seetot Jr., Leland Oyoumick, Deahl Katchatag, Lloyd Kiyutelluk and Ron Kirk, were present via teleconference. Louis Green, Jr. Chair was absent (excused). The Council has two vacant seats. A quorum was established with six of eight seated Council members present.

Attendees:

Via teleconference

- Karen Deatherage, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Fairbanks
- Orville Lind, Karen Hyer, Hannah Voorhees, Gene Pelkola, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Anchorage
- Patricia Petravelli, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Anchorage
- Carol Damberg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage
- Jeanette Koelsch, Ken Adkisson, Nicole Braem, Letty Hughes, National Park Service (NPS), Nome
- Hannah Adksisson NPS, Kotzebue
- Tom Sparks, Brian Uberlaker, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nome
- Chris McKee, Walker Gusse, BLM, Anchorage
- Jim Menard, Kevin Clark, Jenifer Bell, Bill Dunker, Sara Germain, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Nome
- Beth Mikow, ADF&G, Fairbanks
- Charlie Lean, Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee, Nome

Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion by Mr. Kiyutelluk, seconded by Mr. Seetot, to adopt the agenda as read with the following changes:

- Add Election of Officers
- Remove Service Awards
- Remove FCR20-06 due to ineligibility for Customary and Traditional Use

The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Seetot seconded by Mr. Katchatag, to approve the winter 2019 meeting minutes with the following modifications: Change Mr. Seetot's location from Elim to Brevig Mission.

The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports

Mr. Kiyutelluk of Shishmaref reported there was good hunting and fishing this past season. The lack of sea ice made many hunters have to go further out for marine mammals. The caribou travelled down earlier this year so the community was able to get some. There was hardly any guiding in the area so we were also able to get our moose.

Mr. Katchatag from Unalakleet reported that moose season was good. He did share concerns that one moose showed signs of disease in his ribcage and remarked that moose in the area are being infected by their water or food. There were very few Chum or Coho Salmon this year, but millions of Pink Salmon. The seal hunting was good and bird hunting was great. Mr. Katchatag has concerns with climate change and global warming impacts, and would like to speak with the agencies later in the meeting.

Mr. Oyoumick of Unalakleet reported that he agreed with the issues brought up by Mr. Katchatag. He said moose season went well this year. Mr. Oyoumick is very concerned with the low number of Coho Salmon. Generally he catches 40 Coho Salmon during the season, but only caught one this year on rod and reel. There are very few Coho Salmon compared to what it used to be and he hopes that someone will be able to provide some answers.

Mr. Gray of Nome reported that the Nome, White Mountain, Kuzitrin moose season was over in the blink of an eye, faster than any previous season. Caribou were sparse, and did not show up at Onion Portage. Apparently, they are still up on the North Slope, and have not moved down yet. Looks like another bad year for caribou. Nome didn't have many berries. The fish numbers were concerning. Millions of Pink Salmon with low numbers of Silver Salmon, even late in the season. Unfortunately, commercial fishing was still going on. Subsistence users have been warning managers about Silver Salmon declines. When you don't have Chum Salmon, you don't have many Silver Salmon. Managers said Fish River had a good Silver run, but fishermen on the ground disagree. There was a really good beluga whale hunt with thousands of belugas in Cape Nome. Crabbing this year was horrible. Mr. Gray typically sets subsistence pots during the winter and brings in 200-300 crabs. This season he got two. He did catch a couple of Halibut and some Pacific Cod in early August but not in September. Mr. Gray is concerned that these local resources will be wiped out.

Mr. Seetot of Brevig Mission reported that the area spring marine mammal harvest was minimal. The ice was thick but went out fast so there wasn't much time to hunt. Salmonberries were non-existent, perhaps due to the dry weather in May that left the tundra dry. Salmon fishing wasn't very good, and they came in late in low numbers at Salmon Lake. This was the first time Mr. Seetot had seen large concentrations of snow geese in the area. He reported that they were staged west of Brevig Mission, across Port Clarence Bay. Moose registration permits went by pretty fast, and I applied for one but didn't use it. Mr. Seetot was asked to turn it in anyway so they could keep track of what happened.

Mr. Kirk of Stebbins reported fishing was not good this year, with very few Coho Salmon. There was good marine mammal and bird hunting, and very good moose hunting. We got our moose, and young oogruck seal hunting was also very good. Summer gathering is going to meet our winter needs. Our freezer is full of berries. COVID-19 has been a big problem for Stebbins, as people traveling are bringing it in. Global warming continues to be an issue that Mr. Stebbins and he would like to discuss later.

Old Business

- Ms. Deatherage presented the 805c report from the Board to the Council.

New Business

Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews

Regional:

FCR21-01 Unalakleet River upstream of the confluence of the Chirosky River Closure – Chinook Salmon

Mr. Katchatag moved, seconded by Mr. Oyoumick, to retain the closure under FCR21-02.

The Council recognizes that 2019 reflected a healthy return of Chinook Salmon to the Unalakleet River. The Council is concerned, however, that due to COVID-19, the weir operation last summer had both gear and count limitations, and therefore cannot be relied upon to provide any updated trend information. The Council believes that until Chinook Salmon returns display consistently increased trends through time, the regulatory closure should remain in place. The Council is also concerned about smaller sized fish, which could represent a systemic issue for this population.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Crossover:

FCR21-04 Yukon Drainage/Jim River Closure – All Fish

Mr. Kirk moved, seconded by Mr. Oyoumick, to defer to the recommendation of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to eliminate the closure under FCR21-04 with the

modification to allow a bag/possession limit of 10 grayling per day by rod and reel in the Jim River, including Douglas and Prospect Creeks.

The Council agrees with the decision of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to eliminate and modify this closure. The Council wishes to recognize a subsistence priority for the communities that use this important resource.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FCR21-07: Yukon Drainage/Nome Creek Closure – Grayling

Mr. Kirk moved, seconded by Mr. Seetot, to defer action to the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

The community of Stebbins has a customary and traditional use determination for Yukon Drainage/Nome Creek. The Council voted to defer any recommendation for this proposal to the home region's recommendation.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Ms. Karen Hyer with OSM presented the Council with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) Priority Information Needs (PINs).

Motion by Mr. Seetot, seconded by Mr. Kiyutteluk, to adopt the PINs for the Seward Peninsula region:

- Chinook and Coho Salmon abundance in the Paragon, Boston, Fish and Wagon Wheel drainages
- Fall and summer Chum Salmon estimates in the American, Agiapuk and Igloo Creek/River.
- Abundance estimates of salmon on the Unalakleet River
- Abundance estimates of Chinook and Coho Salmon on the Pikmiktalik River
- Impacts of Climate Change on Grayling, Dolly Varden and Sheefish on Federal waters and tributaries in the Seward Peninsula Region.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Identifying Issues for FY2020 Annual Report

The Council identified the following topics for inclusion into the FY2020 Annual Report:

- Norton Sound Red King Crab Fishery – Request to close 2021 Commercial Red King Crab Fishery in Norton Sound.

- Low returns of Coho, Chum and Chinook Salmon in the region

Proposed Review Processes for NPS Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations

Nicole Braem, NPS, presented proposed changes to the NPS individual customary and traditional use determinations review process, and requested the Council's action on the changes.

Motion by Mr. Kiyutelluk, seconded by Mr. Kirk, to defer action on the NPS's proposed changes to the Subsistence Eligibility Permits and Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations process. The Council agreed that more time was needed to fully understand the issue prior to their approval of the proposed changes.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Agency/Tribal/Organization Reports:

- Jim Menard, Kevin Clark, Jenifer Bell, ADF&G, Norton Sound Red King Crab Update

Motion by Mr. Kiyutelluk, seconded by Mr. Kirk that the Council send a letter to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, copying the Board, ADF&G, Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Kawarek, Inc., and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, asking that the Norton Sound Red King Crab fishery be closed for the 2021 season to protect subsistence. The letter will site justification for the Council's position, including continued low male population numbers, small sized crabs, recruitment failures, handling mortality, and the inability of Norton Sound users to get their subsistence needs met.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

- Letty Hughes, BELA FRMP Project Update
- Tom Spark, BLM Update
- Beth Mikow, ADF&G Fairbanks Update
- Bill Dunker, Sara Germaine, ADF&G Nome Update
- Orville Lind, OSM, Office Update

Future Meeting Dates:

Winter 2021 meeting to be held March 11-12 in Nome

Fall 2021 meeting to be held October 26-27 in Nome

Karen Deatherage, Designated Federal Officer

USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

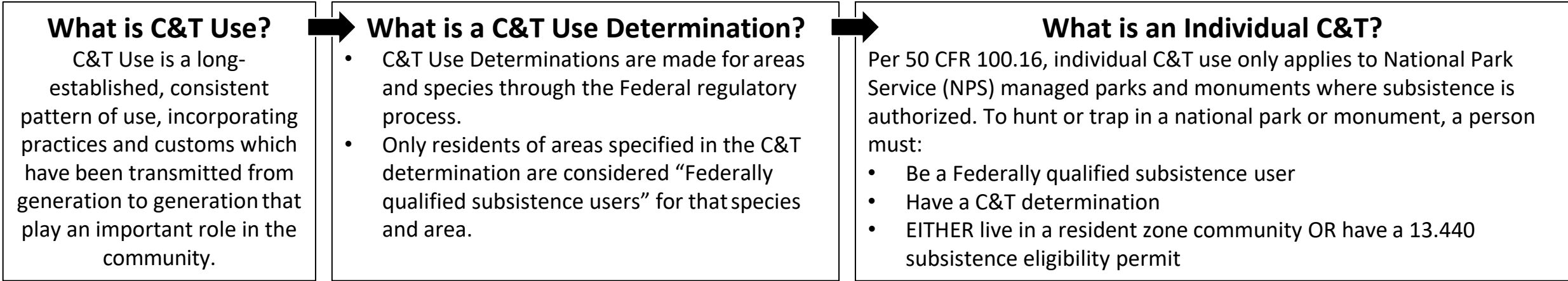
Tom Gray, Acting Chair
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Seward Peninsula 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 Karen Deatherage at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-474-2203, email karen_deatherage@fws.gov

DRAFT

Changes to the Individual Customary and Traditional (C&T) Process (01/2021)



What is C&T Use?

C&T Use is a long-established, consistent pattern of use, incorporating practices and customs which have been transmitted from generation to generation that play an important role in the community.

What is a C&T Use Determination?

- C&T Use Determinations are made for areas and species through the Federal regulatory process.
- Only residents of areas specified in the C&T determination are considered “Federally qualified subsistence users” for that species and area.

What is an Individual C&T?

Per 50 CFR 100.16, individual C&T use only applies to National Park Service (NPS) managed parks and monuments where subsistence is authorized. To hunt or trap in a national park or monument, a person must:

- Be a Federally qualified subsistence user
- Have a C&T determination
- EITHER live in a resident zone community OR have a 13.440 subsistence eligibility permit

The Federal Subsistence Board has made changes to streamline the Individual C&T process:

Step	Application Window	Application Review	Proposed Analysis	Advisory Committee Review	Decisionmaker	Decision Timeline
<u>Previous Process</u>	Every two years	May be invalidated if application is incomplete or 13.440 subsistence eligibility permit is needed	Standard 8 factor format for C&T proposals. Analysis is prepared by NPS and Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) staff	Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council(s) (RAC)	Federal Subsistence Board (FSB)	Fixed schedule: at annual FSB regulatory meeting
<u>New Process</u>	Open continuously	NPS staff collaborates with applicant and helps process 13.440 subsistence eligibility permits, if needed	Standard 8 factor format for C&T proposals. Analysis is prepared by NPS staff	Federal Subsistence RAC(s) AND National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC)	Federal Subsistence Board (FSB)	Flexible schedule: at next public FSB meeting following RAC and SRC recommendations

More collaboration between Park staff and subsistence users

Both RACs and SRC review and comment

Potential application errors are immediately resolved

Faster application processing times

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.

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3989
Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

RAC/XXXXX.KD

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

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council submits this FY-2020 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 teleconference, on October 27th, 2020, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. *(It approved this report at its winter 2021 meeting held March 11-12 via teleconference.)* The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns aligned with the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Seward Peninsula Region.

1. Norton Sound Red King Crab Fishery

At its fall meeting held October 27-28, 2020 via teleconference, the Council heard from multiple individuals regarding updated biological data for Red King Crab in Norton Sound. A recent trawl survey conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) showed that the female cohort and clutch size were larger and closer to normal than the past few years. ADF&G believes that many male Red King Crab increased in size this past year and were able to successfully mate with mature females. Charlie Lean, Chair of the Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Council, cited however, that the survey only observed three-quarters of the legal sized males compared to the previous year. He stated there is still concern that approximately one-third of mature males are failing to molt and grow because they are spending physical resources breeding. There continues to be a significant lack of mature males to mate with females. This discrepancy, combined with last season's reduced rate of egg fertilization and a market demand for larger than legal size crab, will likely result in a limited commercial opportunity in the near future. Mr. Lean also shared that while some recruitment will occur this year, the bulk of legal size crab readiness will occur in 2022 and thereafter. ADF&G

representatives believe that although the population of legal size crab is currently at a low point, some younger crab will or are molting, and expected to grow to legal size this coming year.

The current commercial Red King Crab fishery closure will sunset in December, 2020. ADF&G explained that a commercial harvest for next season is already in place, with the crab fishery beginning through the ice in February and continuing through the summer. Based on the trawl survey, the Council was informed that the Crab Planning Team's recommendations to the NPFMC will be an Allowable Biological Catch of close to 400,000 crab, up nearly 200,000 from last year. The Guideline Harvest Level may go up 100,000 pounds from last year's GHIL of 170,000. The Council is deeply concerned with the increased GHIL recommendation, particularly given that commercial crabbers were only able to harvest 80,000 pounds of the 170,000 GHIL for legal sized Red King Crab in 2020.

The Council believes that allowing both a winter and summer commercial fishery at these levels could harvest most legal sized crab and result in the mortality of many of the sublegal crab that will be handled during sorting. Handling mortality during winter months is particularly high since frost injury is likely to occur before undersized crab are returned to the water. Additionally, the market for Norton Sound Red King crab requires crab to be 5 inches across the carapace rather than the legal requirement of 4.75, meaning half of legal size recruitment could be subject to handling mortality. Both the subsistence and commercial users of this resource are opposed to this marginal fishery with the vast majority of crab being sublegal and unmarketable.

ADF&G reported that subsistence harvest of Norton Sound Red King Crab peaked this past decade. Sizable decreases in harvest began in 2017 and 2018, with only 4,000 Red King Crab harvested by Norton Sound subsistence users in 2019. In 2020, there was a marginal subsistence take of just 1,200 Red King Crab in Norton Sound, representing the lowest subsistence harvest in twenty years. Effort was also low, either because some users thought the season was closed to subsistence harvest or users were not interested in small crabs and throwback females. Only 80 permits for subsistence crab fishing were issued in 2020. This is a result of limited harvest opportunity.

Council members and other subsistence users are extremely frustrated with the inability to harvest this important traditional resource, despite the fact that the subsistence crab fishery is open 365 days a year with no size or catch limit. Users reported either a complete absence of crab altogether, or that any good size crab were extremely difficult to locate. One subsistence crabber noted he only caught 20-30 crabs when 200 was the customary harvest needed to feed his family.

The Council is also very disturbed that ADF&G and others are only "speculating" that the current population of sub-legal crabs will molt this year and become legal during the upcoming fishing season. This is a dangerous gamble for an already depleted resource, and should not be the driving factor behind opening up the crab fishery in 2021 to commercial use. The Council highly recommends that managers review actual crab statistics in 2021, and based upon that review, recommend whether or not to open the commercial fishery in 2022. The Council is convinced that years of overharvest have resulted in the collapse of this fishery, and strong conservation measures are necessary to ensure its viability for future use. If commercial harvest

is allowed to continue, it could result in the loss of Red King Crab for many years to come. Last year's reduced reproduction will also contribute to poor recruitment within seven or eight years. The Council also believes there may be environmental impacts to the population from warming ocean temperatures and contamination. In addition to acquiring reliable 2021 Red King Crab population data, the Council is also requesting that research be conducted to further understand how these changes to the ocean environment may be adversely affecting the resource.

Recommendation:

The Council is strongly opposed to opening the Norton Sound Red King Crab commercial fishery in 2021. The Council has requested in a letter to the NPFMC that they work with ADF&G, the Board of Fish (BOF) and others to close the Red King Crab fishery in Norton Sound, while encouraging continued research and data gathering to monitor the recovery of this population before opening to any commercial use. The Council believes that commercial fishing for Red King Crab in Norton Sound should only be open when there is verifiable evidence that legal size crab populations have reached sustainable levels. Most importantly, successful subsistence harvest based on historic use and needs should unequivocally be an indicator of when commercial fishing should resume. Otherwise, failure by ADF&G and the BOF to provide adequate subsistence opportunities for Red King Crab is contrary to management for a subsistence priority for this resource.

2. Seward Peninsula Salmon

Council members are reporting seeing or harvesting very few Silver and Chum Salmon this past summer and fall. One member observed "millions" of Pink Salmon, which may be competing with Silver, Chum and Chinook salmon for resources. The lack of healthy populations of Silver, Chum and Chinook Salmon are negatively affecting subsistence users throughout the region. Research on these species is lacking due to funding eligibilities, as well as the motivation to determine what is happening to this critical subsistence resource.

Most tributaries, drainages and rivers in the Seward Peninsula region are not eligible for funding under the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) because they 1) do not exist on Federal lands or 2) no Federal nexus has been determined for State waters. Regardless, the Council expressed the need for salmon research on the Niukluk and Kuchablock Rivers, as well as Bear Creek. Unfortunately, the State of Alaska does not see salmon research or management on these important waters as a priority, and have even removed a Chinook Salmon escapement goal for Boston Creek. Despite the fact that fish coming from marine waters migrate largely through State lands, the Council would like to see the type of inventory currently underway in the northern part of the Seward Peninsula occur down in the Nome area and surrounding communities. The Council requested research 10 years ago, but it never materialized. Subsistence users rely on these fish resources, regardless of whether or not they are in State or Federally managed waters.

Recommendation:

The Council would like the Board to encourage the State of Alaska to conduct research on Chinook, Silver and Chum salmon on multiple river drainages in the region that currently do not qualify for research funding under the FRMP program. The Council would like the Board to stress that although these drainages do not currently qualify as a Federal nexus for management or research funding, they are critical to subsistence users in the region. The Council would also like the Board to reassess the Federal qualifications for waters in this region. The Council strongly supports a conservative approach to management of these resources, as well as minimal harvest by local subsistence users, particularly for Chinook Salmon.

Thank you for the opportunity for this Council to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal public lands and waters. We look forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users of the Seward Peninsula Region. If you have questions about this report, please contact me via Karen Deatherage, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management, at karen_deatherage@fws.gov, or 1-800-478-1456 or 907-474-2270.

Sincerely,

Chair

cc Federal Subsistence Board
Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Acting Subsistence Policy Coordinator,
Office of Subsistence Management
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Council Coordination Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record



Bureau of Land Management – Anchorage Field Office

Updates to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
March 11 - 12, 2021

WILDLIFE

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

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

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

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

FISHERIES

Unalakleet River – Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, BLM Aquatics staff will assist partners ADF&G, the Native Village of Unalakleet, and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation installing the Unalakleet River fish escapement inventory weir. Aquatics staff are also planning to continue to monitor water temperatures at the Old Woman and North River as part of a broader study to monitor stream temperatures throughout the Unalakleet River watershed.

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

WATER RIGHTS

Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River – Aquatic staff will continue efforts to reestablish a stream gage at location of the previous USGS gage on the Unalakleet River. Data gathered from the gage will be used in support of future adjudication of instream water rights applications that have been filed for protection of fisheries resources. In 2021 telemetry equipment will be installed on the BLM gage to allow near real-time data communication via satellite. Aquatics staff plan to make three summer and one winter trip to the gage to reestablish a rating curve for the site by measuring water depth and discharge. Water quality will be monitored with instruments recording continuous hourly measurements throughout the summer of turbidity, dissolved oxygen, acidity, temperature, and electrical conductivity.

ECOLOGY

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

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

ASSESSMENT INVENTORY AND MONITORING (AIM) SURVEYS

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

PERMAFROST AND CLIMATE MONITORING

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

RECREATION

Recreation Permits – The BLM will conduct Special Recreation Permit compliance checks in the Nulato Hills northeast and south of Unalakleet, in the Squirrel River area northeast of Kotzebue; and south of McGrath in the Alaska Range in summer 2021. The permits are related to Iditarod National Historic Trail event permits and outfitter and guide permits.

Guides – The BLM authorized one new Special Recreation Permit for a hunting guide in the Golsovia river drainage. This guide replaced a guide that retired. In addition, one guide did not renew their permit and is no longer operating in the area.

REALTY

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

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

COLLABORATIVE CAMPBELL TRACT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

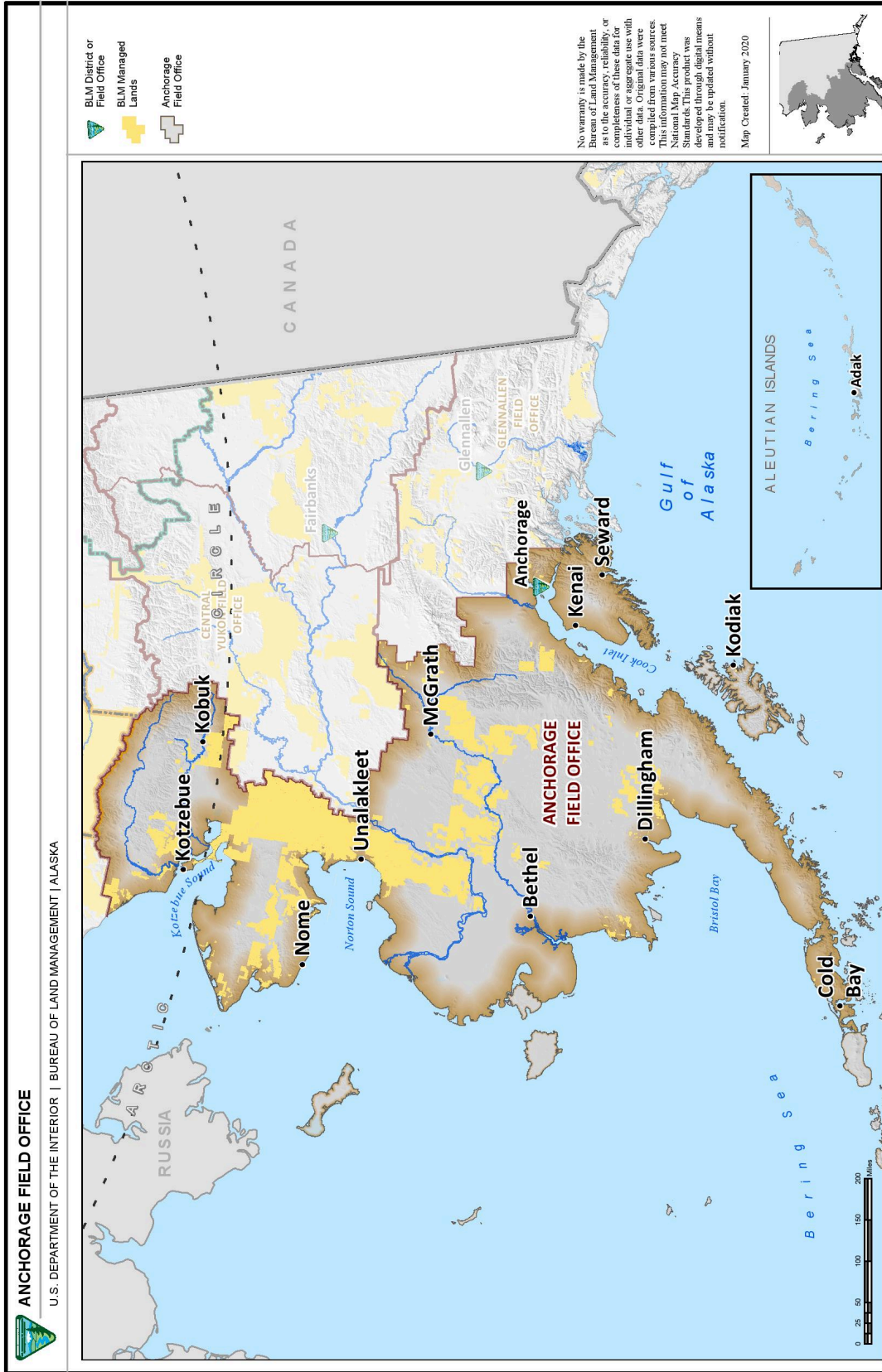
Campbell Creek Monitoring – Aquatics staff will resurvey and analyze 33 cross sections on Campbell Creek to characterize the creek's response to natural and recreational stressors by comparing them to measurements made by the USGS in 2001.

Curriculum Midsummer Night's Science Series – Aquatics staff will lead a discussion with the public during one of the Campbell Creek Science Center's Summer Science Series. The presentation will focus on efforts to characterize how the form and function of Campbell Creek are changing in response to natural and recreational stressors.

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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



Why do caribou calve where they do?

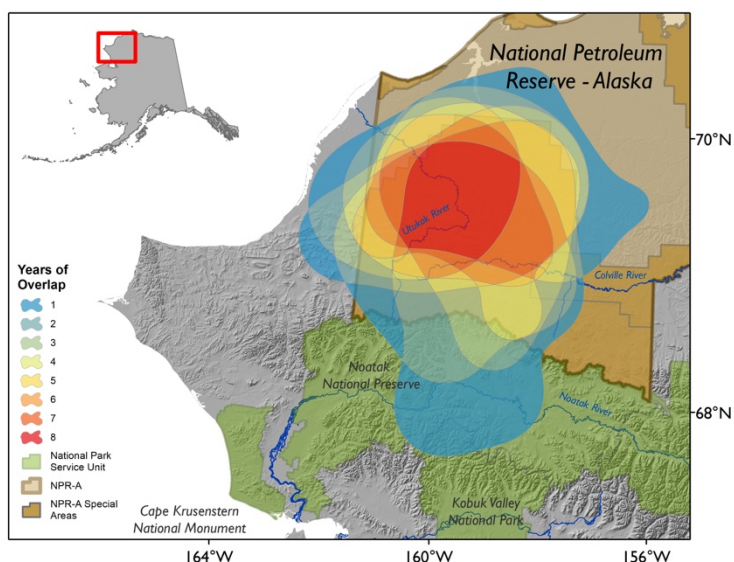


A Western Arctic Herd female and her newborn calf.

Caribou are well-known for returning to calving areas each spring, but *why* do they use those particular places? Researchers at the National Park Service and University of Alaska - Fairbanks set out to investigate this question for Alaska's largest caribou herd, the Western Arctic Herd, that lives in northwest Alaska. They determined where females delivered their calves using GPS collar data from 2010 through 2017, calculated the calving area for each year, and then compared each calving area to every other year to see how consistent they were. Lastly, they used satellite

data to test what characteristics of the landscape caribou selected for calving. They found that calving areas typically differ from year to year but share a common area of consistent overlap.

Use of this general area, called the Utukok Uplands in the North Slope, has not changed since the first study to document calving areas for the herd in the early 1960s. They also found that calving areas are characterized by high-quality vegetation at *the average time* when females have their calves. This finding suggests that caribou are using memory to guide them to the calving area each year, and then once in the general area, are searching for high-quality forage such as the flowering heads of cottongrass. Read the manuscript, linked below, for a more detailed account of the study and the implications for migratory species around the world.



Map of annual Western Arctic Herd calving areas from 2010 - 2017. Color indicates number of years an areas was used, with blue indicating one year and eight years in red.

[Pronounced fidelity and selection for average conditions of calving area suggestive of spatial memory in a highly migratory ungulate.](#) *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 8: e564567.

Contact: Matt Cameron, National Park Service, matthew_cameron@nps.gov.

Homepage for the Western Arctic Herd Vital Sign: <https://www.nps.gov/im/arcn/caribou.htm>

Fall 2021 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated 11/4/2020

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

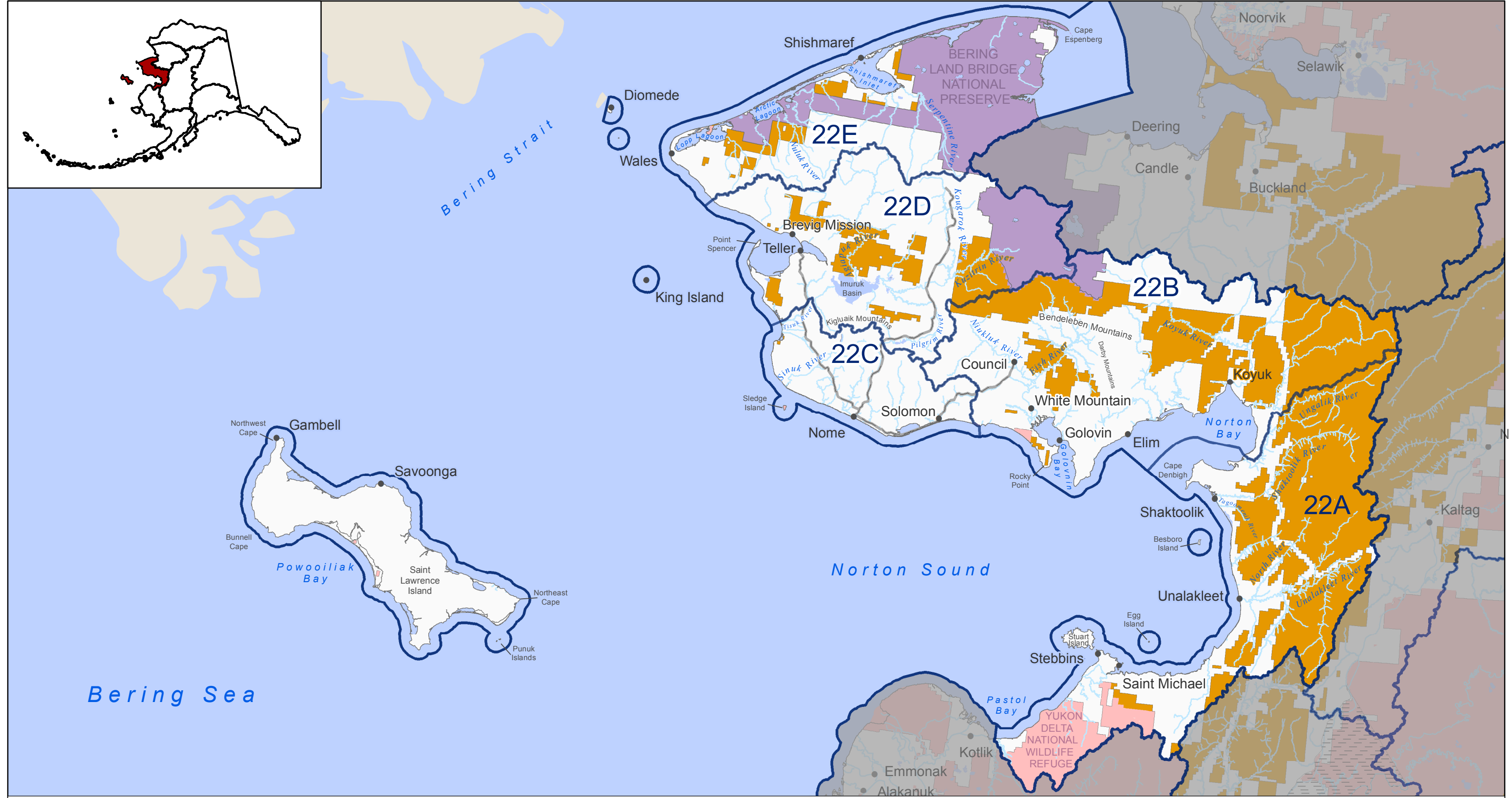
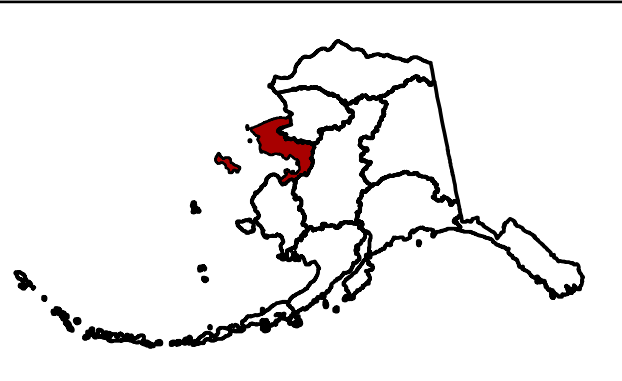
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 15	Aug. 8 Window Opens	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 13
Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20
Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Sep. 1	Sep. 2	Sep. 3	Sep. 4
Sep. 5	Sep. 6 Labor Day Holiday	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9	Sep. 10	Sep. 11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

Winter 2022 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated 12/8/2020

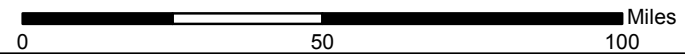
Due to travel budget limitations placed by Department of the Interior on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Subsistence Management, the dates and locations of these meetings will be subject to change.

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



Region 7

Seward Peninsula Region



Federal Public Lands Open to Subsistence Use

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

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

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)), and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the Region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the Region.
4. **Description of Duties.** Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:

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.

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.

Encourage local and regional participation in the decision-making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the Region for subsistence uses.

- d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs; and

- (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
- e. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
- f. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
- g. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
- h. Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary's Orders, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
 - (2) Policies and programs that:
 - (a) increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focus on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;
 - (b) expand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service lands in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;
 - (c) increase energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; and
 - (d) create greater collaboration with States, Tribes, and/or Territories.
- i. Provide recommendations for implementation of the regulatory reform initiatives and policies specified in section 2 of Executive Order 13777: Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs; Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review, as amended; and section 6 of Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$155,000,0 including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.0 Federal staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director – Subsistence, Region 7, 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. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will be inactive 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

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

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

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

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

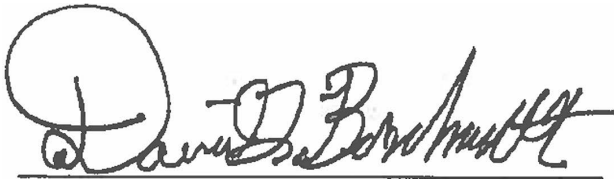
Alternate members may be appointed to the Council to fill vacancies if they occur out of cycle. An alternate member must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending the meeting as a representative. The term for an appointed alternate member will be the same as the term of the member whose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

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

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from

their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under section 5703 of title 5 of the United States Code.

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



Secretary of the Interior

DEC 12 2019

Date Signed

DEC 13 2019

Date Filed

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