



# Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

## Meeting Materials



**NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Egan Center  
Anchorage, Alaska  
March 10, 2016  
1:30 p.m.

**TELECONFERENCE:** call the toll free number: 1 (877) 638-8165, then when prompted enter the passcode: 9060609

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

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

**AGENDA**

\*Asterisk identifies action item.

- 1. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (*Secretary*)..... NW-3
- 2. **Invocation**
- 3. **Call to Order** (*Chair*)
- 4. **Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 5. **Review and Adopt Agenda\*** (*Chair*) ..... NW-1
- 6. **Election of Officers**
  - Chair (*DFO*)
  - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
  - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. **Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes\*** (*Chair*) ..... NW-4
- 8. **Reports**
  - Council Member Reports
  - Chair’s Report
- 9. **Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
- 10. **Old Business** (*Chair*)
  - a. Refuges Proposed Rule on Hunting - Update .....210

b. National Park Service Proposed Rule on Subsistence Collections* .....	218
<b>11. New Business (Chair)</b>	
a. Call for Federal Fish and Shellfish Regulatory Proposals* ( <i>OSM Fisheries</i> ).....	225
b. Identify Priority Information Needs for FRMP* ( <i>OSM Fisheries</i> ) ( <i>this discussion will occur on Friday afternoon</i> )	
c. Approve FY2015 Annual Report* ( <i>Council Coordinator</i> ) .....	223
<b>12. Agency Reports</b>	
a. Subsistence caribou household harvest and sharing patterns ( <i>Jim Magdanz, University of Alaska Fairbanks</i> )  <i>Unless a special report is requested by the Council, all agencies should be prepared to only provide written reports for this meeting.</i>	
<b>13. Joint Session with North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (March 11, 1:30 p.m.)</b>	
a. Traditional use of snowmachines for hunting	
b. WSA16-01 (closure of caribou hunt in Unit 23 to non-Federally qualified users)	
<b>14. Future Meeting Dates*</b>	
Confirm date and location of Fall 2016 meeting .....	235
Select date and location for Winter 2017 meeting .....	236
<b>15. Closing Comments</b>	
<b>16. Adjourn (Chair)</b>	

To teleconference into the meeting, call the toll free number: 1 (877) 638-8165 then when prompted enter the passcode: 9060609

*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 Zach Stevenson, (800) 478-1456, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 20, 2016.

## REGION 8 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Apptd <i>Term Expires</i>	Member Name Community
<b>1</b>	1994 <b>2016</b>	<b>Raymond Stoney</b> Kiana <span style="float: right;"><b>Vice Chair</b></span>
<b>2</b>	2014 <b>2016</b>	<b>Austin Swan</b> Kivalina
<b>3</b>	2011 <b>2016</b>	<b>Hannah Loon</b> Kotzebue <span style="float: right;"><b>Secretary</b></span>
<b>4</b>	2010 <b>2016</b>	<b>Michael Kramer</b> Kotzebue
<b>5</b>	2008 <b>2017</b>	<b>Percy Ballot, Sr.</b> Buckland
<b>6</b>	2011 <b>2017</b>	<b>Verne Cleveland, Sr.</b> Noorvik
<b>7</b>	2015 <b>2017</b>	<b>Louie Commack, Jr.</b> Ambler
<b>8</b>	1999 <b>2018</b>	<b>Enoch Shiedt, Sr.</b> Kotzebue <span style="float: right;"><b>Chair</b></span>
<b>9</b>	2014 <b>2018</b>	<b>Enoch Mitchell</b> Noatak
<b>10</b>	2012 <b>2018</b>	<b>Calvin Moto, Sr.</b> Deering

## NORTHWEST ARCTIC ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 5-6, 2015 School Library  
Buckland, Alaska

### MEETING MINUTES

#### Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Enoch Shiedt Sr. at 8:48.

#### Roll Call and Establish Quorum

Secretary Hannah Loon called the roll.

Council members present: Raymond Stoney, Hannah Loon, Mike Kramer, Calvin Moto, Percy Ballot, Enoch Mitchell, Enoch Shiedt Sr. **Excused:** Austin Swan, Vern Cleveland,

#### Invocation/Welcome/Introductions

Alice Melton-Barr led an invocation to all present at the meeting and provided welcoming remarks from the Native Village of Buckland.

Chair Shiedt welcomed guests and staff members.

The following personnel and members of the public were in attendance:

#### Government Agency Employees

Melinda Burke	U.S. FWS, OSM
Jennifer Hardin	U.S. FWS, OSM
Karen Hyer	U.S. FWS, OSM
Pippa Kenner	U.S. FWS, OSM (via teleconference)
Robbin La Vine	U.S. FWS, OSM
Orville Lind	U.S. FWS, OSM
Lisa Maas	U.S. FWS, OSM
Chris McKee	U.S. FWS, OSM (via teleconference)
Susann Georgette	USFWS
Trevor Fox	USFWS
Brittany Sweeney	USFWS
Heather Tonneson	USFWS (via teleconference)
Dan Sharp	BLM (via teleconference)
Pat Petrivelli	BIA
Ken Adkisson	NPS (via teleconference)
Hannah Atkinson	NPS
Bert Frost	NPS (FSB Representative)
Marci Johnson	NPS
Jeanette Koelsch	NPS
Mary McBurney	NPS (via teleconference)
Marcy Okada	NPS (via teleconference)
Kumi Rattenbury	NPS (via teleconference)

Bud Rice	NPS (via teleconference)
Hillary Robison	NPS
Nikki Braem	ADF&G
Drew Crawford	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Beth Mikow	ADF&G
Brendon Scanlon	ADF&G (via teleconference)

**Tribal Organizations**

Alice Melton-Barr	Buckland IRA
Darlene Hadley	Buckland IRA

**NGOs/Public**

Chester A. Ballot Sr.	Buckland
Jay Denton	Buckland School
Glenna Parrish	Buckland Mayor
Judy Sage	Buckland
Bradley Thomas	Buckland Student
Patti Ann Thomas	Buckland
Lawrence Thomas	Buckland
Floyd Ticket III	Buckland School
Thomas J. Washington Sr.	Buckland

**Review and Adoption of Agenda & Review/Approval of Minutes**

The Council unanimously approved the agenda as presented and the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Council Member Reports**

**Hannah Loon (Selawik/Kotzebue):** Salmonberry season was not so good as before, but the blueberries and cranberries were good. Brief and good drying season, able to dry fish, everyone had a chance to get whitefish and pike. Selawik science culture camp went well--thanks to the school and USFWS for always being there. No complaints about caribou season, everyone harvested, and people also got moose.

**Michael Kramer (Kotzebue):** Successful salmon, goose, and caribou harvest. Thanks to Lance Kramer for his successful effort to close roads to minimize disruption of the caribou migration route. Caribou biologist needs to admit the road affects the migration. It should be mandatory that the road is shut down to allow caribou to move freely through the migration route. Reports from Kiana that hunting was safer than last year. Everybody came in waves, harvested and went home in a few cycles; less intense pressure on herd. Lots of wolves—they are also diverting the herd.

**Percy Ballot (Buckland):** Glad caribou finally came in, hunting for the last 2-3 weeks. They are healthy, and seems like we have a little bit of time to hunt. Plane and boats have been seen down there on the coast and buzzing around the caribou migration site. Why were they on the river side? If they go farther back, they will not interrupt our hunt area. Boats are always there waiting

for caribou—it hurts to see that. Saw planes landing on state land. Does the state know what flying activity are happening (guides, etc.)? Caribou will not come to areas we need when they are disturbed.

**Calvin Moto (Deering):** There is a continued concern about predators and climate change; there are more bears and they are out later due to climate change. We have seen 45 above in January which makes it harder to hunt because we have been getting rain into January sometimes which makes travel difficult. Hunters are trying to get as many caribou as possible now; ptarmigan and moose are getting scarce. Warming cabins are needed for inclement weather; discussion occurred before, but we have not heard any updates.

**Enoch Shiedt Sr. (Kotzebue):** Successful hunting this fall with better hunter practices than in last years' hunt. Thanks to Lance Kramer for stopping road traffic to allow the caribou to cross near mining activity. Received reports of hunters wounding caribou and not harvesting the meat. Still many bears observed in the region, and they are destroying everything; lots of wolves out there. Mid-July we were getting trout in Kotzebue. We need the future generation to be able to carry on our practices and harvest the resources.

**Enoch Mitchell (Noatak):** There was one wildland fire 6 miles east of the village this year—burned some feeding ground for the caribou; hardly any berries this year. Two bears wandering into town this year, and community members reported wolf sightings and note they are being seen in new locations. We want predator control—bring back the wolf bounty that used to be there. Caribou seem healthy, hunters from the community were successful. Too many non-local hunters; I received calls about planes herding caribou for non-local hunters. Request to close the Squirrel River for the protection of resources for the villages is needed. Early pull out of boats due to shallow water. Not much trout this year, lots of salmon, lots of whitefish. We usually sein in a certain spot—beavers have made dams and have interrupted that practice. Request studies on trout and beaver in the Noatak area.

## **FRMP**

Karen Hyer (OSM) sought input from the Council on the 2016 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

Council is encouraged by the input of local knowledge into these projects and emphasized the need for studies that address the smaller communities and under-studied areas.

The Advisory Council unanimously passed a motion to support the funding of four projects (16-105, 16-151, 16-103 and 16-104) in the draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.

**Project 16-105.** The Council stated that this project is important. Sheefish are an important subsistence resource. The Kobuk River Sheefish population is large and the Council is worried about it overpopulating existing habitat. Because of the large sheefish population, there is talk of creating a commercial fishery. The Council feels it is important to have an accurate estimate of the population size before any action is taken in regards to a commercial fishery.



**Project 16-151.** The Council stated that this project is important. This project incorporates traditional knowledge of whitefish, cisco and beaver. Beaver continue to be an issue in the region. The Council has concerns about the negative effects of beaver on fish populations. They also stressed the importance of the investigators partnering with the communities and integrating with ongoing work. They stated some whitefish and cisco work is already being completed in the region. The Council would like youth involvement with the project. The youth need to understand beaver and the fish interactions and the effects of the growing beaver population on local subsistence fisheries resources. There is also concern because climate change has had an effect on beaver abundance.

**Project 16-103.** The Council stated that this project is important because the Kobuk River Dolly Varden / trout are an important subsistence resource in Northwest Alaska and not enough is known about the populations. There are summer fishing areas where subsistence fishers use to seeing Dolly Varden/trout and now they are gone.

**Project 16-104.** The Council stated that this project is important. Continuation of this project is important because of the gain that will be realized in the next couple years. The data is just beginning to show the effects of the slump on the Selawik River Sheefish population. The effected age cohorts are just beginning to return. It is very important to continue this project to understand how/if the slump changed spawning success. There is also interest in studying the population because, it is a very important subsistence population and the Council wants it to grow and stay a healthy.

### **NPS Subsistence Resource Commission Appointments**

The Council unanimously supported continuation of Alex whiting and Attamuk Enoch Shiedt Sr. to continue serving on the Cape Krusenstern SRC.

### **Federal Wildlife Proposals**

#### **WP16-49/52**

#### **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Support with modification**

Unit 23: 5 caribou per day—bulls may be taken Feb. 1-Oct. 31; cows July 31 -March 31; cows with calves not be taken July 31-Oct 10<sup>th</sup>; take of calves is prohibited.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

WP16-49 as written could put a hardship on the users and the resource, including not providing enough protection of cows with calves. Amending the bull season dates would make it easier for users to harvest bull caribou, especially in areas where bulls are not available until after October 9th; due to warming trends, it is staying warmer longer and with the dates as written bulls are not yet in rut. The modified dates for the cow season, and associated portion that is closed to the take of cows with calves, would also allow for protection of calves to help ensure a better chance of survival. Starting the cow season on July 31 will make it easier to identify cows with calves. Overall, this Council is concerned about the population of the herd into the future and is adamant about protecting the herd from overharvest.

**WP16-37**

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: **Support with modification** to include the proposed language reflected in (WP 16-49/52) on the harvest limits/dates and only applicable to unit 23. Take no action on other units mentioned in the proposal.

JUSTIFICATION: Same justification as stated in WP 16-49/52. Overall, this Council is concerned about the population of the herd into the future and is adamant about protecting the herd from overharvest.

**WP16-61-64**

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: **Support with modification** to include the proposed language reflected in (WP 16-49/52) on the harvest limits/dates and only applicable to unit 23. Take no action on other units mentioned in the proposal.

JUSTIFICATION: Same justification as stated in WP 16-49/52. Overall, this Council is concerned about the population of the herd into the future and is adamant about protecting the herd from overharvest.

**WP16-48**

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: **Support with modification** to add furbearers, moose, sheep, bear to this proposal.

JUSTIFICATION: This proposal reflects a customary and traditional way of harvesting resources—this action provides for a legal means of taking animals using a snow-machine (which have replaced dogs in recent times). This is how we take game—this is our culture. We want to protect our people who harvest resources in this way by preventing citations and negative consequences. The recommended modification is to utilize snow-machines only with the intent to harvest for subsistence purposes—there is no intention of allowing the use of snow-machines for harassing, herding, etc.

Deferment was suggested as an option by NPS representatives, but the Council maintained its position that action is needed now to protect the users and their way of life.

**WP16-43**

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: **Take no Action**

JUSTIFICATION: Due to the justification as written in the OSM preliminary conclusion, the Council voted to take no action since the proposal is contrary to the Board's closure policy and thus cannot be supported.

The Council would, however, like to offer words of support for the intent of the proposal to protect incidental harvest of reindeer which local area communities rely on heavily, especially with the absence of caribou in recent years.

**WP16-45:**

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Support**

**JUSTIFICATION:** The Council is in support of an increased harvest opportunity for Unit 22 Federally qualified subsistence users.

**WP16-50**

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Support as modified by OSM**

**JUSTIFICATION:** The Council supports an expanded opportunity to harvest the resource by Federally qualified subsistence users, especially when other key resources such as caribou are in a state of decline and conservation restrictions are in place. However, the Council was cautious of having a pool of users that is too large, as it makes it difficult for communities to obtain a permit.

**WP16-51**

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Support as modified by OSM**

**JUSTIFICATION:** This proposed action will provide additional harvest opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users in Unit 23, reduces regulatory complexity, and creates parallel Federal and State seasons and harvest limits for Muskox. Under the current State Tier II system, the Council and communities observe the same individuals successfully obtaining a permit, and a better opportunity for users is needed throughout the region as muskox may be depended on more in the future.

**WP16-53/54:** Change hunt area and name, provide delegated authority for Dall's sheep in Unit 23

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Support with modification** for full closure of the sheep season in all of Unit 23 (including Gates of the Arctic National Park) with no may-be-announced season.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Rapidly occurring extreme weather changes, hunting pressure, and predators have put this stock at a critical level. The entire range needs to be protected and harvest should stop completely until the population recovers and a sustainable harvest can be provided. When those levels are achieved, Federally qualified subsistence users should be allowed to hunt before any other user groups.

The Council is concerned that accurate counts have not been recently achievable due to weather, and it feels that the hunts should be closed until data is available that support a sustainable hunt. Conservative efforts must be made to protect the future stock of this resource and for the continuation of subsistence use.

**Wildlife Special Action:**

The Council voted unanimously to submit a Federal Wildlife Special Action to close Unit 23 to non-Federally qualified users starting in July 2016.

**Annual Report:**

The Council discussed possible Annual Report topics for FY 2015. Both actions will go forward in the form of letters and a Special Action Request. The Council will discuss topics for the Annual Report during the Spring 2016 meeting in Anchorage as necessary.

**Miscellaneous Presentations and Updates**

Orville Lind (OSM Native Liaison) provided an overview of the Rural Determination Process Update.

Susan Georgette (USFWS) provided an overview and update of the Refuges Proposed Rule on Hunting and also highlighted a series of pictures and a report from the recent Selawik Culture Camp.

Marcy Okada (NPS) provided updates from Gates of the Arctic National Park.

Nikki Braum provided an update on studies from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**Confirm Dates and Locations of Future Meetings:**

Spring 2016: The All-Council meeting will be held in Anchorage the week of March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Fall 2016: The Council selected Oct. 5-6, 2016 in Selawik

Adjourned at 4:14 PM on Wednesday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the forgoing minutes are accurate and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melinda Burke, Designated Federal Officer  
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

\_\_\_\_\_  
Enoch Shiedt Sr., Chairman  
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its next public meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated into the minutes of that meeting.

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Kotzebue, Alaska  
March 2016

## WHO WE ARE

We are pleased to announce that Martha Siikauraq Whiting joined our refuge staff in January as our Environmental Educator. Born and raised in Kotzebue, Siikauraq is a former NW Arctic Borough mayor and currently sits on the NANA Board of Directors.

- Susan Georgette, Refuge Manager
- David Zabriskie, Deputy Manager
- Chester Ballot, Administrative Officer
- Bill Carter, Fisheries Biologist
- Brittany Sweeney, Outreach Specialist
- Siikauraq Whiting, Environmental Educator
- Shawn Nelson, Maintenance Professional
- Nichole Hanshaw, Refuge Information Technician (not pictured)
- Frank Berry, Jr., Maintenance Worker (not pictured)



## WHAT WE ARE DOING 2016

### **Sheefish Studies**

- Bill Carter, our fish biologist, will be examining sheefish “ear bones” (otoliths) this winter to determine the age of spawning sheefish in the Selawik River. This is part of a multi-year research project on the effects of the thaw slump on sheefish in the Selawik River. The project continues in fall 2016. Several Selawik residents are hired to assist with this work.

### **Aquatic Ecology**

- Selawik Refuge is planning to continue its water chemistry research this summer. This two-year project examines changes in the water chemistry of Selawik River and nearby lakes as a result of thawing permafrost. Changes in water chemistry can affect small aquatic life at the base of the food chain.

### **Western Arctic Caribou Herd**

- Selawik Refuge staff continue to educate and update the public on recent regulatory changes for caribou hunting in the Northwest Arctic region (see attached).
- Refuge staff participated in the annual December meeting of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, a collaborative management body for the herd.

### **Outreach and Education**

- Brittany Sweeney and Siikauraq Whiting are working with the Native Village of Selawik and Selawik School to take youth on multi-day snowmachine trips this spring.
- In February, Bill Carter gave public presentations in Selawik and Kotzebue on the refuge sheefish project.
- Selawik Refuge is planning to have a Youth Conservation Corps project this summer in Selawik. This program hires a local crew leader and four teens to assist with maintenance, research, and other projects on the refuge for about one month in summer.
- Selawik Refuge maintains an active Facebook page and website with news and updates about refuge projects and programs.

### **For More Information....**

Please contact any of us at Selawik Refuge!

- Our Kotzebue office number is (907) 442-3799 or (800) 492-8848. Our Selawik office number is (907) 484-2118.
- Refuge Manager Susan Georgette can be reached by email at [susan\\_georgette@fws.gov](mailto:susan_georgette@fws.gov)

# **Caribou Herd Update**

## **Western Arctic Caribou Herd**

### **January 2016**

#### Hunter success:

Hunters in most communities were able to successfully harvest caribou this fall, and reports we heard were of caribou that were fat and seemed healthy. Harvests are continuing this winter, with reports of caribou being brought in from the Baldwin Peninsula down toward the Buckland Hills.

#### Caribou Population:

In 2015, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) tried to do a caribou count. Smoky conditions limited visibility in early July when the herd was grouped up (after calves are born), and the count was unsuccessful. The most recent count, from 2013, showed 235,000 animals. This is less than half of the number of animals (490,000) in the herd in 2003. ADFG biologists believe the herd has continued to decline since 2013, but at a slower rate.

The caribou population might be getting close to 200,000 animals, an important tipping point. The management plan of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group sets 200,000 animals at the level where management becomes “preservative” and further efforts are needed to limit harvests. ADFG will try again in 2016 to get a new count of the caribou herd.

#### Hunting Regulations:

In July 2015, new caribou hunting regulations went into effect. These are summarized on the following fact sheet. While the state hunting regulations are likely to remain the same for the near future, federal subsistence regulations might change this spring. There are several hunting proposals before the Federal Subsistence Board; Selawik Refuge will work to get the word out to local residents when the new federal regulations are decided.

#### Attachments:

1. Caribou hunting regulations fact sheet

Contact: Brittany Sweeney, Outreach Coordinator, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge  
phone 800-492-8848 or (907) 442-3799, email [brittany\\_sweeney@fws.gov](mailto:brittany_sweeney@fws.gov)



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# **Caribou Hunting Regulations For Residents of Unit 23**

## **What You Need to Know**

Regulations for caribou harvest have recently changed because of a decline in our region's caribou herd. Hunters need to be aware of the following rules that took effect July 1, 2015.

This is a summary of caribou hunting regulations for most of Northwest Alaska (Game Management Unit 23). Some parts of Unit 23 have slightly different regulations. Call us or look in the full regulation booklets for details.

<b>State Resident Hunting Regulations (All Alaska Residents)</b>	<b>Federal Subsistence Hunting Regulations (Permanent Residents of Unit 23)</b>
<b>5 caribou per day</b>	
<b>No harvest of calves (any caribou under 12 months old)</b>	
<b>Bulls CLOSED Oct. 15 - Jan. 31</b>	
<b>Cows CLOSED April 1 - Aug. 31</b>	<b>Cows CLOSED April 1 - June 30; No taking of cows with calves July 1 - Oct. 10</b>

Please Note: Hunting regulations vary somewhat depending on the land ownership status.

- You must follow State regulations on State, private, and Native-owned lands.
- You must follow Federal regulations on Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Park (where only residents of the NANA Region may hunt).
- Both sets of regulations apply on other Federal public lands.

**Have Questions?** Yes, this is complicated. Please feel free to contact us for more information:

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Kotzebue, AK  
(907) 442-3799 or (800) 492-8848  
email: susan\_georgette@fws.gov

Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Kotzebue, AK  
(907) 442-3420 or (800) 478-3420  
email: esther.slaathaugh@alaska.gov

National Park Service  
Kotzebue, AK  
(907) 442-3890 or (800) 478-7252  
www.nps.gov/noat/contacts.htm

This fact sheet is a publication of the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge in Kotzebue, in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service.

**July 2015**



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

**Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

**Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (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.** The Council has authority to perform the following duties:
  - a. Recommend the initiation of, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
  - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
  - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decisionmaking 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.
    - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
  - e. Appoint three members to each of the Cape Krusenstern National Monument and the Kobuk Valley National Park Subsistence Resource Commissions and one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with Section 808 of ANILCA.
  - f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
  - g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
  - h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
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 \$130,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.9 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:
    - Approve or call all of the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings,
    - Prepare and approve all meeting agendas,
    - Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings,
    - Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and
    - 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 it 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. A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

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 specific party matter in which the member has a direct financial interest in a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information and conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. 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, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

NOV 20 2015

Date Signed

DEC 03 2015

Date Filed