



BRISTOL BAY
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

*March 10-11, 2020
Naknek*



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On the cover...

Bristol Bay Salmon poke.



USFWS photo

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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dolly’s Hall
Naknek

March 10-11, 2020
8:30 a.m. daily

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: 1-866-916-7020, then when prompted enter the passcode: 37311548.

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

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

AGENDA

*Asterisk identifies action item.

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

Agenda

- a. Fisheries and Partners Program Update (*OSM*)
- b. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (*OSM*)
- c. Call for Federal Fish and Shellfish Proposals* 12
- d. Review and approve FY2019 Annual Report* Supplemental

11. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations

- a. Bristol Bay Native Association

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- a. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) 15
- b. Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR

Bureau of Land Mangement

National Park Service

- a. Lake Clark National Park
- b. Katmai National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

OSM

- a. General Update
- b. Tribal Engagement

12. Future Meeting Dates*

- Confirm Fall 2020 meeting date and location22
- Select Winter 2021 meeting date and location23

13. Closing Comments

14. Adjourn (*Chair*)

To teleconference into the meeting, call the toll free number: 1-866-916-7020, then when prompted enter the passcode: 37311548.

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 Donald Mike, 907-786-3629, donald_mike@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 25, 2020.

REGION 4
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Appointed Term Expires	Member Name and Community
1	2019	VACANT
2	2019	VACANT
3	2019	VACANT
4	2007 2020	Molly B. Chythlook Dillingham Chair
5	2017 2020	William W. Trefon, Jr. Nondalton
6	2014 2020	William J. Maines Dillingham
7	2003 2020	Dan O. Dunaway Dillingham
8	2012 2021	Lary J. Hill Iliamna
9	2018 2021	Robert A. Larson Koliganek
10	2009 2021	Richard J. Wilson Naknek Secretary

BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Dillingham Middle School Gym
Dillingham, Alaska
October 30-31, 2019

Invocation:

Mr. Joe Chythlook of Dillingham provided the invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order Wednesday, October 30 at 10:30 am. Council members Frank Woods III, Dennis Andrew Sr., Nanci Morris Lyon, Molly Chythlook, William Trefon Jr., Dan Dunaway, and Richard Wilson were present in person. Mr. Robert Larson participated via teleconference. William Maines and Lary Hill were not present and were excused. With eight out of ten seated Council members present, the quorum was established.

Attendees:

In person:

Troy Hamon, Katmai National Park (NP), King Salmon
Leslie Skora, Katmai NP, King Salmon
Linda Chislom, Katmai NP, King Salmon
Lauren Watine, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Lee Borden, ADF&G
Ross Rennick, ADF&G
Pat Walsh, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Dillingham
Andy Aderman, Togiak NWR, Dillingham
Susan Alexander, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Lake NWR, King Salmon
Cody Larson, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Dillingham
Gayla Hoseth, BBNA, Dillingham
Heidi Kris, BBNA, Dillingham
Bonnie Million, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Anchorage
Bruce Seppi, BLM, Anchorage
Walker Gusse, BLM, Anchorage

Chris McKee, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Anchorage
Suzanne Worker, OSM, Anchorage
Robbin La Vine, OSM, Anchorage
Jared Stone, OSM, Anchorage
Pat Petrivelli, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Anchorage
Courtenay Carty, Curyung Tribe, Dillingham
Susan Fleek Green, Lake Clark National Park (LACL), Anchorage
Thomas Doolittle, OSM, Anchorage
Kenton Moos, Togiak NWR, Dillingham
Joe Chythlook, Dillingham
Kenneth Nukwak, Manokotak
Moses Toyukok, Manokotak
Dillingham Middle and High School Students:
Chase Huffman, Kristin Beltran, Nicky Johnson, Haley Carty, Zoe Tilden, Katiana Bond, Jonas Tweet, Brexton Peters, Olivia Thames, Jenice Cox, Kinikin Larson, Abbey Whitcomb, Shania Johnson, Molly Shears, Evelyn Tinnerman, Matthew Robinson, Caleb Decker, Joseph Rohl,

Lawrence Wolff, Canderlaria Percy, John Montooth, and Robin Savo.

Via teleconference:

Vince Mathews, Interagency Staff Committee,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),
Fairbanks
Orville Lind, OSM, Anchorage

Joshua Ream, National Park Service (NPS),
Anchorage
George Pappas, OSM, Anchorage
Mark Burch, ADF&G, Anchorage
Rich Merizon, ADF&G, Palmer
Ray Borne, Yukon Delta NWR, Bethel
Jack Reakoff, Western Interior Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council, Wiseman
Tom Whitford, US Forest Service, Anchorage
Ross Renick, ADF&G, Kodiak

Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion #1 made by Mr. Woods, seconded by Mr. Dunaway, to adopt the agenda as read with the following changes:

- Remove agenda item 10. c. Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals, Bristol Bay area. There are no fishery proposals affecting the region
- Add BLM report under Agency Reports
- Add Special Action WSA19-07 – Mulchatna Caribou Herd, reduce the harvest limit from two caribou by State registration permit to one caribou by State Registration permit, under wildlife proposals
- Add Pebble Mine issue for discussion at closing comments.

Motion #1 passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion #2 made by Ms. Morris Lyon, seconded by Mr. Trefon Jr., to approve the Winter 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion #2 passed unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports:

Mr. William Trefon Jr., of Nondalton reported the ongoing concerns with aircraft traffic in the Chulitna River drainage. Extreme warm weather caused rapid melting in the Lake Clark area resulting in higher turbidity in the lake and affecting wildlife.

Mr. Dennis Andrew Sr., of New Stuyahok reported the local caribou population seems to be in decline. Mr. Andrew Sr. questioned if salmon smolt surveys had been conducted. Residents observed dead fish in rivers and streams due to warmer water temperatures. Some streams have dried out and there is Off Road Vehicle (ORV) travel on dried anadromous streams. There is concern about smolt survival.

Ms. Nanci Morris Lyon of King Salmon reported concerns shared by residents regarding weather conditions, how it affected fish, how it will affect spawners from summer, and how it will affect the future. Ms. Lyon talked about the Chignik area fishery with its poor returns and concerns for the stock in the future.

Mr. Richard Wilson of Naknek reported that water conditions were very warm and was concerned how warm water temperatures would affect salmon returns. Fishers have observed more sea lice on salmon and that the smolt out migration may have been affected by warm waters. The caribou population in Unit 9B is healthy and scattered throughout the hills, but few caribou have been harvested by residents. The local moose population was not moving during the hunting season making it a challenge to harvest. The ptarmigan and Arctic hare populations are increasing.

Mr. Dan Dunaway of Dillingham expressed the same concerns about the changing weather and how it will impact fish and wildlife. Mr. Dunaway reported observations of fish die offs due to the warmer climate. Hot weather in August and September affected the moose season and river low water levels limited access to hunt areas. Mr. Dunaway expressed concerns for declining caribou herds in the region.

Mr. Frank Woods III of Dillingham reported on the warmer climate and how it affects local hunting and fishing seasons, particularly on when and how to access subsistence resources. The fire season is longer, and villages are concerned about how they are going to protect themselves. Mr. Woods III reported that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) has the King Salmon/Nushagak Management Plan, which is up for review, and that there should be no changes to it until the next cycle of BOF meetings. Public input is needed on the plan by local advisory committees or the Council. Mr. Woods III expressed concerns over the lower caribou counts, for not only Nushagak and Mulchatna caribou, but also for caribou herds statewide. Caribou are an important subsistence resource in the fall and winter for families and, if populations continue to decline, reduced harvest limits will be imposed that affect subsistence families.

Mr. Robert Larson of Koliganek reported on summer fire activity and commented that it forced a lot of moose to move within the Nushagak River drainage. Mr. Larson inquired about the local muskrat population and if ADF&G has the recent population status.

Ms. Molly Chythlook of Dillingham reported on the recent Federal Subsistence Board (Board) actions taken on subsistence fish and shellfish regulatory proposals and referred to the ANILCA Section 805(c) report. At the Board meeting, the Councils' chairs requested another All Regional Advisory Council meeting. Ms. Chythlook advised the Council that there is one planned for 2021, contingent on funding. Ms. Chythlook reported she was consulted on the possible closure for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and stated she would support a limit of one caribou. She stated that the fall moose season was poor and that one caribou would fill the need for those that did not harvest a fall moose.

Old Business:

- Wildlife Closure Review WCR20-04/06

Ms. Suzanne Worker, OSM Wildlife Biologist, provided a briefing on WCR20-04/06. No action required.

New Business:

Wildlife Proposals:

Regional Proposals:

WP20-26: Allow use of snowmachines for positioning wolf and wolverine in Units 9B, 9C, 17B, and 17C.

Motion #3 by Mr. Woods III, seconded by Mr. Dunaway, to support the proposal as recommended by OSM. The use of snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines for harvest is a traditional and common practice in the Bristol Bay area. No conservation concerns exist for wolf and wolverines. The proposed regulation clarifies what is allowed. Local users support the use of snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines for harvest on BLM lands. The Federal Subsistence Board adopted a similar regulation in Unit 23 recognizing the use of snowmachines as a customary and traditional harvest method.

Motion #3 passed unanimously.

WP20-27: Allow use of snowmachines to assist in take of caribou in Unit 17.

Motion #4 by Mr. Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Woods III, to support WP20-27. Proposal WP20-27 will clarify Federal hunting regulations, align it with the recent State of Alaska hunting regulation, and reduce regulatory complexity between Federal and State regulations. The Council supports the proposal stating that using snowmachines to assist in taking a caribou and allowing caribou to be shot from a stationary snowmachine is a long-standing practice among rural residents of the region and that any conservation concerns can be addressed through regulatory changes in season length and harvest limits to protect the caribou herd if necessary.

Motion #4 passed unanimously.

WP20-28/29: Extend bull season and establish antlerless season for moose in Unit 17A.

Motion #5 made by Ms. Morris Lyon, seconded by Mr. Dunaway, to support WP20-28/29 as recommended by OSM. If this proposed regulation is adopted, it will provide for subsistence opportunity for rural residents of the region. Extending the season will provide an increased subsistence opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users. The proposed Federal regulatory changes will also align with current changes in State regulations and reduce regulatory complexity by aligning seasons and harvest limits. The Council stated that the proposed regulation will help to keep the growing moose population in the area in check. There has been an extensive habitat evaluation done, and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge should be able to closely monitor this population and react accordingly if changes need to be made.

Motion #5 passed unanimously.

WP20-30: Revise the definition, season and harvest limit for hare in Unit 9.

Motion #6 by Ms. Morris Lyon, seconded by Mr. Woods III, to support WP20-30. The season end date appears to be too restrictive, while some Council members stated that harvest and population numbers were unknown. Additional information on the species is needed prior to adopting the proposal to set season dates. Traditionally, winter months are when hares are harvested for winter protein.

Motion #6 failed on a 1 to 7 vote.

WP20-31: Decrease season, harvest limit and possession limit for ptarmigan in Unit 9.

Motion #7 by Ms. Morris Lyon, seconded by Mr. Woods III, to support WP20-31. The Council supports the proposal to reduce the season and harvest limit. There is a conservation concern for the ptarmigan population in Unit 9. It is important to limit the harvest of ptarmigan in Unit 9 until population numbers increase.

Motion #7 passed on a unanimous vote.

Statewide Proposals:

WP20-08: Require traps or snares to be marked with name or State identification number for all furbearers in Unit 2.

Motion #8 by Mr. Dunaway, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to support WP20-08. Local users are opposed to the proposal. Requiring local subsistence users to mark traps is unnecessary and burdensome. No conservation concerns exist for furbearers in the region.

Motion #8 failed.

Wildlife Special Action WSA19-07

Mr. Chris McKee, OSM Wildlife Division Supervisor, provided a brief summary of the special action process on Wildlife Temporary Special Action WSA19-07 request by the Togiak NWR and Yukon Delta NWR to limit the harvest of Mulchatna caribou from two caribou to one in all or portions of Units 9A, 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A, and 19B for the 2019/20 regulatory year. OSM is accepting public comments on WSA19-07 and the Board will consider it at its November 2019 teleconference meeting.

Council comments on WSA19-07: Council members commented that they would support a limit of one caribou. Allowable harvest in past hunts was five caribou, which was reduced to two caribou. With the recent decline of the herd, land management agencies are recommending the harvest limit be reduced to one caribou due to conservation concerns. Winter hunts are important for rural residents to harvest

caribou, a time when families need the protein. Currently, local residents are having difficulty harvesting caribou and the Council is not in support of full closure. The Council commented on the importance of harvest reporting compliance for Mulchatna Caribou Herd management and the need to enforce the harvest limit. The Council wants to encourage and educate hunters on the importance of reporting their harvest to help resource managers to keep the Mulchatna Caribou Herd at a healthy population level to ensure future opportunity for harvest.

2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP)

Mr. Jared Stone, OSM Fisheries Technician, presented an overview of the FRMP and reviewed of the funding process.

Council comments on the FRMP: The Council commented on the composition of the FRMP Technical Review Committee (TRC) and wondered if representatives from Native organizations could be on the TRC when decisions are formulated to move forward with funding project proposals. There is also a need for local agencies to develop project proposals to investigate Chinook Salmon returns and abundance within the Naknek and Alagnak rivers drainages.

Identify Issues for FY2019 Annual Report

The following topics were discussed and will be included in the Bristol Bay 2019 Annual Report.

1. Rural residents are concerned about the effects of climate changes, such as hotter summers and low water levels in rivers and streams, on subsistence resources.
2. The Chignik area salmon fishery has continued to produce poor returns, and as a result, fishery managers have initiated limited closures for subsistence opportunities. The management plans for this stock of concern should be reviewed and stakeholder meetings should be conducted to develop strategies to protect the Chignik fishery.
3. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd is an important subsistence resource for residents of the Bristol Bay region. The caribou population has been declining resulting in reduced harvest limits. Reporting harvest is important to help managers accurately estimate populations and gage the health of the population within its range.
4. It is necessary to monitor out-migration of salmon as part of stream studies and how the “blob” (large mass of relatively warm water in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of North America) affects the overall migration of smolts into the marine environment.
5. Conduct a baseline study of moose and caribou biology and their habitats to document how climate change will affect future populations.
6. Develop a TEK harvest area for the Mulchatna Caribou and other land mammals. Include a baseline study for all communities that encompasses hunting and harvest locations that can be analyzed and compared to studies conducted during the 1980s for any significant changes.

7. Caribou hoof diseases and other diseases are concerns for rural residents and require additional biological investigation. Animal diseases have affected hunt areas traditionally used by rural residents. It is important to focus on the health of the local caribou population through collaborative management with local agencies to address consequences of declining resources.
8. Invasive species is a concern the Council would like to bring forward to the Board's attention. The Council is unsure about how invasive species affect the caribou and moose populations, as well as how they affect the local native flora and other wildlife populations.
9. The Council requests additional data or briefings on any recent predator-prey ratios for caribou, including spring mortality of caribou calves by bears.

Agency Reports:

Tribal Governments

The Curyung Tribe Report presented by Courtney Carty.

Native Organizations

BBNA Report presented by Cody Larson and Gayla Hoseth.

USFWS

Togiak NWR Report presented by Pat Walsh and Andy Aderman.

Becharof/Alaska Peninsula NWR Report presented by Susan Alexander, Refuge Manager.

NPS

Lake Clark National Park Report presented by Susan Fleek Green, Superintendent. Liza Rupp, Subsistence Manager, provided a written report to the Council.

Katmai National Park and Aniakchak National Monument Report presented by Troy Hamon and Linda Chislom.

ADF&G

- Report on recent harvest data reports and the current status of Unit 17A moose population status presented by Lauren Watine, ADF&G.
- Report on a two year study of catch and release mortality of Chinook Salmon on the Nushagak River and summer creel surveys presented by Lee Borden, Assistant Area Fishery Biologists, Sportfish Division.
- Summary Chignik area fishery report presented by Ralph Rennick, Kodiak ADF&G Area Biologist.

BLM

BLM update on the various agency projects presented by Bonnie Million, Field Manager, Bruce Seppe, Subsistence Wildlife Biologists, and Walker Gusse, Law Enforcement Officer/Pilot.

OSM

OSM General Update presented by Tom Doolittle and Chris McKee.

Pebble Mine

Ms. Gayla Hoseth, BBNA, brought to the attention of the Council a letter from the Department of the Interior with comments on the Pebble Mine draft environmental impact statement and requested that the Council support DOI's comments and copy them to the Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. Hoseth also requested the Council add this to its 2019 Annual Report.

Motion #8 by Mr. Woods III, seconded by Mr. Dunaway, to support the DOI's comments on the draft environmental impact statement on Pebble Mine. The motion includes a request for a 810 analysis to be completed and additional tribal consultation conducted regarding the Pebble Mine project. Motion #8 passed. Two abstained.

Future Meeting Dates:

Confirm Winter 2020 meeting date and location: Naknek, February 4-5, 2020

Select Fall 2020 meeting date and location: Dillingham, October 28-29, 2020

Donald Mike, DFO
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Molly Chythlook, Chair
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its February 4-5, 2020 meeting in Naknek, Alaska, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

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



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

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

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

How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

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

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

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

What your proposal should contain:

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

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

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

You may submit your proposals by:

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

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

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

How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:

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

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

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

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

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



United States Department of the Interior

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



INFORMATION BULLETIN - December 2019

Cooperative Salmon Escapement Monitoring Projects. Contact: Pat Walsh
ADF&G has monitored Chinook, chum and sockeye salmon escapement on the Middle Fork Goodnews River since 1980. Togiak Refuge has worked with ADF&G since 1992 to assist in staffing the weir until 2017, after which reduced Refuge funding prevented providing staff assistance.

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

Mulchatna Caribou Contact: Andy Aderman
Togiak Refuge assisted ADF&G with telemetry monitoring flights, radiocollar deployment, satellite data acquisition, data entry and database management. A July 2019 post-calving survey estimated the Mulchatna herd at approximately 13,500 caribou, well below the population objective of 30,000-80,000 caribou. In response, ADF&G issued an emergency order in August reducing the bag limit from two caribou to one caribou only under the RC503 hunt. In addressing WSA 19-07, the Federal Subsistence Board made the same change in Units 9A, 9B, 9C, and 17. In Units 18, 19A, and 19B the Federal Subsistence Board changed the harvest limit to one bull and closed federal public lands to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users. Refuge Manager Moos was appointed the in-season manager for federal public lands within the Mulchatna herd's range.

Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Contact: Andy Aderman
A photocensus of the Nushagak Peninsula Herd on July 9, 2019 found a minimum of 710 caribou in 5 groups which resulted in a total population estimate of 822 +/- 164 (710-986) caribou at the 95% confidence interval (Meg Inokuma, ADF&G, personal communication). A similar effort in 2018 found a minimum of 709 caribou in 4 groups resulting in an estimate of 787 +/- 114 (673-901) caribou.

A composition survey conducted in October 9, 2019 estimated 26 calves and 33 bulls per 100 cows. The calf to cow ratio is the lowest recorded while the bull to cow ratio increased from the lowest recorded in 2018 (25 bulls per 100 cows).

The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee met October 25, 2019 and reviewed results of previous hunts, population and lichen monitoring and the harvest strategy. Average lichen cover on the Nushagak Peninsula has declined from 48% estimated in 2002 down to 30% in 2017. Based on the continued increasing decline in lichen cover, the agencies think it is prudent to lower the optimum population level down to 400 caribou. Andy explained that the mid-point between the minimum population count and estimated count was 766 caribou. Based on the lower optimum population level of 400, means we could harvest 366 caribou. The Committee was in agreement to increase the harvest limit from two to five caribou effective January 1, 2020. The Committee also supported (5 for, 3 abstained) WP20-27 which mirrors the Board of Game regulation regarding use of snowmachines for taking caribou in Unit 17. With the lower optimum population level, a Committee member suggested a federal subsistence proposal to restrict the customary and traditional use determination back to the original communities may be in order.

As of December 16, 2019, only 9 caribou (5 bulls and 4 cows) have been reported harvested in the Federal permit hunt. Four caribou (3 bulls and 1 cow) have been reported in the RC501 hunt immediately north of the Federal hunt (Lauren Watine, ADF&G, personal communication).

Moose Contact: Andy Aderman

In May 2019, 21 of 30 (70%) radio-collared adult cows produced 38 calves suggesting a production rate of 126.7 calves per 100 adult cows which is up from the previous 5 year average of 111.2 calves per 100 adult cows. The twinning rate was 76.2% which is higher than the previous 5 year average of 63.5%.

For the fall moose hunts in Unit 17A, a total of 60 moose were reported as follows: 47 bulls harvested under RM573, 9 moose (5 cows, 2 bulls, 2 unknown) harvested under RM571, and 4 bulls reported under DM570 (Lauren Watine, ADF&G, personal communication).

For the fall moose hunts in southern Unit 18, a total of 31 moose were reported as follows: 15 bulls harvested under RM 620 (Goodnews area) and 16 bulls harvested under RM617 (Kanektok/Arolik area) (Patrick Jones, ADF&G, personal communication).

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

In summer 2014, Togiak Refuge, the USFWS Genetics Lab, ADF&G, and BLM initiated a study to understand the effects of wolf and brown bear predation in regulating the populations of moose. The study relies on radio telemetry and stable isotope analysis. Our approach is to relate the predation impact by wolves and bears on moose at varying levels of moose population density. We will use existing population estimates for brown bears, and through the use of radio telemetry, we will estimate the number and composition of wolf packs on the Refuge. We will model wolf and bear predation on moose based on the quantity of wolves and bears and diet composition of both species determined through analysis of carbon and nitrogen isotopes occurring in bear and wolf hair. Hair is being collected from wolves when captured during radio collaring operations, and has been collected from brown bears using break-away hair snares. So far, we have captured and radioed 35 wolves from seven packs. During summers 2014-2016, we

deployed over 400 snares, and collected over 200 brown bear hair samples. Initial analysis in 2017 identified data gaps, so additional bear hair was collected in 2018. Lab analyses are ongoing.

Walrus Contact: Doug Holt

The Togiak Refuge has annually monitored the number and timing of Pacific walruses at haul-outs since 1985, using ground counts (1985-2008), aerial surveys (2003-2011) and time lapse photography (2010-2019). Overall, walrus numbers observed at haul-outs on Togiak Refuge have declined, with the greatest declines at Cape Peirce and Cape Newenham. Peak counts in the most current year when every day was counted (2016) were 401 at Cape Peirce, 897 on Hagemeister Island, and 454 at Cape Newenham. Walrus using haul-outs in Bristol Bay are typically recorded from late spring to late fall but have been observed at Cape Newenham every month since cameras were deployed in fall of 2014 with the exception of February, July, and September 2017. However, counts for 2017 are incomplete because field work was cancelled in 2018 due to weather and logistic constraints. Data were recovered at all sites during summer 2019 and results will be updated when the data are examined. The most recent report was completed in August 2019 and is available to the public at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/168185>.

Seabirds Contact: Kara Hilwig

The abundance and reproductive success of black-legged kittiwakes, common murre, and pelagic cormorants was monitored annually at Cape Peirce from 1990-2014 and 2016-2019. In the past 29 years, the long-term average number of birds counted on study plots was 1,075 kittiwakes (range = 238-1,906), 2,595 murre (range = 53-4,563), and 80 cormorants (range = 15-123). In 2019, an average of 1,052 kittiwakes, 564 murre, and 33 cormorants were counted, which is average for kittiwakes, but well below average for murre and cormorant adult returns. Counts of adult seabirds returning to the nesting cliffs were up 71%, 91% and 55% from last year's record low counts respectively (307, 53, and 15). Despite greater numbers of adult seabirds returning to the cliffs, all three species demonstrated zero or near zero fledging success. The long-term overall productivity (the number of nests with fledged chicks to the total number of nests) of kittiwakes, murre, and cormorants averaged 22%, 36%, and 49% respectively. Twenty-nine years of seabird monitoring at Cape Peirce has revealed high variation in nesting adult counts and reproductive success, but never four consecutive years of reproductive success as low as 2016-2019 for all three species. Population and productivity monitoring will continue in June 2020 at Cape Peirce.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Surveys Contact: Kara Hilwig

Elodea spp. is a highly invasive and difficult to control aquatic plant implicated in the degradation and loss of fish habitat across the world. It was confirmed present in Alaska in 2009 and is now found in several waterbodies across the State. In 2019, Refuge and Park staff cooperated to complete the second round of *Elodea* surveys at 20 sites within the Togiak Refuge, Wood-Tikchik State Park and the surrounding area. An additional 23 new sites were surveyed in 2019 and included the Nushagak and Mulchatna Rivers, Iliamna floatplane lakes, and Big River lakes. Thus far, no *Elodea* has been detected. Funding proposals are currently being submitted to continue this work in 2020.

Water Temperature Monitoring Contact: Doug Holt

Stream temperature monitoring has been conducted at 21 locations on 14 rivers in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge since August 2001. Continuous hourly water temperatures were recorded at each site. Over 2.4 million temperature records were collected, quality-graded, and digitally stored in a relational database through October 2019. The warmest month each year was July. The maximum recorded mean daily summer temperatures varied by location, with median values of 9.8–22.9°C across sites. The warmest temperatures were observed in the Kukaktlim Lake outlet and the coolest temperatures were observed in the Weary River. The most recent stream temperature monitoring report was completed in September 2018 and is available to the public at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFiles/114702>.

We used moored all-season temperature arrays to record hourly temperatures throughout the water column in 2 lakes on or near the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge 2011-2018. The lakes differed significantly in surface area, water volume, and elevation with Ongivinuk Lake being smaller and at higher elevation than Snake Lake. We observed variation in lake ice phenology and fewer days of ice cover on Snake Lake than on Ongivinuk Lake each winter when data were available for both lakes. We observed that both lakes were dimictic, exhibiting turnover events in spring and fall. We observed water temperatures in excess of standards for fish rearing and migration habitats during summer down to 12.5 m in Snake Lake and down to 5 m in Ongivinuk Lake. The most recent lake water temperature monitoring report was completed in March 2019 and is available to the public at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/169088>.

Togiak Refuge received reports of dead fish observed in streams throughout the Refuge during summer 2019. Warm water might play a role in fish die-offs. Water temperature monitoring is ongoing at stream and lake sites. Data from the summer of 2019 will not be available until sensors are recovered and downloaded in 2020. When those data are available water temperature reports will be updated and made publically available.

Quantifying River Discharge Contact: Pat Walsh

Togiak Refuge and the USFWS Water Resources Branch have worked cooperatively since 1999 to acquire baseline hydrologic data of the flow regime (magnitude, duration, timing, frequency, and rate of change) and water quality. A network of stream discharge gages collected stream flow data from 1999-2005 at 20 locations. A subset of five of these stations continued to collect data through fall 2009, after which three of the five stations were removed. We will monitor discharge in the Togiak and Kulukak Rivers indefinitely.

Education and Outreach Contact: Terry Fuller

Togiak Refuge has an active education and outreach program, conducting an average of 60+ classroom visits throughout 12 Bristol Bay villages annually. Classroom visits include lessons about the Migratory Bird Calendar, National Wildlife Refuge Week, careers in natural resource conservation, and numerous teacher requested classroom presentations. The refuge works with several school districts and private schools including the Southwest Region, Lower Kuskokwim, Dillingham City school districts and the Dillingham 7th Day Adventist School. Field trips with area students for the 2018-2019 school year included bird walks, wilderness survival skills, archery, salmon life cycles, aquatic resources and bear safety. The refuge website is also an education tool and is available at <http://togiak.fws.gov>.

The refuge, in partnership with Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Southwest Region School District, also conducts hunter safety courses throughout western Bristol Bay Villages. Classes have impacted more than 100 students in Manokotak, Dillingham, Twin Hills, Togiak, Aleknagik and Quinhagak. The refuge plans to continue these courses, as requested, in 2020 and is in the planning stages to add a National Archery in School Program to its offerings in the future. The Refuge also plans to train additional staff members as Hunter Safety instructors.

The refuge education program also produces Bristol Bay Field Notes, an award-winning weekly radio program on KDLG 670 AM that covers an array of outdoor-related topics (past episodes can be found on KDLG's website). Togiak Refuge has an active and heavily followed Facebook page which disseminates information on a daily basis to a rapidly growing global audience.

The refuge hosted its annual Open House at the Refuge Headquarters on Saturday, October 5, 2019 and over 100 people were in attendance and took part in a number of "hands on" activities. The refuge co-sponsored a 5K "Salmon Fun Run/Walk" on July 27, 2019 with the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. Nearly 200 people participated and received information on healthy lifestyle choices, including staying active in the outdoors on National Wildlife Refuges.

Other annual outreach programs for the community continue as well. The refuge hosted a family bird feeder building program in December and the annual Christmas Bird Count (Dillingham circle) January 5th. The family "Build-A-Bird Feeder Workshop" increased the Christmas Bird Count participation. The refuge is grateful for financial assistance from the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges to conduct these programs.

Togiak Refuge staff continues to work with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to conduct household subsistence waterfowl surveys. Refuge staff and volunteers are currently conducting surveys (spring 2019) in Aleknagik, Dillingham, Togiak, Clark's Point, Igiugig, Port Alsworth, Newhalen, Naknek, Pilot Point, Chignik Lake, and Goodnews Bay.

Also, the refuge partners with others to conduct three environmental education camps described below:

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

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

councils and school districts from throughout western Bristol Bay are cooperators with this camp.

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

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

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

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

Division of Refuge Law Enforcement Contact: Derek Thompson

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

SFWO Thompson encountered and investigated a multitude of resource and permit violations during 2019. Violations ranged from a human caused wildfire to littering. SFWO Thompson routinely works with other state and federal agencies to achieve efficient and effective law enforcement. This year SFWO Thompson teamed with law enforcement Ranger’s from the Bureau of Land Management and detailed an FWO from the Big Muddy NWR in Missouri. The additional officers provided assistance within TNWR and per signed memorandums of understanding SFWO Thompson helped those agencies in their patrol responsibilities.

SFWO Thompson encourages anyone with questions regarding US FWS law enforcement to contact him, and reminds all who enjoy TNWR their tips and eyewitness accounts are invaluable in protecting wildlife and punishing poachers.

Staff Update

We currently have a number of vacancies which need to be filled. Unfortunately, budget uncertainties and other regional priorities have not allowed us to advertise these positions. However, we have a new budget analyst, Yong Ellis, who reported to work Dec. 10 and we are excited to have her on board.

Fall 2020 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated on 11/12/19

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. 16	Aug. 17 <i>Window opens</i>	Aug. 18 NS — Point Hope	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22
Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29
	K/A — Unalaska (in conjunction with “Life Forum Conference”)					
Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sep. 1	Sep. 2	Sep. 3	Sep. 4	Sep. 5
Sep. 6	Sep. 7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	Sep. 8	Sep. 9	Sep. 10	Sep. 11	Sep. 12
				K/A — Cold Bay/Sand Point		
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
		YKD — St. Mary’s				
Sep. 27	Sep. 28	Sep. 29	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3
Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10
			SC — Anchorage			
Oct. 11	Oct. 12 COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17
			WI — Aniak			
			EI — Fairbanks			
Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24
		SE — Sitka			AFN — Anchorage	
Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31
			SP — Nome			
			BB — Dillingham			
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6 <i>Window closes</i>	Nov. 7
		NW — Kotzebue				

Winter 2021 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

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>Jan. 31</i>	<i>Feb. 1</i> <i>Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 2</i>	<i>Feb. 3</i>	<i>Feb. 4</i>	<i>Feb. 5</i>	<i>Feb. 6</i>
<i>Feb. 7</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> PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY	<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i>	<i>Feb. 19</i>	<i>Feb. 20</i>
<i>Feb. 21</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>Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 13</i>

Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy

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

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

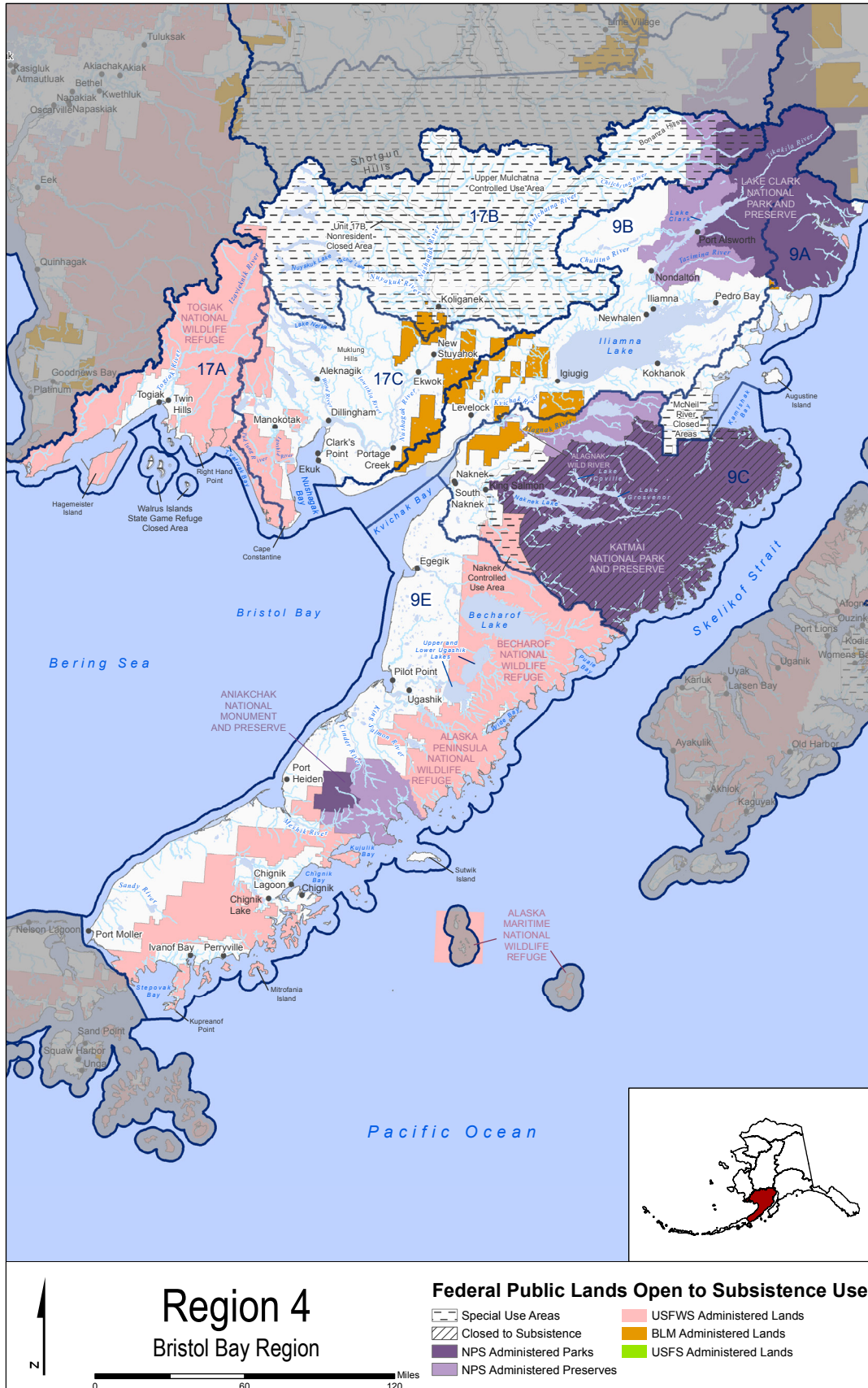
The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Title VIII required the creation of Alaska's Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to serve as advisors to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to provide meaningful local participation in the management of fish and wildlife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

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

Policy

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

4. As a general rule, Councils discuss and agree upon proposed correspondence during a public meeting. Occasionally, a Council chair may be requested to write a letter when it is not feasible to wait until a public Council meeting. In such cases, the content of the letter shall be limited to the known position of the Council as discussed in previous Council meetings.
5. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8 of this policy, Councils will transmit all correspondence to the Assistant Regional Director (ARD) of OSM for review prior to mailing. This includes, but is not limited to, letters of support, resolutions, letters offering comment or recommendations, and any other correspondence to any government agency or any tribal or private organization or individual.
 - a. Recognizing that such correspondence is the result of an official Council action and may be urgent, the ARD will respond in a timely manner.
 - b. Modifications identified as necessary by the ARD will be discussed with the Council chair. Councils will make the modifications before sending out the correspondence.
6. Councils may submit written comments requested by federal land management agencies under ANILCA §810 or requested by regional Subsistence Resource Commissions 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.



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

Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

CHARTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.

10. **Duration.** Continuing.

11. **Termination.** The Council will be inactive 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Secretary of the Interior

DEC 12 2019

Date Signed

DEC 13 2019

Date Filed

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