



BRISTOL BAY  
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Materials

*November 6-7, 2018  
Dillingham*





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*On the cover...*

During the fall at Kanakanak Beach in Dillingham



Photo by R.B. Whitcomb. USFWS public domain

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**BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Dillingham Middle School Gym  
Dillingham

November 6-7, 2018  
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. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes\*** (*Chair*) ..... 4
- 7. Reports**
  - Council Member’s Reports
  - Chair’s Report
  - Coordinator’s Report
- 8. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)
- 9. New Business** (*Chair*)
  - a. Fisheries Proposals
    - 1. FP19-11 Salmon. Revise snagging regulations to allow fishing for salmon in Sixmile Lake and tributaries .....

- b. FRMP Priority Information Needs\*
- c. Identify Issues for Annual Report\* .....28

**10. Agency Reports**

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations

- a. Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA)

USFWS

- a. Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) .....39
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**11. Future Meeting Dates\***

- Confirm Winter 2019 meeting date and location .....54
- Select Fall 2019 meeting date and location .....55

**12. Closing Comments**

**13. 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 March 2, 2018.

**REGION 4**  
**Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Year Appointed Term Expires</b>	<b>Member Name and Community</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>2016 2019</b>	<b>Dennis Andrew, Sr.</b> New Stuyahok
<b>3</b>	<b>2003 2019</b>	<b>Nanci Ann Morris Lyon</b> King Salmon <span style="float: right;"><b>Vice Chair</b></span>
<b>4</b>	<b>2007 2020</b>	<b>Molly B. Chythlook</b> Dillingham <span style="float: right;"><b>Chair</b></span>
<b>5</b>	<b>2017 2020</b>	<b>William W. Trefon, Jr.</b> Nondalton
<b>6</b>	<b>2014 2020</b>	<b>William J. Maines</b> Dillingham
<b>7</b>	<b>2003 2020</b>	<b>Dan O. Dunaway</b> Dillingham
<b>8</b>	<b>2012 2018</b>	<b>Lary J. Hill</b> Iliamna
<b>9</b>	<b>2015 2018</b>	<b>Victor A. Seybert</b> Pilot Point
<b>10</b>	<b>2009 2018</b>	<b>Richard J. Wilson</b> Naknek <span style="float: right;"><b>Secretary</b></span>

**BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes**

Dolly's Hall  
Naknek, Alaska  
March 13-14, 2018

**Invocation and moment of silence for Pete Abraham and Mike Bangs**

**Meeting called to order**

**Roll call:**

Members present – Billy Maines, Billy Trefon, Richard Wilson, Nancy Morris Lyon, and Dan Dunaway. Quorum established with 5 of 9 appointed members present.

Members absent – Dennis Andrew (weathered out), Lary Hill (medical), Molly Chythlook (medical), Victor Seybert

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Government Agency Employees**

Gilbert Castellanos, USFWS  
Orville Lind, OSM  
Glenn Chen, BIA  
Carl Johnson, OSM  
Troy Hamon, NPS King Salmon  
Linda Chislom, NPS King Salmon  
Susan Alexander, FWS King Salmon  
Pete Harvey, FWS King Salmon  
Susanna Henry, FWS Dillingham  
Dave Crowley, ADF&G Dillingham  
Chris Peterson, ADF&G Dillingham

**NGOs/Public**

Randy Alvarez, Igiugig  
Cody Larson, Bristol Bay Native Association  
Chris Maines, Bristol Bay Native Association  
Ronald Lind, Chignik Lake  
John Kreillcamp, Bristol Bay Alaska Tourism

*Teleconference Participants*

Scott Ayers, OSM  
Dan Sharp, BLM  
Carol Damberg, USFWS



Mark Birch, ADF&G  
Joshua Ream, OSM  
Suzanne Worker, OSM

### **Election of Officers**

Molly Chythlook (chair), Nanci Morris Lyon (vice-chair), Richard Wilson (secretary) – each elected by unanimous consent

### **Meeting minutes**

Reviewed and approved with no edits or modifications.

### **Council Member Reports**

#### *Billy Maines*

Reviewed the annual report and what he saw there rang true. Used to be a lot of moose, but do not really see the bulls much anymore, and fewer cows with calves. Seeing a shortage of snowshoe hare and ptarmigan – they are a great supplement that we don't really have anymore. Noting seasonal conditions that clearly reflect climate change and we need to set policy based on science. Looking forward to continue working with the Council.

#### *Billy Trefon*

Has a concern about the use of rod and reel, and how it is not considered a subsistence gear and people are getting cited. Seeing a lot of outside hunters coming into the Chulitna River hunting moose, seeing as many as 20 planes in the area in a day. People use planes to spot for moose, people in the area cannot use planes to spot for moose.

#### *Richard Wilson*

Caribou really have not shown up yet, they are holding back in the Nushagak area. Tier 2 portion of 9C closes earlier than 9E, and maybe that is something we can work on and discuss. More ptarmigan showing up in the hills near here, people seeing flocks of 50-100. Lot of smelts and people are out pike fishing.

#### *Dan Dunaway*

One thing of concern in the Dillingham area, a herring proposal (#236) set off concerns with the Nushagak AC because it would reallocate herring – but the issue was halted. Having meetings like this in local areas makes a difference. It made a difference with people from Manakotak coming to the AC and coming to the BOG meeting to shape the outcome of proposal related to use of SnoGo to position animals. Dunaway reported that caribou are being taken near Ekwok and New Stuyahok. Biologists have noted flocks of ptarmigan. Approximately 50 wolves have been taken though predator control, and hunters have taken another 25-26.

#### *Nanci Morris Lyon*

Not a lot new to add, Richard stole my thunder. Grateful we had such a good fishing year last year and looking forward to another good season. Also noted low ptarmigan numbers. Billy Trefon noted that Groundhog Mountain used to serve as a ptarmigan rookery and you would see thousands of them, but ground activity from mineral exploration has disturbed the ptarmigan.

## **Council Coordinator Report**

Mr. Carl Johnson, Office of Subsistence Management, highlighted new language inserted into the charter at the Department level. The new language reflects Secretarial goals reflected in two Secretarial Orders (SO3347 and 3356) and three Executive Orders (EO12866, 13563, and 13777). He noted that the new language does not add new responsibilities for the Councils, but instead shapes how information is reported back to D.C. regarding the Council's activities.

## **Old Business**

### *Wildlife Proposal WP18-24*

Ms. Suzanne Worker provided the Council an update on recent action taken by the BOG, voting to support the proposal, but limiting positioning to caribou only. The BOG also added restrictions regarding chase. Ms. Worker also provided an overview of the companion Federal proposal and the Council's actions. She then noted that this proposal is on the consensus agenda for the FSB meeting and what that means, noting that if the Council would like it addressed, it should request it be removed from the consensus agenda.

Mr. Dan Dunaway noted that the BOG discussion noted it was important to have an educational component. Ms. Worker discussed the various aspects of developing an educational and outreach program to go with the new State regulations.

Mr. Dunaway moved to ask for WP18-24 to be removed from the FSB consensus agenda, seconded by Richard Wilson. Mr. Dunaway spoke to his motion, noting that while there are strong feelings about use of snowmachines for hunting, having clearer guidance to hunters and having strong outreach and education could help to make it work better.

The Council engaged in discussion on the motion. Ms. Morris Lyon noted she needs convincing, and a paraphrase of the discussion at BOG. Mr. Dunaway noted that there are folks who do the out-and-out chasing, and others who were uncertain how close to go to animals, and others are paranoid about what practices are acceptable. He told stories about encounters with caribou that people seeing from a distance could misinterpret as chasing. He recounted stories of improper and blatant chasing practices. Mr. Wilson was also at the BOG meeting, and noted that staff really took the time to hear from people in the community, people who were worried about getting cited. He noted that law enforcement has challenges, and that people have to be really blatant in the chasing behavior to get cited. It will be a challenge to craft language that allows for positioning and distinguishes from chasing so that each law enforcement officer will not interpret differently. Mr. Maines told stories of how he has used snowmachines in conjunction with hunting caribou, and common tactics to position a hunter ahead of the herd while other hunters use their snowmachines to position the animals toward that hunter. Mr. Dunaway noted there could be inconsistencies between State and Federal regulations if FSB does not discuss and address. He also inquired if there could be some funding for incorporating TEK into education and outreach. Mr. Trefon noted that caribou are constantly moving, and the hunter has to move a lot in order to get to the caribou.

Mr. Carl Johnson, upon request from the chair, provided an explanation of the Council's options on addressing the issue at the upcoming FSB meeting and in the future.

Ms. Suzanna Henry, Togiak NWR Manager, noted she attended the BOG meeting and town hall in Dillingham. She provided an overview of recent law enforcement actions related to chasing caribou. She also noted some public testimony at the town hall. She discussed contacts with Selawik NWR staff on how they handle positioning and challenges that arise. She mentioned the importance of education and outreach.

Ms. Suzanne Worker mentioned existing prohibitions in Unit 17, noting that herding is currently prohibited even though it is not defined. Mr. Dunaway gave an example of a particular experience hunting caribou with other hunters and concerns over whether what he was doing would constitute herding.

The Council further discussed with Mr. Johnson its options at the FSB meeting and in the future. The Council voted unanimously to remove WP18-24 from the FSB consensus agenda.

## **New Business**

### *Call for Federal Fisheries Proposals*

Mr. Scott Ayers with OSM provided an overview of the proposal submission process.

Mr. Trefon discussed the problem of rod and reel not being considered a subsistence gear in Nondalton. Cody from BBNA provided additional information regarding ongoing research and discussions into submitting potential proposals at both the State and Federal level to address the issue.

### *Call for Nonrural Determination Proposals*

Dr. Joshua Ream provided the overview on the call for nonrural determination proposals. He provided an overview on the development and adoption of the new policy on nonrural determinations, and how such proposals are processed according to that policy.

### *Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Update*

Mr. Scott Ayers, OSM, provided an update on the FRMP, noting that funding awards have not yet been granted due to lack of budget and notice from DOI that it will have to approve any grants over \$50,000. Mr. Ayers then transitioned into a discussion on development of Priority Information Needs (PIN) and whether the Council wishes to utilize a working group to develop its PINs. Cody from BBNA addressed development of PINs with the Council and one of the projects designed to address a PIN related to Dolly Varden. He also discussed other fisheries projects in the Bristol Bay region, including one in the Meshik River. Mr. Wilson inquired about monitoring programs for Chinook Salmon and trout in the Alagnak drainage. Cody remarked on the Chinook monitoring, but was not aware of trout. Troy Hammond of NPS also noted he was not aware of any trout monitoring in that drainage. He also discussed other fish monitoring on the Alagnak River. Dunaway, Wilson and Maines provided additional information related to concerns and needs regarding Chinook Salmon. Dunaway also discussed Chinook sport harvest activities and management, including the sport fish mail out survey and the guide log as means

of tracking effort and harvest. The Council endorsed continued use of the working group process to develop the PINs, with Richard Wilson and Dan Dunaway representing the Council.

Mr. Ayers also provided an update for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. He provided an overview of the forthcoming notice for funding opportunities to participate in the Partners program.

#### *Annual Report*

Mr. Carl Johnson provided an overview of the annual report. Dan Dunaway moved to adopt the report, with a second by Mr. Maines. Maines had a question related to the All Chairs meeting. Mr. Wilson inquired as to whether the discussion of fisheries monitoring should be included in the annual report. It is important to the process, and funding needs to be there for monitoring. The more funds diminish, the harder it is for the Council to do its job. Discussion will be incorporated into item No. 3 “Cooperation and Collaboration.”

#### **Agency Reports**

##### *Alaska Peninsula/Behcarof NWR*

Ms. Susan Alexander introduced their new law enforcement officer Pete Harvey. Officer Harvey introduced himself and provided background. A written report was provided and distributed to the Council. Ms. Alexander provided an overview of that report, with an emphasis on the recent moose composition survey and an ongoing Moose Reproduction and Survival Study. She answered questions from the Council about the study and observations related to predation. Mr. Dunaway noted he was increasingly pleased to hear cooperation and collaboration between state and federal agencies. He also noted a national trend to hire more law enforcement on refuges and fewer biologists and expressed concern about that. Mr. Maines asked a question about the longevity of the lake temperature study. Ms. Alexander noted the study started around 2011 and that she hopes, funding allowing, that the study will continue indefinitely. Mr. Wilson asked a question about the science camp, and Ms. Alexander noted that the science camp has not been restarted due to a broader examination of visitor services. Mr. Trefon asked a question about monitoring ptarmigan populations.

##### *Bristol Bay Native Corporation*

Mr. John Kreillcamp of Bristol Bay Alaska Tourism, established by BBNC in 2012, provided an overview of the tourism activities in the region. He provided a PowerPoint presentation that opened with a video from the 1940s called “Angler’s Paradise.” The movie focuses on the efforts of Ray Peterson as a pioneer to promote the area as a world-class fishing destination. The remainder of the PowerPoint included an overview of current tourism operation locations, types of activities such as fly fishing and bear viewing, efforts to include cultural education at Brooks Camp, new facilities (like a new King Salmon passenger facility), and new staff and management. He then provided detailed slides on certain facilities, such as Brooks Camp (bear viewing), Kulik Lodge (fly fishing), Grosvenor Lodge, and Mission Lodge, as well as aircraft operations. He noted that evening fishing has become popular – bear viewing during the day, fishing in the evening. Richard Wilson asked if any analysis has been done regarding impact of catch-and-release fishing on the subsistence resources. Mr. Kreillcamp indicated he did not know the answer to that, but would look into it. Ms. Morris Lyon noted one of the challenges is



the growth of the sport fishing industry, and how lodges can only control so much in sport fishing volume because there are a lot of sport users who access the area outside of the lodges. She added that there is value in the increasing popularity of other aspects of ecotourism. There was also discussion of the Explore.org bear web cam use and operations. There was a general discussion about the benefits of ecotourism in the region and positive reflections on BBNC's involvement in tourism.

#### *Bristol Bay Native Association*

Mr. Cody Larson provided an overview of BBNA activities. Information included monitoring and research, commercial retention (subsistence retention of fish commercially caught), and TEK and household surveys. He also commented on some internship activities. Mr. Dunaway asked questions and there was extended discussion on the issue of subsistence retention of commercially-caught fish and reporting thereof.

#### *Togiak National Wildlife Refuge*

Ms. Suzanna Henry, Refuge Manager, provided an overview of the written report provided in the meeting book. She discussed the winter caribou hunt and the adjustment of the hunt target objectives, including information on current harvest levels. She complimented the Council's role in Unit 17 moose and how that has benefited the population in Unit 18. She also provided an overview of recent staffing changes and the moose survey.

#### *Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group*

Mr. Gilbert Castellanos, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave a presentation on the activities of CAFF and an overview of the Arctic Council. He provided a status update on the activities of the CAFF Working Group under the U.S. chairmanship. This included information on three projects: Monitoring Biodiversity in the Arctic Coasts, U.S. Arctic Youth Ambassadors, Arctic Youth Exchange Program, and the Salmon People of Arctic Rivers. Mr. Castellanos also provided information on CAFF subsistence activities. Mr. Trefon asked about any flora-related activities that CAFF is engaged in. Mr. Maines noted he appreciated that the Arctic Council was looking into salmon people and inquired about an upcoming CAFF meeting in Unalaska. Mr. Maines followed up by noting that he appreciated the work that the Arctic Council is doing and that it was good that Alaska makes the U.S. an Arctic nation so we can be involved.

#### *National Park Service*

Ms. Linda Chisolm, National Park Service provided a report on the recent meeting of the Aniakchak National Monument SRC. She also provided an update on recent and ongoing activities at Katmai National Park, including a road restoration project. Mr. Wilson provided comments on some of the suggestions that he and his tribe had on that project. Mr. Dunaway asked about the status on the progress on the Pike Ridge boundary issue. Troy Hammond noted that they are working on finalizing some details to complete a draft to get out for public comment. Mr. Hammond noted he spoke with the Lake Clark NP fisheries biologist to follow up on the Sixmile Lake issue discussed earlier, with two items to follow up on. He noted that Sixmile Lake proper is probably legal for Federal subsistence activities, and will follow up with OSM and the Solicitor. The other issue is the location of fish camp, which is slightly downstream of the boundary, and it is unclear as to whether that would be "adjacent" waters under the *Katie John* decision.

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game*

Mr. Dave Crowley from ADF&G provided an overview of recent BOG proposals (Proposal 125) and population surveys. He also noted that Tier II hunt permit numbers were increased. Mr. Dunaway inquired about Unit 17 updates, which were provided by Ms. Chris Peterson, the Assistant Area Biologist. She provided information from recent surveys, noting a higher calf:cow ratio in the Weary River drainage area. She also provided information on recent collar telemetry study of cow moose. Based on a query from Mr. Dunaway, she added information on predator control activities in 17C, 9A, 9B and 9C utilizing the aerial program. Aerial program includes aerial shooting as well as land and shooting of wolves. Past efforts included approximately 40 pilots participating in the program and as many as 25-30 gunners. The first year of the program the program harvested 11 wolves. Trappers and hunters harvested about 68 wolves

*Office of Subsistence Management*

Orville Lind, OSM Native Liaison, provided a report, including staffing updates on current hiring efforts, approval of the final fisheries regulations from the last regulatory cycle, applications received for people to serve on the Councils, and budget activities. He then provided an overview of the Tribal Engagement Session conducted in Southeast last October.

**Future Meeting Dates**

The Council confirmed its fall 2018 meeting dates of Nov. 6-7 in Dillingham, and selected February 5-6 in Naknek for its winter 2019 meeting dates. It was noted that the winter meeting needs to start later in the morning, preferably 9:30, as restaurants in the area do not open until 8:00 a.m.

**Closing Comments**

Mr. Dunaway and Ms. Morris Lyon welcomed new member Billy Trefon. Mr. Trefon expressed his gratitude. The Council expressed its need to convene its meetings in Naknek to begin at 9:00 AM. All the restaurants in Naknek – King Salmon don't open until 8:00 am.

Meeting adjourned.

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

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Donald Mike, DFO  
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

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Nanci Morris Lyon, Vice Chair  
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

DRAFT

**FP19–11 Executive Summary**

<p><b>General Description</b></p>	<p>Proposal FP19-11 requests the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) revise section § __.27(e)(5)(vii)(C) of the CFR that authorizes the take of salmon without a permit in Lake Clark and its tributaries. This section currently allows use of snagging (by handline or rod and reel), spear, bow and arrow, or capture by bare hand for the take of salmon in these areas. The requested change is to add Sixmile Lake and its tributaries to the regulation, and add rod and reel as a specified allowable methods and means. <i>Submitted by: Bristol Bay Native Association.</i></p>
<p><b>Proposed Regulation</b></p>	<p><b>§ __.27(e)(5) Bristol Bay Area – Salmon</b></p> <p><i>(v) You may not subsistence fish with nets in the Tazimina River and within one-fourth mile of the terminus of those waters during the period from September 1 through June 14.</i></p> <p><i>* * * *</i></p> <p><i>(vii) Outside the boundaries of any district, unless otherwise specified, you may take salmon by set gillnet only.</i></p> <p><i>* * * *</i></p> <p><i>(C) You may also take salmon without a permit in Lake Clark, <b>Sixmile Lake</b>, and <del>its</del><b>their</b> tributaries by snagging (by handline or rod and reel), using a spear, bow and arrow, <b>rod and reel</b>, or capturing by bare hand.</i></p> <p><i>* * * *</i></p>
<p><b>OSM Preliminary Conclusion</b></p>	<p><b>Support</b> Proposal FP19-11 <b>with modification</b> to specify limits for the Sixmile Lake tributaries to within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, unless otherwise prohibited.</p>
<p><b>Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Recommendation</b></p>	
<p><b>Interagency Staff Committee Comments</b></p>	
<p><b>ADF&amp;G Comments</b></p>	
<p><b>Written Public Comments</b></p>	<p><b>None</b></p>



**DRAFT STAFF ANALYSIS  
FP19-11**

**ISSUES**

Proposal FP19-11, submitted by the Bristol Bay Native Association, requests the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) revise section § \_\_.27(e)(5)(vii)(C) of the CFR that authorizes the take of salmon without a permit in Lake Clark and its tributaries. This section currently allows use of snagging (by handline or rod and reel), spear, bow and arrow, or capture by bare hand for the take of salmon in these areas. The requested change is to add Sixmile Lake and its tributaries to the regulation, and add rod and reel as a specified allowable methods and means.

**DISCUSSION**

According to the proponent, the intents of the proposal are to include Sixmile Lake in this specific regulation for the harvest of salmon, and add rod and reel as an additional allowable methods and means in this regulation. The proponents notes that the waters of Sixmile Lake are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and the regulations should extend to them. They also identify that rod and reel is currently only allowed for snagging, which is defined as hooking or attempting to hook a fish elsewhere than in the mouth. The proponent further clarified that past interactions between state law enforcement and subsistence fishers on Sixmile Lake led to local concerns regarding legal harvest methods and was an impetus behind the submission of the proposal.

The intent of the proposal was clarified with the proponent on June 25, 2018. The proponent noted that the proposal was submitted on behalf of the Nondalton Tribal Council, which wanted rod and reel to be legal subsistence harvest method. They mentioned that Federal subsistence management regulations only allow this gear type in the area for the harvest of Rainbow Trout, that rod and reel is a documented historic subsistence gear type for salmon in this area, and that a similar proposal was submitted for consideration with the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

**Existing Federal Regulation**

**§ \_\_.25 *Subsistence taking of fish, wildlife, and shellfish: general regulations***

*(a) Definitions. The following definitions apply to all regulations contained in this part:*

*Rod and reel means either a device upon which a line is stored on a fixed or revolving spool and is deployed through guides mounted on a flexible pole, or a line that is attached to a pole. In either case, bait or an artificial fly or lure is used as terminal tackle. This definition does not include the use of rod and reel gear for snagging.*

*Snagging means hooking or attempting to hook a fish elsewhere than in the mouth.*

**§\_\_\_.27(e)(5) Bristol Bay Area**

*(v) You may not subsistence fish with nets in the Tazimina River and within one-fourth mile of the terminus of those waters during the period from September 1 through June 14.*

\* \* \* \*

*(vii) Outside the boundaries of any district, unless otherwise specified, you may take salmon by set gillnet only.*

*(A) You may also take salmon by spear in the Togiak River, excluding its tributaries.*

*(B) You may also use drift gillnets not greater than 10 fathoms in length to take salmon in the Togiak River in the first two river miles upstream from the mouth of the Togiak River to the ADF&G regulatory markers.*

*(C) You may also take salmon without a permit in Lake Clark and its tributaries by snagging (by handline or rod and reel), using a spear, bow and arrow, or capturing by bare hand.*

\* \* \* \*

*(xvii) You may take rainbow trout only by rod and reel or jigging gear. Rainbow trout daily harvest and possession limits are two per day/two in possession with no size limit from April 10 through October 31 and five per day/five in possession with no size limit from November 1 through April 9.*

**Proposed Federal Regulation**

**§\_\_\_.27(e)(5) Bristol Bay Area**

*(v) You may not subsistence fish with nets in the Tazimina River and within one-fourth mile of the terminus of those waters during the period from September 1 through June 14.*

\* \* \* \*

*(vii) Outside the boundaries of any district, unless otherwise specified, you may take salmon by set*

*gillnet only.*

\* \* \* \*

*(C) You may also take salmon without a permit in Lake Clark, **Sixmile Lake**, and ~~its~~**their** tributaries by snagging (by handline or rod and reel), using a spear, bow and arrow, **rod and reel**, or capturing by bare hand.*

\* \* \* \*

*(xvii) You may take rainbow trout only by rod and reel or jigging gear. Rainbow trout daily harvest and possession limits are two per day/two in possession with no size limit from April 10 through October 31 and five per day/five in possession with no size limit from November 1 through April 9.*

## **Existing State Regulation**

### **5 AAC 01.005. Subsistence fishing permitted**

*Finfish other than salmon, rainbow trout, and steelhead trout may be taken for subsistence purposes at any time in any area of the state by any method unless restricted by the subsistence fishing regulations in this chapter. Salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes only as provided in this chapter.*

### **5 AAC 01.310. Fishing seasons and periods**

*(a) Unless restricted in this section and 5 AAC 01.325, or unless restricted under the terms of a subsistence fishing permit, fish, other than rainbow trout, may be taken at any time in the Bristol Bay Area.*

### **5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications**

*(b) Outside the boundaries of any district, salmon may be taken by set gillnet, except that salmon may also be taken as follows:*

*(5) by spear in Lake Clark, excluding its tributaries;*

*(6) by gillnet and beach seine in Iliamna Lake, Six Mile Lake, and Lake Clark*

*(l) Subsistence fishing by the use of a hook and line attached to a pole is prohibited, except when fishing through the ice.*

### **5 AAC 01.330. Subsistence fishing permits**

(a) *Salmon may only be taken under authority of a subsistence fishing permit.\**

(b) *Repealed 4/15/81.*

(c) *Only one subsistence fishing permit may be issued to each household per year.*

**5 AAC 01.325. Waters closed to subsistence fishing**

(c) *From September 1 through June 14, subsistence fishing with a net is prohibited in the following waters and within one-fourth mile of the terminus of those waters:*

(9) *Tazimina River;*

\*A copy of the current State subsistence permit can be found in **Appendix 1**.

**Extent of Federal Public Waters**

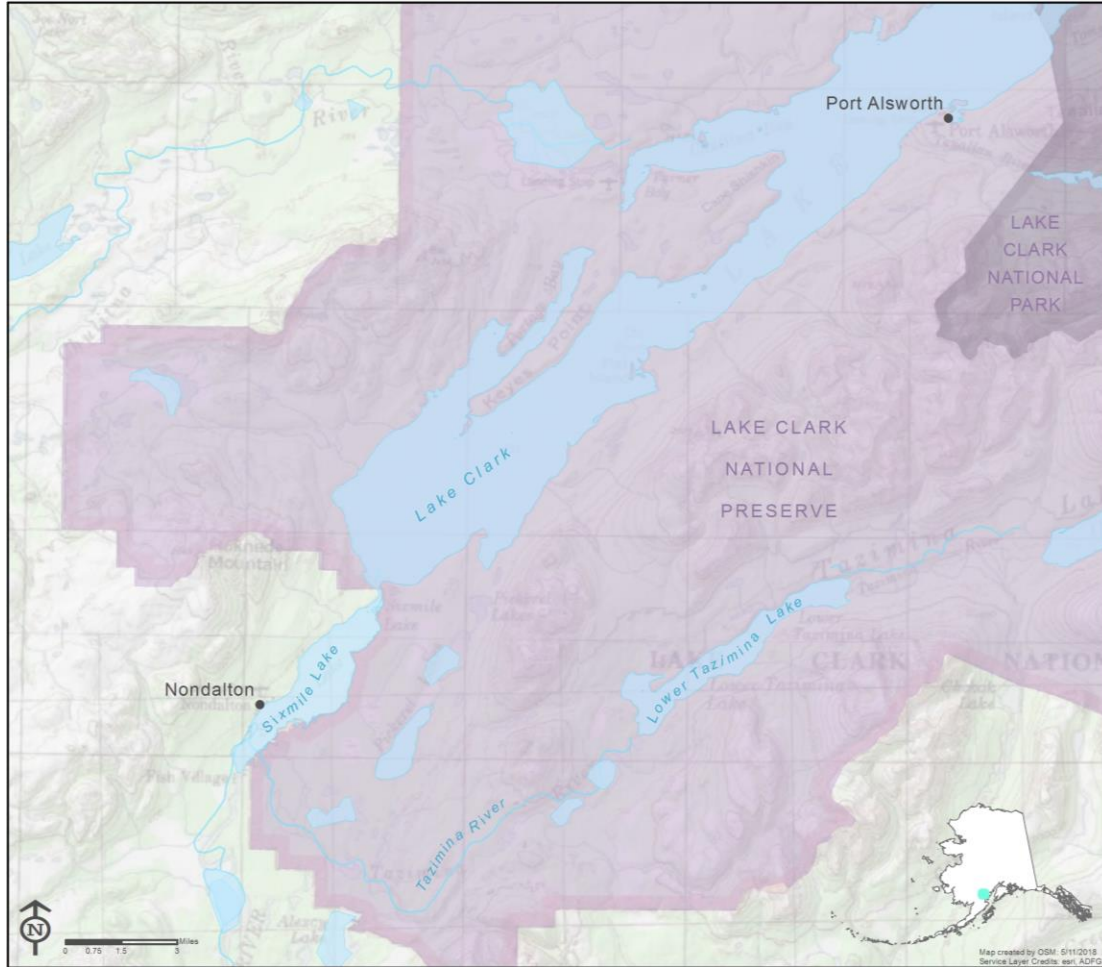
For purposes of this discussion, the phrase “Federal public waters” is defined as those waters described under 36 CFR §242.3 and 50 CFR §100.3. Federal public waters comprise those waters within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (**Figure 1**).

**Customary and Traditional Use Determinations**

Rural residents of the Kvichak/Iliamna-Lake Clark drainage have a customary and traditional use determination for salmon and freshwater fish in the Naknek-Kvichak District–Kvichak/Iliamna–Lake Clark drainage.

Under the guidelines of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), National Park Service regulations identify qualified local rural subsistence users in National Parks and National Monuments by: (1) identifying Resident Zone Communities, which includes a significant concentration of people who have customarily and traditionally used subsistence resources on park lands; and (2) identifying and issuing subsistence use (13.440) permits to individuals residing outside of the Resident Zone Communities who have a personal or family history of subsistence use within the park or monument.





**Figure 1.** Lake Clark, Sixmile Lake, and the Newhalen River drainage.

### Regulatory History

The Board adopted the current regulatory framework for the Bristol Bay Fishery Management Area from existing State subsistence regulations in 1999. The closure to fishing with nets in the Tazimina River (a tributary of Sixmile Lake) and within one-fourth mile of the terminus of those waters during the period from September 1 through June 14, was incorporated into Federal subsistence management regulations at this time.

During the 2007 regulatory cycle, the Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (Lake Clark SRC) submitted proposal FP07-06 to add the use of snagging (with rod and reel), spear or arrow, and hand capture be permitted as legal methods and gear type for use in Lake Clark by Federally qualified subsistence users of Nondalton, Port Alsworth, Pedro Bay, Iliamna, and Newhalen (OSM 2007a). The Board adopted proposal FP07-06, with modification to allow the take of salmon in Lake Clark and its tributaries by snagging (by handline or rod and reel), using a spear, bow and arrow, and capturing by bare hand (FSB 2007a).

During that same regulatory cycle, the Lake Clark SRC submitted a separate proposal (FP07-07) requesting that beach seine be added as a legal gear type for use in Lake Clark and tributaries by the same Federally qualified users as for FP7-06 (OSM 2007a). The Board adopted the proposal with a modification recommended by the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to exclude tributaries of Lake Clark and to limit the length of the net to 25 fathoms (FSB 2007a). The Board also discussed whether Sixmile Lake and its tributaries could be included in the proposal. Concerns were raised during Board discussion of whether Sixmile Lake and all of its tributaries were considered Federal public waters as not all of them were within the boundary of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The Board moved forward on the proposal without including Sixmile Lake, with the intent of bringing up the topic again at a future meeting following clarification of the jurisdiction issue. During its May 2007 meeting, the Board was notified that the Solicitor's Office did find Federal jurisdiction for Sixmile Lake as it is adjacent to the Park boundary. However, the Board took no further action on adding these waters to the beach seine regulation (FSB 2007b).

For the 2008 regulatory cycle, the Lake Clark SRC submitted Proposal FP08-12 that requested the addition of traditional small scale subsistence fish traps and weirs made of wooden stakes to the list of legal subsistence fishing gear for tributaries of Lake Clark (OSM 2007b). The Board adopted the proposal with modification to specify that fyke net and lead could be used to target fish other than Rainbow Trout, and to limit the scope to the tributaries of Lake Clark and the tributaries of Sixmile Lake within and adjacent to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (FSB 2007c). They further specified that the fyke net trap had to be constructed of wood materials, and that a Federal permit was required.

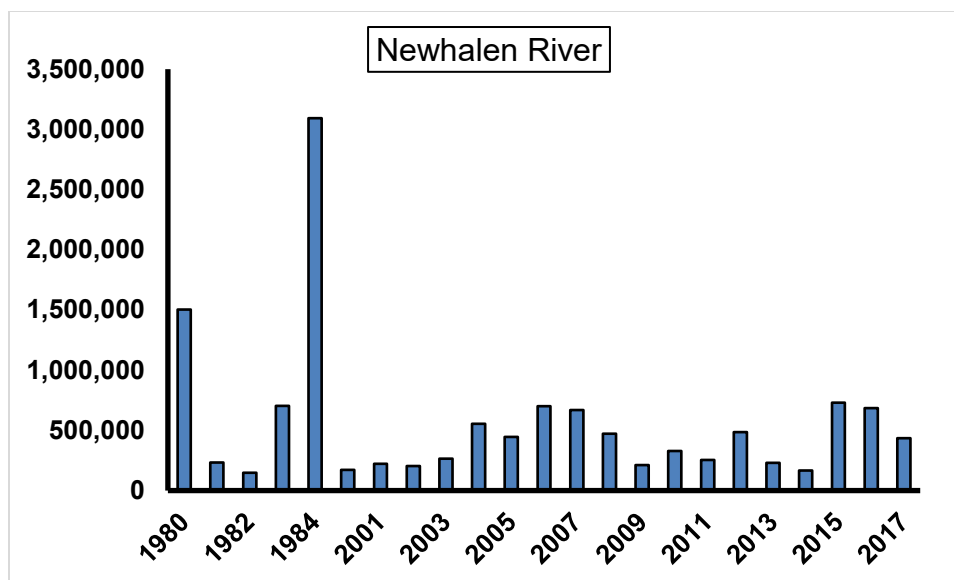
### **Current Events**

A similar proposal has been submitted to the State Board of Fisheries by the Nondalton Tribal Council. The request is to allow hook and line attached to a rod or pole in Sixmile Lake and within one-half mile of the outlet as a subsistence gear type. The request asks for the same limits specified in the sport fishing regulations for the area, and stipulates that a person may not sport fish for salmon and take salmon under a subsistence permit on the same day.

The State Board of Fisheries will take up the proposal at its Bristol Bay Finfish meeting in Dillingham. The meeting is scheduled for November 28 to December 4, 2018.

### **Biological Background**

Sixmile Lake is host to Chinook, Coho, and Sockeye Salmon, Arctic Char, Arctic Grayling, Humpback Whitefish, Lake Trout, Longnose Sucker, Ninespine Stickleback, Rainbow Trout, Round Whitefish, sculpin, and Threespine Stickleback (ADF&G and NPS 1980, Johnson and Blossom 2017, AFFI 2018). Sockeye Salmon predominate the salmon returns into and through the lake. Observed tower counts on the Newhalen River downstream of the lake have ranged between 147,294 and 3,091,620 Sockeye Salmon between the years 1980 and 2017, although median returns are closer to 400,000 fish per year (**Figure 2**). In 2018, Sockeye Salmon returns to the area were low early in the season, prompting some restrictions to sport and commercial harvests. However, the drainage ultimately met escapement before the end of the run.



**Figure 2.** Sockeye Salmon passage counts at the Newhalen Counting Tower, 1980-2017 (Young 2018, pers. comm.).

There are two primary tributary systems apart from Lake Clark that feed into Sixmile Lake; the Pickerel Lakes and Tazimina Lakes drainages (**Figure 1**). Both systems enter the lake on its eastern edge, and are wholly contained within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve borders. The Pickerel Lakes drainage is the smaller of the two, includes three lakes, and has been found to contain Arctic Grayling, Humpback Whitefish, Northern Pike, Least Cisco, Round Whitefish, Sockeye Salmon, and Slimy Sculpin (ADF&G and NPS 1980). The Tazimina Lakes drainage contains two lakes that are both substantially larger and deeper than any of the Pickerel Lakes, as well as a waterfall nine miles upstream from its confluence with Sixmile Lake. The waterfall is also the site of a hydroelectric plant that provides power to Nondalton, Newhalen, and Iliamna. The lakes are host to Arctic Char, Arctic Grayling, Dolly Varden, Slimy Sculpin, and Threespine Stickleback. Fish species in the river below the falls include Arctic Char, Arctic Grayling, Dolly Varden, Longnose Sucker, Round Whitefish, Slimy Sculpin, Sockeye Salmon, and Threespine Stickleback (ADF&G and NPS 1980). The lower portion of the river supports both subsistence and recreational fisheries.

The popular Rainbow Trout recreational fishery in lower Tazimina River was designated as a catch-and-release special management area for the species following adoption of the Southwest Alaska Rainbow Trout Management Plan. The plan has a conservative wild stock management philosophy and seeks a more orderly and comprehensive mix of rainbow trout opportunities throughout the two areas it covers (Dye and Schwanke 2009). Although the Rainbow Trout population was deemed healthy during cooperative studies by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service, which examined sport angler effort, catch, harvest, and boat use in the Tazimina River in 1987 and 1988 (Brookover 1989), concern over the stock was raised in the 1990's by local residents and recreational anglers. This prompted another study in 2004, which found that although the proportion of larger fish (over 500 mm) was lower than in past surveys, there was an increase in the total number of Rainbow Trout (Schwanke and Evans 2005). Limitations to the Rainbow Trout fisheries at the time, catch and release

only for sport fishing, and rod and reel as the only gear type allowed for Federal subsistence harvest, may have played a large part in the increase in abundance. Fishing with nets in the Tazimina River and within one-fourth mile of the terminus of those waters between September 1 and June 14 is prohibited under both Federal and State subsistence regulations as an additional conservation measure for these fish.

## Harvest History

### Subsistence

A permit is not required for Federal subsistence fishing for salmon in Lake Clark and its tributaries. As such, there is no information on Federal subsistence salmon harvest for this area.

State subsistence fishing requires a permit (**Appendix 1**) to harvest salmon in this area. Estimates of harvest by residents of Nondalton over the last ten-year period with data available (**Table 1**) show that Sockeye Salmon is the predominant fish species harvested by the community. Mean estimated harvest in this fishery has been around 8,000 Sockeye Salmon per year during this time, with average estimated harvests ranging between 250 and 400 Sockeye Salmon per permit.

### Sport Fishing

Sport fishing harvest estimates are not available specific to Sixmile Lake. However, there are estimates for the Newhalen River drainage, which includes Sixmile Lake. Similar to subsistence fishing, Sockeye Salmon are the dominant species harvested over the last ten year period with data available (**Table 2**). Rainbow Trout, Lake Trout, Arctic Char/Dolly Varden, and Arctic Grayling are also regularly caught in the sport fishery, with lesser catches of Northern Pike and whitefishes also reported (Alaska Sport Fishing Survey 2018).

**Table 1.** Estimated salmon harvest by residents of the community of Nondalton, 2006-2015 (Fall et al. 2009a, 2009b, 2011, 2012, 2013a, 2013b, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018).

Year	Permits Issued	Permits Returned	Chinook Salmon	Sockeye Salmon	Total
2006	26	24	0	8,885	8,885
2007	29	26	0	7,902	7,902
2008	28	24	0	8,917	8,917
2009	20	19	8	5,846	5,854
2010	14	14	0	3,185	3,185
2011	25	25	0	7,947	7,947
2012	31	30	0	9,327	9,327
2013	29	16	0	10,565	10,565
2014	29	21	0	9,004	9,004
2015	22	14	0	8,762	8,762

**Table 2.** Estimates of sport fish harvest for the Newhalen River drainage, 2006-2015 (Alaska Sport Fishing Survey 2018)

YEAR	Coho Salmon	Sockeye Salmon	Pink Salmon	Salmon Total
2006	0	2,085	0	2,085
2007	58	1,886	0	1,944
2008	54	1,039	18	1,189
2009	0	2,662	0	2,662
2010	32	753	0	785
2013	115	2,182	0	2,297
2015	148	4,598	0	4,746

YEAR	Rainbow Trout	Lake Trout	Dolly Varden/ Arctic Char	Arctic Grayling
2006	72	10	37	96
2007	10	26	69	15
2008	272	115	137	107
2009	0	0	22	17
2010	87	17	70	65
2013	35	33	0	67
2015	20	16	20	45

**Cultural Knowledge and Traditional Practices**

For people living in Nondalton, salmon have long been a staple resource and fish camps continue to be an important part of the subsistence way of life (Townsend 1981, Fall et al. 2010). Prior to the early twentieth century, the Dena’ina Athabascans utilized weirs, basket traps, dip nets, and antler spears to harvest salmon. Eventually, gillnets became the dominate gear type for catching salmon (Townsend 1981), but rod and reel also was and continues to be highly utilized in the Kvichak watershed (Krieg et al. 2005, Fall et al. 2010). In the 1960’s, Townsend (1981) noted fish camps strung out along the mouth of the Newhalen River and the shore line of Sixmile Lake by Nondalton. An Alaska Department of Fish and Game technical report documented the continued significance of Nondalton fish camps in the area, most of which were located on Sixmile Lake (Fall et al. 2010).

The ADF&G Division of Subsistence conducted comprehensive subsistence surveys in Nondalton for the 2004 harvest year and subsistence salmon surveys for both the 2007 and 2008 harvest years (Fall et al. 2006, Fall et al. 2010). For the 2004 survey year, salmon made up 62% of the estimated community harvest of all wild foods, or about 204 lbs. per capita. Salmon were reported used by 92% of Nondalton households and approximately 87% of households reported harvesting salmon, which is a markedly high level of community participation in the fishery. Likewise, the harvest and use of nonsalmon fish was also high. Nonsalmon fish made up 9% of Nondalton’s total community harvest for 2004, or about 40 lbs. per capita. An estimated 82% of the households used nonsalmon fish and an estimated 76% of households reported harvesting nonsalmon fish. The majority of the salmon harvested in 2004 was taken by set net (approximately 74%) or seine (19%), and a very small percentage was reported harvested by rod and reel

(5%). Nonsalmon fish were reported harvested by set net, seine, handline, jigging through the ice, and rod and reel.

By 2007 and 2008, the documented harvest of salmon had declined significantly, down to 74 lbs. per capita in 2007 and 68 lbs. per capita in 2008. However, household use of the resource remained high. In 2007, all households in the community were estimated to have used salmon and 96% reported harvesting salmon. In 2008, 91% of households were estimated to have used salmon and 81% of households were estimated as having harvested salmon. The 2010 report did not describe the percentage of the total salmon harvest by gear type as in the 2006 report and instead described the percentage of households using a particular gear type for salmon harvest for each season. Many households used more than one gear type to harvest salmon depending on the species and location of harvest. Gear type used to harvest salmon in 2007 was reported as gillnet (69% of the households), seine (42% of the households), and rod and reel (35% of the households). In 2008, gillnet was used by 66% of the households, seine by 34% of households, and rod and reel by 28% of households.

### **Effects of the Proposal**

If adopted, and current regulations governing fishing for salmon in Lake Clark and its tributaries are extended to Sixmile Lake and its tributaries, and rod and reel are added as an additional gear type, both actions will result in additional opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users.

Sixmile Lake is adjacent to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and is already included in Federal subsistence management regulations that allow the use of fyke net and lead for the take of fish (except Rainbow Trout) in tributaries of Lake Clark and tributaries of Sixmile Lake. The current regulation limits the Sixmile Lake tributaries to within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, unless otherwise prohibited. There is a prohibition on fishing with nets in the Tazimina River and within one-quarter mile of the terminus of those waters between September 1 and June 14 in both Federal and State regulations. Extending these additional capture methods and means to Sixmile Lake and its tributaries would benefit Federally qualified subsistence users that harvest salmon in this area.

The proposed regulation may create regulatory conflict as tributaries on the North and West side of the lake are outside of the boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The Solicitor's office has advised that it is not clear that the tributaries fall within the jurisdiction of the Board, so they are not being considered in this analysis.

The addition of rod and reel as a gear type would allow for the targeted taking of salmon by hooking in the mouth. This change would apply to those areas currently in regulation for this set of regulations, Lake Clark and its tributaries, as well as Sixmile Lake and its tributaries if they are added through this process. Currently, rod and reel is an approved gear type only for the take of salmon by snagging, which is defined as hooking or attempting to hook a fish elsewhere than in the mouth. Rod and reel is not an approved gear type for this area under State subsistence regulations. Rod and reel is an allowable harvest method under State sport fishing regulations, but requires the purchase of a sport fishing license. This addition would allow Federally qualified subsistence users to specifically target salmon by hooking in the mouth without the requirement to purchase a sport fishing license. Snagging is a method commonly used for the taking of



Sockeye Salmon as they are not always prone to bite at hooks/lures. This change may allow Federally qualified subsistence users to target salmon species that are more prone to taking a hook in the mouth (e.g., Coho Salmon), and may increase the harvest of these species through means other than set gillnet.

Currently, State subsistence regulations only allow for the use of gillnets and beach seine for salmon in Sixmile Lake. Adding these additional gear types to Federal subsistence management regulations will create additional disparity between the two sets of subsistence regulations, and may create difficulties for enforcement.

If not adopted, salmon taken in Sixmile Lake will be restricted to fyke net and lead (only with a permit) or set gillnet. Additionally, Federally qualified subsistence users in Lake Clark and its tributaries or Sixmile Lake and its tributaries will not have the flexibility to target salmon under Federal regulations with rod and reel other than by snagging.

### **OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION**

**Support** Proposal FP19-11 **with modification** to specify limits for the Sixmile Lake tributaries to within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, unless otherwise prohibited.

The modified regulation should read:

**§\_\_\_.27(e)(5) *Bristol Bay Area***

*(v) You may not subsistence fish with nets in the Tazimina River and within one-fourth mile of the terminus of those waters during the period from September 1 through June 14.*

*(C) You may also take salmon without a permit in **Sixmile Lake and its tributaries within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve unless otherwise prohibited, and Lake Clark and its tributaries, by snagging (by handline or rod and reel), using a spear, bow and arrow, rod and reel, or capturing by bare hand.***

### **Justification**

Extending these gear types, which are already currently in use for Lake Clark and its tributaries, to Sixmile Lake and some of its tributaries will provide additional opportunity for Federally qualified users of Nondalton and other communities with a customary and traditional use of salmon in this area. There have been no identified issues related to these gear types in Lake Clark and its tributaries, and so allowing them slightly further down this drainage should not create biological concerns. Extending these gear allowances is reasonable as there are currently existing Federal regulations for Sixmile Lake tributaries for the use of fyke nets.

Similar to the fyke net fishery, this fishery should be restricted to Sixmile Lake and those tributaries of Sixmile Lake within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. This is in line with advisement from the Solicitor's office regarding ambiguity over the Board's jurisdiction for the other tributaries to Sixmile Lake.

Adding rod and reel to the allowed list of gear types is reasonable, as this gear type is already available for snagging salmon. This change would provide an additional user opportunity for harvest of salmon species that will take hooks in the mouth in Lake Clark and its tributaries and Sixmile Lake and its restricted set of tributaries. This gear type has been and continues to be used by residents of this area for harvest of fish. This additional opportunity will be particularly meaningful to those residents of Nondalton who wish to take advantage of different gear types while at fish camp. There have been no identified concerns related to the harvest of salmon by rod and reel for these locations. As the State currently prohibits the use of this gear type in Sixmile Lake, allowing this gear type under Federal regulations will provide a meaningful rural priority.

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APPENDIX 1



**Alaska Department of Fish & Game**  
**Bristol Bay Subsistence Salmon Fishery Permit**  
**ALASKA RESIDENTS ONLY**

Community	_____
Permit No.	_____
Year	_____

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial  Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of year-round residents in household ▶

Names of household members who will assist in operation of subsistence net:  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

Drainage to be fished: Naknek  Kvichak  Egegik  Ugashik   
 Nushagak  Togiak  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Primary fishing location (specific): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of fathoms allowed at this site: 10  25  Gear type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please specify set gear, drift gear, spear, or dip net.

I understand that I am applying for a subsistence fishing permit for my household in accordance with current regulations and hereby swear the information contained on this application is a true statement as witnessed by my signature below; and that I have been an Alaska resident for the last calendar year.

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY ISSUING OFFICER ONLY**

The above-named person and designated household members are authorized to fish for salmon for subsistence purposes in the Bristol Bay Area during the calendar year of \_\_\_\_\_ according to current laws and regulations of the State of Alaska.

Authorizing Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Only one subsistence salmon fishing permit may be issued to each household per year. People using the net/site and not of this household are required to have their own permit and file a separate report of their harvest.
  2. Fish caught for subsistence uses may not be sold or allowed to enter commercial use.
  3. An accurate record of fish taken under authority of this permit must be returned to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game when the permit expires. Failure to return subsistence catch records is grounds for denial of future permit privileges.
- NOTE: Commercially-caught salmon may also be utilized for subsistence purposes and must be reported on the back of this form as well as a Commercial Fish ticket.**

**Return form to:** (fax) 907-267-2450/ (email) [dfg.sub.permits@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.sub.permits@alaska.gov)/ or  
 Division of Subsistence, ADF&G, 333 Raspberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99518

## ANNUAL REPORTS

### **Background**

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

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

### **Report Content**

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

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

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

### **Report Clarity**

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

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



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

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

### **Report Format**

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

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



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

## Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

AUG 24 2018



FOREST SERVICE

OSM 180062.DM

Molly Chythlook, Chair  
Bristol Bay Subsistence  
Regional Advisory Council  
c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
1101 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chairwoman Chythlook:

This letter responds to the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's (Council) fiscal year 2017 Annual Report. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have delegated to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) the responsibility to respond to these reports. The Board appreciates your effort in developing the Annual Report. Annual Reports allow the Board to become aware of the issues outside of the regulatory process that affect subsistence users in your region. We value this opportunity to review the issues concerning your region.

### **1. Moose Populations in Unit 17C**

*The Council is very concerned with moose populations in Unit 17C. The Fall 2016 moose composition count estimated 1,000 moose with 22 bulls/100 cows and 13 calves/100 cows in the Nushagak River drainage. These extremely low calf recruitment numbers are disturbing to the Council.*

*Interagency cooperation and funding to continue biological studies and composition surveys to monitor the moose population within the two survey units is critical. The Council believes it is important to have access to recent data to assist managers in developing conservative management action. In addition, recent data will assist the Council with developing recommendations for regulatory issues on the best available data.*

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**Response:**

In responding to the Council's concern, it is important to note that composition surveys are not designed to estimate population size. Rather, using a subset of the population in selected areas, composition surveys estimate the proportion of the population in each of three categories: bull, cow, or calf. These estimates are then used to develop bull:cow and calf:cow ratios. In 2016, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) classified approximately 1,000 moose in portions of Unit 17C for their composition estimates. This does not reflect population size within a specific geographical area.

In addition to composition surveys, moose population surveys are conducted periodically in Unit 17C by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. A portion of Unit 17C was most recently surveyed in 2017. Understanding moose dynamics in Units 17B and 17C has been identified as a regional priority by ADF&G, and it began monitoring radio collared cow moose in spring 2017 to estimate productivity and recruitment.

**2. Arctic Hare and Ptarmigan Population**

*Residents of Bristol Bay, as well as local wildlife biologists for the Bristol Bay area, are concerned that Arctic hare and ptarmigan population are in decline. Arctic hare and ptarmigan are subsistence resources for the region that residents rely on.*

*Currently there is no limit for harvest of hare and hunting is open to all rural residents under current Federal Subsistence regulations. Ptarmigan has harvest limits, but is also open to all rural residents. To address the low population of the Arctic hare and ptarmigan, land managing agencies should initiate a population study for both species. If the population is at its lowest level and conservation concerns exist, emergency management action can be implemented. Through the regulatory process, agencies can begin to establish season and harvest limits, until the population is sustainable to allow for increased harvest.*

**Response:**

This concern addresses two separate species, to which the Board will respond individually.

Biologists make a distinction between Arctic hare (*Lepus arcticus*), whose distribution is limited to Greenland and northern Canada, and Alaska hare (*Lepus othus*), which are found in western

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Alaska from Kotzebue Sound to the Alaska Peninsula. To reflect contemporary naming conventions, this reply will refer to Alaska hares rather than to Arctic hares.

Historically, Alaska hare populations have not been monitored by State or Federal managers. Consequently, the abundance of Alaska hares in the Bristol Bay region has not been quantified. However, biologists from ADF&G's Small Game Program have recently initiated a project aimed at better understanding Alaska hare in the Bristol Bay region. The project includes community visits to gather local knowledge about Alaska hares and hunting practices, as well as efforts to trap and collar hares to better understand movement patterns, mortality and overall life history. Early trapping efforts were unsuccessful but additional fieldwork is planned through spring 2019.

Prior to regulatory year 2017/2018, neither State nor Federal regulation distinguished among hare species. However, in early 2018, the Alaska Board of Game created a separate season for Alaska hare, which includes conservative harvest limits. The Council is encouraged to discuss whether proposing similar changes in Federal regulation is appropriate. The next call for Federal wildlife proposals will open in spring 2019.

### Ptarmigan

Ptarmigan projects conducted by ADF&G's Small Game Program have been limited to areas along Alaska's road system. Within the Bristol Bay region, recent monitoring of ptarmigan populations have been limited to surveys conducted on the northern Alaska Peninsula by the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge between 2011 and 2015. Typically conducted every other year, these surveys were not conducted in 2017, pending development of the Refuge's Inventory and Monitoring Plan. The outcome of this planning process will influence ptarmigan monitoring into the future.

Despite the lack of formal surveys, there are ways the Council can contribute to improved conservation and understanding of these species. First, the Council can consider whether more conservative harvest management is warranted. For the 2018/2019 regulatory year, the Alaska Board of Game shortened the ptarmigan season in Unit 9, and the Federal Subsistence Board reduced harvest and possession limits in Unit 18. Similar proposals could be considered throughout the Bristol Bay region. The State also issued emergency order EO 03-04-18, providing for reduced ptarmigan limits in Units 12, 20, and 25C, effective July 1, 2018.

The Council can also encourage hunter participation in ADF&G's wing collection program. This program is a cost-effective way for managers to gather information about harvest composition and brood production, even in the absence of more formal studies. Unfortunately, participation has been low in the Bristol Bay region, limiting the utility of the program in this area. Increasing participation is one way local users can contribute to the collective body of knowledge. Participation is free, with postage-paid envelopes provided by ADF&G to hunters.

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ADF&G will also provide participants with information about the birds they harvested, including age and sex. Additional information about the wing collection program is available through ADF&G's Small Game Program.

### **3. Cooperation and Collaboration**

*The Council is interested in having tools and resources available for adapting to climate change. The environment has changed dramatically, which affects both subsistence access and fish and wildlife. Further analysis and research are needed, with cooperation from State and Federal agencies, to address the impacts of climate change on subsistence resources.*

*The Council would like to see climate change reports, including impacts on fish and wildlife populations where known, presented at its meetings. The analysis and research provided on climate change, including fish and wildlife populations. This will provide rural residents with necessary information to adjust their activities around the seasonal harvest of subsistence resources.*

#### **Response:**

The Board agrees that it needs to increase awareness and understandings of impacts of global climate change on rural communities and subsistence resources of the Bristol Bay Area. The Board can direct the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) to submit requests to the State of Alaska and other Federal Agencies to present available climate change related subject matters as they pertain to the Bristol Bay Region and resources. As this is a relatively new field of study in Alaska, available information of interest may be currently limited but as this field of science evolves, more information should become available to assist the Council in their future decision making processes.

One tool for gaining this understanding is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. There is a paragraph in the introduction to Priority Information Need booklet that states:

Because cumulative effects of climate change may fundamentally affect the availability of subsistence fishery resources, as well as their uses, and how they are managed, investigators are encouraged to consider examining or discussing climate change effects as a component of their project. Investigators conducting stock status projects may be required to participate in a standardized air and water temperature monitoring program.

You may include in the Priority Information Needs that you develop a request for research on changes to subsistence fisheries resources and harvest related to global climate change. Specific areas of priority could include fish movement, fish quality, and harvest and food preservation methods, including implications and recommendations for subsistence management.

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The Board is interested in environmental changes that may now be impacting the subsistence way of life in Western Alaska such as melting permafrost, thaw slumps, increased water temperature, draining of tundra lakes, altered patterns of snow and rain, and changes in timing of freeze-up and break-up, variations in run timing of salmon, and impacts to herd migrations. Local knowledge is an important tool in monitoring the impacts of climate change. The Board is interested in discussions with the Council regarding possible collaborative research studies on local knowledge of changing conditions and how these affect access to and quality and quantity of subsistence resources. The Board understands that there may be a need for flexibility in regulation in terms of shifting harvest seasons to allow residents to adapt to these changing conditions. Examples of this flexibility have taken place with the changes in winter season dates for caribou in parts of Bristol Bay have been granted due to low levels or lack of snow cover which delayed access to hunters.

The Board encourages the Council to use the existing regulatory system. For example, if an unusually mild winter has impaired the ability of subsistence harvesters to take moose, the Council may submit a Special Action request to extend the subsistence moose season. The Office of Subsistence Management staff will help the Council to develop proposals to the Alaska Boards of Game and Fisheries, and coordinate discussions with local State managers regarding State in-season actions. If that pattern persists over time, a proposal could be submitted to lengthen the season in Federal regulation. The Board encourages the Council to communicate appropriate information to the Board through your public meeting process and Council Coordinator. This will help staff in the Federal Subsistence Management Program better understand changing conditions in Bristol Bay and enable the Board to work more effectively with the Council to adopt flexible regulations.

The Board encourages the Council to take advantage of information available in the following online sources:

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy (ACCAP)  
<https://cpo.noaa.gov/Meet-the-Divisions/Climate-and-Societal-Interactions/RISA/RISA-Teams/ACCAP>

Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center  
<https://casc.alaska.edu/>

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Climate Change in Alaska  
<https://dec.alaska.gov/climate-change/>

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna  
<https://www.caff.is/>

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Climate Change



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<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=ecosystems.climate>

Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network  
<https://lccnetwork.org/>

Scenarios Network for Alaska + Arctic Planning  
<https://www.snap.uaf.edu/>

EPA – Climate Change Impacts in Alaska  
<https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-alaska.html>

Local Environmental Observer Network  
<https://www.leonetwork.org>

#### **4. Agency Representatives**

*Federal and State agency representatives need to be present at Council meetings. It is very important for the Council members to have immediate access to information when discussing complex regulatory and policy issues that arise from Council deliberations. Fish and wildlife managers are the subject matter experts that can provide information for the Council.*

*The Council has recognized a lack of agency participation at its recent meetings and has been informed this may be due to lack of funding and/or personnel. The Council, however, encourages participation during the biannual public meetings. While it is difficult to have a dialog, participation by telephone would be a secondary resolution.*

#### **Response:**

The process for engaging State and Federal staff starts with your Council Coordinator. Based on Council input and issues that need to be presented to Councils, the Coordinator drafts the agenda for the meeting. Once that agenda is drafted, it is circulated to regional agency contacts, with an invitation to participate in the meeting, contribute agenda items, and provide reports. Your Council Coordinator needs to remain engaged with those contacts to ensure their participation. But, as the Council recognizes, overall budgets and travel budgets in particular, as well as staffing cuts and hiring freezes, may impair the ability of a State or Federal agency or offices to provide staff at the meeting. Additionally, some agencies might choose to not participate if they do not see something specific on the agenda to their area of management or jurisdiction. If there is something not specifically on the agenda, but you wish a particular agency to participate, it is important to transmit a request to that agency through your Council Coordinator. Funding may prevent in-person participation, but sustained engagement through your Council Coordinator can only serve to help improve participation. And while the Board recognizes that telephonic participation is not desirable, it may in many cases be the only option.



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## **5. Consultation**

*The Council recognizes the importance of consultation and encourages the Office of Subsistence Management to identify ways to increase engagement by tribes and ANCSA corporations on proposal comments.*

*Tribes and ANCSA Corporations provide subsistence information that is often not addressed through analysis, and provide direct local knowledge of the resources that should impact management decisions. The Office of Subsistence Management should investigate how to encourage greater Tribal consultation, as it is a valuable tool for Councils when developing recommendations on policy and regulatory issues.*

*The Council recommends sending a letter of appreciation to Tribes and ANCSA Corporations acknowledging their participation.*

### **Response:**

Thank you for your concerns about consultation process and how to engage Tribes and corporation participation. The Office of Subsistence Management Native Liaison, Orville Lind, recently held a Tribal Engagement Session in the Southeast Region that has produced positive results and may be a model for expanding engagement opportunities.

In August and September of 2017, USDA-Forest Service Tribal Relations Specialist Melinda Hernandez contacted the OSM Native Liaison to work on planning a Tribal Engagement Session to be held the day before the scheduled Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting held in Juneau last fall. The purpose and goal was to create an opportunity for Tribes to learn about the consultation processes and policies with the Federal Subsistence Board and to become more familiar and engaged with the Native Liaison and his roles with Tribes in the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

The Office of Subsistence Management Native Liaison currently is working with coordinators with Bristol Bay, Western Interior Alaska and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to conduct more Tribal Engagement Sessions this fall cycle and in the future for all the regions.

It is important to remind the Council that Council members also play an important role in consultation efforts. As residents of their communities and also often as tribal members, Council members can possibly have an even greater impact than the OSM Native Liaison in their daily interactions to spread the word about the importance of tribal participation and the available opportunities for consultation.

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As to the Council's specific recommendation that the Board transmit a letter of appreciation to Tribes and ANCSA corporations for their participation in consultation sessions, the Board appreciates the suggestion and will consider directing the OSM Native Liaison to add that element to the Tribal Consultation Implementation Guidelines to ensure the practice is followed in future consultations. The ability to do this will depend on staffing capacity required for such an effort.

**6. Regional Advisory Council Chairs**

*The Council encourages the Office of Subsistence Management to hold an all Chairs meeting during or after the Federal Subsistence Board meetings. The all Chairs meeting is a tool for Chairs to meet and discuss issues they may share on resources and management issues.*

**Response:**

It is possible for the ten Council chairs to meet in connection with a Federal Subsistence Board meeting. Through their Council Coordinators, the Council chairs need to express a desire for such a meeting, provide topics that they wish to discuss, and a firm commitment that all chairs will participate in the meeting. At most Board meetings, few chairs remain through the entire meeting to provide for a gathering after the conclusion of the Board meeting. This request should be transmitted to the Council Coordination Supervisor, who would coordinate and facilitate the meeting.

If the Council Chairs choose to meet in advance of a Board meeting, the Federal Advisory Committee Act would prohibit discussion of topics on which the Councils would or could be giving advice or making recommendations to the Board for its consideration in the rulemaking process. The statute requires that such discussions be held only during publicly-noticed, open meetings. Staff with the Office of Subsistence Management can coordinate with the Solicitor's Office in order to provide appropriate guidance to the chairs on how such a meeting may be conducted. Conducting an all-chairs meeting after the Board meeting would not present such concerns.

In closing, I want to thank you and your Council for their continued involvement and diligence in matters regarding the Federal Subsistence Management Program. I speak for the entire Board in expressing our appreciation for your efforts and our confidence that the subsistence users of the Bristol Bay Region are well represented through your work.

Sincerely,



Anthony Christianson  
Chair

**Chairwoman Chythlook**

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**cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Thomas Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management  
Jennifer Hardin PhD., Subsistence Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
Carl Johnson, Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Subsistence Management  
Donald Mike, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
Jill Klein, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record**



## 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 - July 2018

***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, during 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 for the past three years (2016-2018) 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 composition survey conducted October 14-15, 2017 estimated ratios of 32 bulls and 27 calves per 100 cows. Both the bull to cow and calf to cow ratios were slightly below their management objectives (Neil Barten, ADF&G, personal communication). Results of a photocensus conducted July 6, 2018 are forthcoming.

***Nushagak Peninsula Caribou*** Contact: Andy Aderman  
A composition survey conducted October 13, 2017 estimated ratios of 30 bulls and 42 calves per 100 cows. The bull to cow ratio declined to its second lowest level while the calf to cow ratio was slightly below the previous 5-year average of 45.8 calves per 100 cows. For the 2017-2018 season, hunters reported harvesting 95 caribou (53 bulls and 42 cows) on the federal permit hunt while an additional 5 bulls were reported on the state RC501 permit which was open for the area immediately north of the federal hunt (Neil Barten, ADF&G, personal communication).

A photocensus of the Nushagak Peninsula Herd on July 3, 2018 found a minimum of 709 caribou in 4 groups which resulted in a total population estimate of 787 +/- 114 (673-901) caribou at the 95% confidence interval (Dominic Demma, ADF&G, personal communication). A similar effort in 2017 found a minimum of 786 caribou in 5 groups resulting in an estimate of 968 +/- 217 (751-1185) caribou.

The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee met July 27, 2018 to review 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. There was consensus among the Committee members to support the harvest objective of 150 caribou and an initial harvest limit of 2 caribou per hunter for the 2018-2019 hunt.

**Moose** Contact: Andy Aderman

Togiak Refuge has been engaged in developing a moose survey method that does not rely on complete snow cover, and preliminary results suggest that 1) the method is succeeding, and 2) that the Togiak Refuge moose population has continued the growth we have documented over the past 20 years. The results that follow should be considered tentative, pending a statistical peer review currently underway by ADF&G.

A Refuge-wide survey conducted in October 2016 with no snow cover estimated 2,590 ( $\pm 504$  at 80% confidence) moose. Sightability trials involving radio-collared moose indicated 72.7% detection which equates to a sightability correction factor (SCF) of 1.375. Applying the correction increases the estimate to 3,561 moose. A similar effort in March 2017 with complete snow cover estimated 3,071 ( $\pm 503$  at 80% CI) moose. Sightability improved to 83.3% (or a SCF of 1.2) resulting in a Refuge-wide estimate of 3,685 moose. The most recent survey in October 2017, estimated 2,368 ( $\pm 441$  at 80% confidence) moose. Sightability trials involving radio-collared moose indicated 71.0% detection which equates to a SCF of 1.409. Applying the correction increases the estimate to 3,337 moose.

In mid-March 2018, a one day survey with two Refuge aircraft found a minimum of 173 moose in the Kanektok and Arolik River drainages. In 2011, only 5 moose were observed in a survey of these two drainages. Aircraft and pilot support was provided by the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR.

In May 2018, 19 of 30 (63.3%) radio-collared adult cows produced 31 calves suggesting a production rate of 103.3 calves per 100 adult cows which is down from the previous 5 year average of 111.2 calves per 100 adult cows. The twinning rate was 63.2% which is similar to the previous 5 year average of 63.5%.

The reported moose harvest in Unit 17A for 2017-2018 was 73 (55 bulls and 18 cows) with the following breakdown: 42 bulls reported in the fall RM573 hunt; 3 bulls in the fall DM 570 hunt; 7 bulls in the winter RM575 hunt and 3 bulls and 18 cows in the winter RM576 hunt (Neil Barten, ADF&G, personal communication). Note: both the RM575 and RM576 hunts got extended to February 20, 2018.

***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 27 wolves from seven packs. During summers 2014-2016, we deployed over 400 snares, and collected over 200 brown bear hair samples. Laboratory analyses have been completed for bear and most wolf samples, and data are being reviewed to determine where sampling gaps exist.

**Walrus** Contact: Doug Holt

The Togiak Refuge has annually monitored the number and timing of Pacific walrus at haul-outs since 1985, using ground counts (1985-2008), aerial surveys (2003-2011) and time lapse photography (2010-2017). Overall, walrus numbers have declined, with the greatest declines at Cape Peirce and Cape Newenham. Peak counts in the most current year when every day was counted (2015) were 722 at Cape Peirce, 682 on Hagemester Island, and 437 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 except one since cameras were deployed in fall of 2014.

**Seabirds** Contact: Kara Hilwig

The abundance and reproductive success of black-legged kittiwakes, common murre, and pelagic cormorants has been monitored annually at Cape Peirce from 1990-2014, and intermittently at Cape Newenham from 1990-2009. Seabird studies resumed at Cape Peirce in 2016 to present. In 2015 and 2016, large seabird mortality events were observed along North America's west coast. Population counts and reproductive success of kittiwakes, murre, and cormorants at Cape Peirce in 2016-2018 were among the lowest recorded since the initiation of the monitoring. During the last three years, reproductive failure was observed for all three species monitored at Cape Peirce. In 2018, nesting was attempted but no hatchlings were observed. However, crews observed attempts by black-legged kittiwakes and common murre to re-nest and will return to Cape Peirce in late July/early August to observe the outcome. Population and productivity monitoring will continue in June 2019.

**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, although it has not been reported from Bristol Bay waters. *Elodea* infestations in salmon streams and lakes can reduce the quality of salmon spawning and rearing habitat. *Elodea* surveys have never been conducted on Togiak Refuge, Wood-Tikchik State Park or the surrounding areas. Early detection and removal of *Elodea* from pristine waters of Bristol Bay will be the least expensive and most effective method of protecting one of the largest salmon fisheries in the world from the detrimental effects of this invader. Funding to conduct surveys on the Refuge and Park was awarded this year with surveys currently underway. To date, *Elodea spp.* has not been detected.



***Water Temperature Monitoring*** Contact: Doug Holt

Stream temperature monitoring was conducted at 21 locations on 14 rivers in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge from August 2001 until July 2016. Continuous hourly water temperatures were recorded at each site. Over 2.1 million temperature records were collected, quality-graded, and digitally stored in a relational database. 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. Based on differences in maximum daily mean temperature, the four warmest sites were each located near a lake outlet. Recorded temperature measurements at each site except the Weary River exceeded the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's 13°C temperature criteria for fish habitat two or more years, with temperature readings at Gechiak Lake outlet, Kukaktlim Lake outlet, Middle Fork Goodnews Lake outlet, and Nichols Lake outlet exceeding these criteria annually. The warmest year observed was 2004. Previous analyses of data collected on these sites indicated a cooling trend but recently a warming trend has been observed. More monitoring is required to determine if differences in previous and current trend observations are the result of cyclical patterns or a long-term warming trend.

Temperature was monitored at 2 lakes with temperature loggers equally spaced from surface to the lake bottom and temperature recorded every hour. Both lakes exhibited similar patterns of turnover and surface freezing in winter beginning near the end of November and thawing near the end of April each year. Data from each lake showed evidence of multiple freeze/thaw events during the winter of 2015-2016.

***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. Each gage is instrumented with pressure sensors that measure water level every 15 minutes. On-grounds discharge measurements are made 3 to 6 times a year. In 2014, satellite transmitters were added to the stream gages that allow remote monitoring of the equipment.

***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 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist School. Field trips with area students for the 2017-2018 school year included bird walks, animal tracks and ID, 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, has also conducted 7 hunter safety courses throughout western Bristol Bay Villages, impacting more than 100 students in Manokotak, Dillingham, Twin Hills, Togiak, Aleknagik and Quinhagak. The refuge plans to continue these courses in 2018 and will be adding the National Archery in School Program to its offerings in the future.

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.

Outreach programs for the community continued in the fall and winter. The refuge hosted a family bird feeder building program and Christmas Bird Count pancake breakfast. These efforts resulted in doubling the participation for the Christmas bird count.

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 2018 an enthusiastic group of eight area junior high students representing two villages (Dillingham and Goodnews Bay) 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. Reporter Isabelle Ross of KDLG participated in the camp and will prepare a feature story about the camp for the KDLG website and the *Bristol Bay Times*. 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 2018, Togiak Refuge helped with the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2017 Float Camp took place on the Ongivinuk River. At this camp, nine high school students (three from Anchorage, two from Quinhagak, one from Manokotak and three from Dillingham) 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 Ongivinuk. 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. Traditional councils and school districts in western Bristol Bay are cooperators with this camp. *Note: the 2018 float camp is set to happen during the week of August 6-10; details will be available in future bulletins.*

***River Ranger Program*** Contact: Allen Miller

The Refuge River Ranger Program was conceived during the public use management planning process and was first implemented in 1991. The program serves many purposes. River Rangers are the main contact source for sport fishermen and local residents. Information distributed to the public includes Service policies, regulations, resource management practices, State sport fish regulations, bear safety, wilderness ethics, Leave-No-Trace camping and information about private lands to prevent trespass. Rangers document public use occurring on the rivers along with the location and timing of activities, conflicts between users, and sport fish catch/harvest per unit effort. Rangers also assist Refuge staff with biological studies. In addition, Rangers patrol campsites for litter, monitor compliance of sport fishing guides and offer assistance as needed. In recent years, continuing into 2018, the Refuge Information Technicians (RITs) and River Rangers have also recruited local volunteers to assist them in river patrols. This helps build capacity and partnership within the villages. River Ranger volunteers donated nearly 100 hours of their time over the 2017 summer. During the summer of 2018, there is one Refuge River Ranger on the Kanektok River.

The Village of Goodnews Bay has developed its own River Ranger Program, and Togiak Refuge has been working closely with their two rangers, Cathy Evan and Paul Bright. Paul took part in the Refuge annual seasonal training in June 2018, particularly in motorboat operation and bear and firearms safety. Paul and Cathy are assisting with some of the logistics for Refuge administrative float trips on the Goodnews River during August 2018.

***Staff Update***

Togiak RIT Keemuel Kenrud resigned in December 2017. The job vacancy was advertised in the spring of 2018 and an announcement of the new RIT for Togiak is expected very soon. New Federal Wildlife Officer Derek Thompson arrived in Dillingham mid-December 2017. In February 2018, Visitor Services Manager Amanda Cochran moved to Bryce Canyon National Park and accepted the Deputy Chief of Interpretation position. Her position remains vacant for budgetary reasons.



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges  
P. O. Box 277  
King Salmon, Alaska 99613  
907-246-3339



Agency Report to:

## **Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

Public Meeting, Dillingham, Alaska  
November 2018

### **Federal Subsistence Caribou Hunts for GMU 9C remainder and 9E**

The public hearing regarding the opening of FC0914 and FC0915 was conducted on 18 April, 2018. No concerns regarding the opening were voiced by the public or by other Federal agencies or ADF&G. Subsequently the season was announced with season dates that matched the ADF&G season dates.

The number of Federal permits is limited. Five permits are drawn for 9C remainder and 10 permits are drawn for 9E. Six individuals applied for the 9C remainder permits and 9 individuals applied for the 9E permits. Additionally, almost 300 TC505 permits were issued by ADF&G. The announcement of a Federal season allows TC505 permit holders to harvest on Federal lands as allowed by federal regulations.

Combined Federal and State harvest for previous years was approximately 80 animals per year. The 2018-2019 hunt opened just prior to the time of writing so harvest numbers were minimal.

### **Cultural and Educational Subsistence Permits**

No cultural or educational subsistence permits were requested.

### **Staffing at Alaska Peninsula and Becharof NWR**

Pete Harvey came onboard in late 2017 as the Federal Wildlife Officer after the departure of Jim Wittkop.

The Refuge Mammal Biologist, Dom Watts, accepted a position at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in December 2016. That position remains vacant.

## Mammal Projects

### Project: Moose Composition and Trend Surveys Summary (GMUs 9C & 9E)

Working collaboratively with ADF&G and Katmai NP, the Refuge flew 3 trend areas in 2017. Refuge 2017 efforts focused on 3 state and refuge trend units in 9E and 1 large refuge trend unit in 9C.

For 2018 the Refuge will continue to share USFWS aviation resources (plane/pilot) with ADF&G biologists to fly both Refuge and State trend sites during the fall moose composition survey period (Nov 01 – Dec 10). Two refuge survey units in 9C (Big Creek and Kujulik) are slated for long term composition and trend monitoring for the next 5 years. All Refuge survey data will be provided to King Salmon ADF&G Area Biologists for compilation and analysis into the larger dataset of GMU 9 moose abundance and composition.

### Project: Moose Reproduction and Survival Study

In 2017 the Refuge concluded a 9 year study radio tracking a total of 37 cows for reproduction, adult survival, and calf survival data. Due to the refuge big game/mammal biologist position remaining vacant since 2016, the Refuge was unable to commit to continuing further with this project. The remaining 7 radio-collared cows from the refuge study were assigned to the ADF&G Area Biologist who is undertaking a similar cow survival study unit-wide in GMU 9. In 2018 the Refuge will continue to assist in a supporting role to ADF&G in tracking radio-collared moose on the Peninsula, but will not be able to undertake any large complex mammal studies until the big game/mammal biologist position can be filled at Alaska Peninsula-Becharof NWR. In 2018/2019 the Refuge will attempt to compile and analyze the moose survival, production, and calf survival data from 2009-2017. Progress is expected, but report finalization will continue to be impeded by refuge biological staffing short-falls in the big game/mammal position.

For more information on the Refuges' mammal programs contact: Dan Pepin, USFWS, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR, PO Box 277, King Salmon, AK 99613. Phone: 907-246-1233; e-mail: [Dan\\_Pepin@fws.gov](mailto:Dan_Pepin@fws.gov)

## Avian Projects

### Project: Alaska Landbird and Breeding Bird Monitoring Surveys

The Refuge continued landbird monitoring with participation in the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey (ALMS) and a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route. These surveys document breeding birds and their habitats. Data from ALMS is utilized by the Refuge in addition to being sent to the USGS's Alaska Science Center for storage and further analysis at the state level. These Breeding Bird Surveys are a continent-wide program administered jointly by the USGS – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service. Participation in these surveys aligns with the Refuge's mission to assess the presence, relative abundance, distribution, and trends in populations of wildlife and plants.

In 2018 we conducted 36 ALMS point counts and collected habitat data at two established survey sites on the Dog Salmon and Kejulik Rivers. We conducted 50 BBS point counts along the entirety of the Alaska Peninsula Highway. The total number of landbirds and the total number of species detected remains within 15% of historical averages. Further analysis and monitoring is required to determine the long-term population trends at the local and state level.

**Project: Tree Swallow Nest Box Monitoring Project**

The Alaska Peninsula represents the southwestern edge of the tree swallow breeding range; global declines in aerial insectivore populations have prompted increased study of these species, especially at range edges where declines are likely to be more pronounced.

In recent years, the Refuge expanded the existing nest box monitoring efforts in participation with The Alaska Swallow Monitoring Network, part of the Alaska Songbird Institute. Initial efforts to monitor tree swallows began in 2007. This year a total of 52 nest boxes were monitored. The project focuses on nest box occupancy, nesting phenology, nesting success rates, and recapture data collected from banding efforts.

In 2018, 46 of the 52 monitored nest boxes were occupied (88%). The overall nest success rate was 93%, down from 96% in 2017. We reduced banding efforts due to staffing limitations this year and focused banding on adults due to better recapture rates. This year we banded 45 new adults, 19 chicks, and recaptured 36 adults that were banded in previous years.

For more information on avian projects contact: Melissa Cady, USFWS, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR, PO Box 277, King Salmon, AK 99613. Phone: 907-246-3339; e-mail: [Melissa\\_Cady@fws.gov](mailto:Melissa_Cady@fws.gov)

**Aquatic Projects**

**Project: Monitoring Lake Temperature at Varying Depths.**

The primary purpose of this project is to acquire a long-term data series on the temperature of selected lakes. Lake temperature was recorded every hour at various depths between the lake surface and 100m. Monitoring sites were visited once or twice per year to extract data and to service monitoring equipment. With enough time, this data will be used to document long term temperature regimes in selected lakes and may help support management decisions regarding research in relation to climate change. Monitoring stations were deployed in upper Ugashik Lake, Mother Goose Lake, Needle Lake, and Becharof Lake in the fall of 2011. Unfortunately, the Becharof Lake monitoring station could not be relocated. The remaining lakes show some individual differences but follow a similar short-term pattern of increasing temperatures from 2012 – 2016.

For more information on aquatic projects contact: Bill Smith, USFWS, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR, PO Box 277, King Salmon, AK 99613. Phone: 907-246-3339; e-mail: [William\\_Smith@fws.gov](mailto:William_Smith@fws.gov)

**Visitor Services Programs**

**Project: Celebrating a New Interactive Exhibit in the King Salmon Interagency Visitor Center**

This June the Refuge celebrated the launch of a new exhibit at the King Salmon Interagency Visitor Center. Partnering with local expert, LaRece Egli, the Refuge worked to design an interactive touchscreen display to better orient and educate the many annual visitors to our area. The current section of the exhibit on the Refuge highlights stunning images of the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges and interpretive text to help viewers connect with these remote and wild lands that they might not otherwise be able to experience. Also included in the exhibit is LaRece's "Our Life" project, which focuses on Bristol Bay's rich cultural history. This exhibit is able to be updated on a regular basis and all partners in the Visitor Center have been invited to create and have their content included. At the exhibit launch, the Refuge hosted an educator from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center to present 3 live bird

of prey shows with Red-tailed hawk Scarlet. There were also cupcakes and other activities for attendees to participate in. Throughout the day, there were over 100 people in attendance at this event.

**Project: Science-based Exploration with Bristol Bay Youth**

This summer the Refuge Visitor Services program brought on one volunteer intern to assist in providing quality environmental education opportunities for youth in Bristol Bay. For the third year in a row, the Refuge partnered with the local Bristol Bay Parks and Rec Department to provide science based programs for summer camp participants. Topics this summer included: Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes, the Solar System, and Tree Swallow Biology. By the end of the 6-week period during the months of June & July, over 80 youth participated in the programming, many of whom were repeat attendees from week to week.

For more information on the visitor services program contact: Sarah Griffith, USFWS, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR, PO Box 277, King Salmon, AK 99613. Phone: 907-246-1201; e-mail: [Sarah\\_Griffith@fws.gov](mailto:Sarah_Griffith@fws.gov)



## Office of Subsistence Management

### *Fall 2018 Report to the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils*

#### Staffing Update

##### *Departures*

**Gene Peltola, Jr.** left his position as the Assistant Regional Director (ARD) to become the new Regional Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska. In that role, he will also serve as a member of the Federal Subsistence Board. No official action has been taken as of yet to commence recruitment for a replacement. In the meantime, Tom Doolittle has assumed the role of the Acting ARD.

##### *New Arrivals*

**Greg Risdahl** has started as the new Fisheries Division supervisor at the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM). He received his B.S. in wildlife biology with a minor in anthropology from the University of Montana, and a M.S. from Montana State University in Fish and Wildlife Management. Greg previously worked for OSM as a wildlife biologist. He has served as the Deputy Refuge Manager at Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and most recently as the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Manager. Over his career, he has worked in both wildlife and fisheries management.

##### *Vacancies*

The following is a summary of current vacant positions and the status in hiring personnel to fill these positions:

##### **Anthropology Division Supervisor**

Paperwork has been submitted to the Alaska Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for approval to recruit to fill this position.

##### **Staff Anthropologist**

The paperwork to hire the position has been approved and is with Human Resources for publication.

##### **Fisheries Biologist**

The position posted on USA Jobs and Tom Doolittle has received a list of qualified applicants to consider for hiring.

##### **Administrative Assistant**

The Office of Subsistence Management has not been authorized to fill this vacancy.

### 2018-2020 Federal Wildlife Regulations

The wildlife regulatory year began on July 1, 2018, but the changes to the regulations based on the Federal Subsistence Board's action in April have not yet been published in the Federal Register. Those changes are therefore not in effect until that publication.

This has two specific consequences for the Federal Subsistence Management Program. First, the modifications to regulations made at the April Board meeting did not take effect on July 1, and will not take effect until the Federal Register notice is published. For example, the new definition of "bear bait" adopted in WP18-51 does not yet exist, or the C&T for deer in Units 1-5 has not yet been expanded to all Southeast residents, as authorized in the adoption of WP18-02.

Second, any wildlife actions that resulted from Board approval of temporary wildlife special actions last regulatory year expired on June 30.

However, the Federal Subsistence Board has issued several temporary delegation of authority letters to authorize land managers in particular areas to enact certain wildlife regulatory actions adopted by the Board in April 2018 but not yet published in the Federal Register. These temporary delegation of authority letters were issued to the following in-season managers, and will expire when the new wildlife regulations are published:

- Craig District Ranger, Tongass National Forest –Unit 2 deer (to implement WP18-01, adopted as WP18-01A)
- Thorne Bay District Ranger, Tongass National Forest – Unit 2 deer (to implement WP18-01, adopted as WP18-01A)
- Yakutat District Ranger, Tongass National Forest – Unit 5A (except Nunatak Bench, east of the Dangerous River) moose (to implement WP18-10 as modified)
- Superintendent, Western Arctic Park Lands – Unit 23 caribou in the Noatak National Preserve (to implement partial closure adopted in WP 18-46 as modified)
- Anchorage Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management – Unit 23 caribou in the Squirrel River drainage (to implement partial closure adopted in WP 18-46 as modified)



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

## Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199



FOREST SERVICE

**JUL 03 2018**

OSM 180039.CJ

Ms. Molly Chythlook, Chair  
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Ms. Chythlook:

The Federal Subsistence Board met on April 10-13, 2018 regarding proposed changes to subsistence wildlife regulations and customary and traditional use determinations. This letter and the enclosed report identify action taken on proposals affecting residents of the Bristol Bay Region.

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides that the Board will accept the recommendations of a Regional Advisory Council regarding take unless (1) the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, (2) the recommendation violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife management, or (3) adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. When a Council's recommendation is not adopted, the Board is required by Secretarial regulations to set forth the factual basis and reasons for the decision. This letter and enclosure satisfy that requirement.

In total, the Board accepted the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils, in whole or with modifications, in **46** out of the **52** proposals where the Board took action. Details of these actions and the Board's deliberations are contained in the meeting transcripts. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling our toll free number, 1-800-478-1456, and are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>.

Ms. Chythlook

2

The Board adopted the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's (Council) recommendation on the following proposals: **WP18-21**, to change the harvest limit for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and consolidation of hunt areas in portions of Units 9, 17 and 19 (*adopted with OSM modification*); **WP18-22**, to rescind the Federal public lands closure for caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula (*adopted with Council modification*); **WP18-23**, to add residents of Units 9C and 9E to the customary and traditional use determination for caribou in Unit 17 remainder (*adopted with OSM modification*); **WP18-24**, to provide that Federally qualified subsistence users be allowed to use a snowmachine to position caribou, wolves, and wolverines for harvest in Unit 17 (*rejected*); and **WP18-25/26**, to establish a new hunt area and a may be announced winter season for moose in Unit 17C (*rejected*).

The Board's action differed from the Council's recommendations on the following proposals: **WP18-30**, to shorten the season and decrease harvest limit and possession limit for ptarmigan in Unit 18 (*adopted with OSM modification*). The Board's action on this proposal and justification are discussed in the enclosed report.

The Federal Subsistence Board appreciates the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The 10 Regional Advisory Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the stewardship shown by the Regional Advisory Council chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was noteworthy.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact Donald Mike, Subsistence Council Coordinator, at 907-786-3629.

Sincerely,



Anthony Christianson  
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members  
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management  
Thomas Doolittle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management  
Jennifer Hardin, PhD., Subsistence Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
Carl Johnson, Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Subsistence Management  
Donald Mike, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record

## **FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD 805(c) REPORT**

### **CROSSOVER PROPOSALS**

#### **Proposal WP18-30**

DESCRIPTION: Proposal WP18-30, submitted by the Orutsararmiut Native Council, requested to shorten the season and decrease harvest limit and possession limit for ptarmigan in Unit 18.

#### **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Support with modification**

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Support with OSM modification**

BOARD ACTION: **Adopted with OSM modification**

JUSTIFICATION: Maintaining the current season dates maintains a Federal subsistence priority and provides more opportunity than what is currently available under State regulations.

Although it is expected that ptarmigan population declines are likely caused by recent climatic events, human harvest during spring may have an additive mortality effect on the already declining population. It may be important to limit harvest until ptarmigan numbers rebound to maintain this resource for local users. This conservation concern warrants deviating from the Bristol Bay Council recommendation in order to reduce potential impact by harvest. The proponent stated that the subsistence users are responsible for a majority of the harvest and this proposal would limit these users, somewhat, and provide some potential for the population to rebound. The Board recognized that it was creating a discrepancy with State regulations.

# Winter 2019 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>Feb. 3</i>	<i>Feb. 4</i> <i>Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 5</i> <b>BB — Naknek</b>	<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> <b>SE — Wrangell</b>	<i>Feb. 13</i> <b>NS — Utqiagvik</b>	<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>	<i>Feb. 16</i>
<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i> <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY</b>	<i>Feb. 19</i>	<i>Feb. 20</i> <b>WI — Fairbanks</b>	<i>Feb. 21</i> <b>KA — Kodiak</b>	<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Feb. 23</i>
<i>Feb. 24</i>	<i>Feb. 25</i>	<i>Feb. 26</i> <b>SC — Anchorage</b>	<i>Feb. 27</i> <b>NWA — Kotzebue</b>	<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Mar. 1</i>	<i>Mar. 2</i>
<i>Mar. 3</i>	<i>Mar. 4</i>	<i>Mar. 5</i> <b>EI — Fairbanks</b>	<i>Mar. 6</i> <b>SP — Nome</b>	<i>Mar. 7</i>	<i>Mar. 8</i>	<i>Mar. 9</i>
<i>Mar. 10</i>	<i>Mar. 11</i>	<i>Mar. 12</i> <b>YKD — Bethel</b>	<i>Mar. 13</i>	<i>Mar. 14</i>	<i>Mar. 15</i> <i>Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 16</i>



# Fall 2019 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>Aug. 18</i>	<i>Aug. 19</i>	<i>Aug. 20</i>	<i>Aug. 21</i>	<i>Aug. 22</i>	<i>Aug. 23</i>	<i>Aug. 24</i>
<i>Aug. 25</i>	<i>Aug. 26</i>	<i>Aug. 27</i>	<i>Aug. 28</i>	<i>Aug. 29</i>	<i>Aug. 30</i>	<i>Aug. 31</i>
<i>Sept. 1</i>	<i>Sept. 2</i> <b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</b>	<i>Sept. 3</i>	<i>Sept. 4</i>	<i>Sept. 5</i>	<i>Sept. 6</i>	<i>Sept. 7</i>
<i>Sept. 8</i>	<i>Sept. 9</i>	<i>Sept. 10</i>	<i>Sept. 11</i>	<i>Sept. 12</i>	<i>Sept. 13</i>	<i>Sept. 14</i>
<i>Sept. 15</i>	<i>Sept. 16</i>	<i>Sept. 17</i>	<i>Sept. 18</i>	<i>Sept. 19</i>	<i>Sept. 20</i>	<i>Sept. 21</i>
<i>Sept. 22</i>	<i>Sept. 23</i>	<i>Sept. 24</i>	<i>Sept. 25</i>	<i>Sept. 26</i>	<i>Sept. 27</i>	<i>Sept. 28</i>
<i>Sept. 29</i>	<i>Sept. 30</i>	<i>Oct. 1</i>	<i>Oct. 2</i>	<i>Oct. 3</i>	<i>Oct. 4</i>	<i>Oct. 5</i>
<i>Oct. 6</i>	<i>Oct. 7</i>	<i>Oct. 8</i>	<i>Oct. 9</i>	<i>Oct. 10</i>	<i>Oct. 11</i>	<i>Oct. 12</i>
<i>Oct. 13</i>	<i>Oct. 14</i> <b>COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY</b>	<i>Oct. 15</i>	<i>Oct. 16</i>	<i>Oct. 17</i>	<i>Oct. 18</i>	<i>Oct. 19</i>
<i>Oct. 20</i>	<i>Oct. 21</i>	<i>Oct. 22</i>	<i>Oct. 23</i>	<i>Oct. 24</i>	<i>Oct. 25</i>	<i>Oct. 26</i>
<i>Oct. 27</i>	<i>Oct. 28</i>	<i>Oct. 29</i>	<i>Oct. 30</i>	<i>Oct. 31</i>	<i>Nov. 1</i>	<i>Nov. 2</i>
<i>Nov. 3</i>	<i>Nov. 4</i>	<i>Nov. 5</i>	<i>Nov. 6</i>	<i>Nov. 7</i>	<i>Nov. 8</i>	<i>Nov. 9</i>

**AFN — Fairbanks**

**NS — Utqiagvik**



**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.
- i. Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:
  - (1) Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary's Orders, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
  - (2) Policies and programs that:
    - (a) increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focus on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;
    - (b) expand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service lands in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;
    - (c) increase energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; and
    - (d) create greater collaboration with states, tribes, and/or territories.

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

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

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

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 staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director - Subsistence, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:



- (a) Approve or call all 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. 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 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, 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

DEC 01 2017

Date Signed

DEC 04 2017

Date Filed





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