



EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA  
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Materials

*March 3-4, 2020*  
*Fairbanks*





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*On the cover...*

Salmon drying on racks along the Yukon River



Photo by Stan Zuray

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**EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Pike’s Waterfront Lodge  
Fairbanks

March 3-4, 2020  
convening at 9:00 am daily

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

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

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

**AGENDA**

\*Asterisk identifies action item.

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

**10. New Business (Chair)**

- a. Fisheries Program Information Update
- b. 2020 Yukon River Pre-season Outlook (*USFWS & ADF&G*)
- c. Call for Federal Fish and Shellfish Proposals\* ..... 12
- d. Review and approve FY2019 Annual Report\* ..... 15
- e. Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2019-2023 (*ADF&G*)\* ..... 19
- f. Alaska Board of Game Proposals

**11. Agency Reports**

*(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)*

- Tribal Governments
- Native Organizations
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Office of Subsistence Management

**12. Future Meeting Dates\***

- Confirm Fall 2020 meeting date and location .....37
- Select Winter 2021 meeting date and location .....38

**13. Closing Comments**

**14. Adjourn (Chair)**

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

*Reasonable Accommodations*

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to Zach Stevenson, 907-786-3674, zachary\_stevenson@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 18, 2020.

**REGION 9**  
**Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Year Appointed <i>Term Expires</i></b>	<b>Member Name and Community</b>
<b>1</b>	2001 <b>2022</b>	<b>Susan L. Entsminger</b> Mentasta <span style="float: right;"><b>Chair</b></span>
<b>2</b>	2007 <b>2022</b>	<b>Andrew P. Firmin</b> Fort Yukon <span style="float: right;"><b>Vice Chair</b></span>
<b>3</b>	<b>2019</b>	<i>VACANT</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>2019</b>	<i>VACANT</i>
<b>5</b>	2005 <b>2020</b>	<b>William L. Glanz</b> Central
<b>6</b>	2002 <b>2020</b>	<b>Andrew W. Bassich</b> Eagle
<b>7</b>	2017 <b>2020</b>	<b>Robert C. Wright, Sr.</b> Tanana
<b>8</b>	2017 <b>2021</b>	<b>Charles Jagow</b> Procupine River
<b>9</b>	2004 <b>2021</b>	<b>Donald A. Woodruff</b> Eagle
<b>10</b>	2018 <b>2021</b>	<b>Timothy J. McManus</b> Nenana

## EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

Pike's Waterfront Lodge  
Fairbanks  
October 15-16, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Council members Susan Entsminger (Chair), Andrew Firmin, Michael Koehler, William Glanz, Andrew Bassich, Robert Wright, Sr., Charlie Jagow, Donald Woodruff, and Timothy McManus were present in person. With nine out of nine seated Council members present (Council has one vacant seat) the quorum was established.

#### Attendees:

##### ***In person:***

*Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Anchorage:* Zachary Stevenson, Katya Wessels, Pippa Kenner, Lisa Maas, Frank Harris, Tom Kron, Thomas Doolittle  
*Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Fairbanks:* Nathan Hawkaluk, Vince Matthews  
*Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC), Glennallen:* Karen Linnell, Shirley Smelcer  
*United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Fairbanks:* Gerald Maschmann, Fred Bue  
*Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Fairbanks:* Lisa Stuby, Holly Carrol, Bonnie Borba, Christy Gleason, Brook McDavid, Alida Trainor, Tom Seaton; *Palmer:* Mark Burch, Eddie Grasser; *Juneau:* Ben Mulligan  
*University of Newfoundland, Newfoundland, Canada:* Alistair Bath  
*Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve (NP), Fairbanks:* Marcy Okada, Scott Sample  
*National Park Service (NPS), Anchorage:* Dr. Joshua Ream

*Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (NPP), Copper Center:* Barbara Cellarius  
*Arctic Village:* David Smith, Evon Peter, Galen Gilbert, Sarah James, Tiffany Yatlin, Shayna Tritt, Marjorie Gemmill, Tonya Garnett  
*University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Fairbanks:* Carrie Stevens  
*Tetlin NWR, Tok:* Timothy Lorenzini, Ross Flagen  
*Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fairbanks:* Jim Herrigas  
*Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks:* Brian McKenna, Ben Stevens  
*Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDF), Girdwood:* Catherine Moncrieff

##### ***Via teleconference:***

*OSM, Anchorage:* Orville Lind  
*NPS, Denver:* Kyle Joly  
*Denali NPP, Denali Park:* Amy Craver  
*ADF&G, Anchorage:* Deena Jallen  
*USFWS, Anchorage:* Carol Damberg  
*Ahtna Corporation, Glennallen:* Gloria Stickwan  
*Donlin (indiscernible):* Sarah Scott  
*BLM, Anchorage:* Dan Sharp



### **Review and Adopt Agenda:**

Motion #1 by Mr. Firmin, seconded by Mr. Woodruff, to adopt the agenda with the following changes:

- Add round table discussion with residents from Arctic Village and take comments on the first day of the meeting;
- Move Federal wildlife proposal WP20-50 discussion to the second day of the meeting due to the ADF&G scheduling conflict.

Motion #1 to adopt the agenda passed unanimously.

Motion #2 by Mr. Bassich, seconded by Mr. Firmin, to allow the Chair flexibility in changing the order of agenda items to accommodate scheduling conflicts. Motion #2 passed unanimously.

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

Motion #3 by Mr. Firmin, seconded by Mr. Woodruff, to approve winter 2019 meeting minutes as written. Motion #3 passed unanimously.

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

*William Glanz of Central* shared that there was overharvest of caribou in a State hunt in Unit 25C. He said that local people could not hunt during the first hunt because it is overcrowded and dangerous. Mr. Glanz also addressed a public comment regarding hunting in a Wild and Scenic River.

*Timothy McManus of Nenana* mentioned the high water conditions and that many hunters came into Nenana to launch their boats. Fishing was good this year, especially the fall run. Mr. McManus said that public commented on gosling chicks not being as abundant as before.

*Robert Wright Sr., of Tanana* observed that climate change is affecting the migration of birds in Rampart. He said that birds were starving along the river due to lack of food. There was low water on the Yukon River during the summer King Salmon season. The summer season King Salmon management and timing were effective. Moose hunting was difficult due to temperatures above 70 degrees, and moose did not go into rut until the end of hunting season and many people that didn't harvest moose still need meat.

*Donald Woodruff of Eagle* noted that moose hunting was difficult due to the warm season. Fall Chum Salmon season was productive. Mr. Woodruff reported that a survey showed the amount needed for subsistence was 17,000 salmon and is helpful to show what needs are.

*Andrew Firmin of Ft. Yukon* noted the moose harvest was decent and produced medium-sized and small-bodied moose. Proxy hunting for elders and extended family was common.

*Andrew Bassich of Eagle* reiterated the effect of climate change on the timing of the moose season and rut. He added that in the future there might be a need to change seasons. Signs of grizzly bear in the area are more abundant than observed over the past decade. Mr. Bassich was disappointed that caribou did not cross

the American summit region in Zone 3. Salmon and caribou are the most important subsistence resources for Eagle. Mr. Bassich complemented Holly Carrol with ADF&G for her effective work balancing the needs of getting fish to people up and down river with escapement needs. The King Salmon return was at or below 50% of the historic average and more work must be done to restore King Salmon. Eagle subsistence users caught enough fall Chum Salmon for the last two years. The majority of the fall Chum Salmon run returned later in September and no visible pulse was seen in Eagle, just a steady flow. As a result, it takes users much longer to catch enough fish to satisfy the amounts necessary for subsistence, and in the late season fish wheels are icing up. Mr. Bassich suggested that the management needs to consider this when working on balancing priorities. River levels were low and water temperature was very high all summer.

*Michael Koehler of Dry Creek* observed that the fall caribou season was slow again, noting the hot weather conditions and late arrival of the herd. Warm weather conditions made for difficult moose hunting and meat processing. A high number of black bear were observed at Dry Creek at higher elevations along with a good blueberry season. Dry Creek already received 18 inches of snow.

*Charlie Jagow of Porcupine River* reiterated concern for hot weather conditions reported by other Council members. Early break up of ice occurred on the Sheenjek and Colleen Rivers. The summer was very hot and dry. It was a very bad fire year at Yukon Flats. The warm fall season with heavy rain made for very poor moose hunting, which was burdensome for those without freezers requiring people to keep meat in a smokehouse.

*Susan Entsminger of Mentasta* noted that there had been ten days of warmer weather in March, followed by cold. It rained a lot in July and August resulting in great berry production. Some locals trapped wolf, and people in Mentasta were successful in harvesting moose, more so than in Tok, who took advantage of hunting seasons farther north. Isolated snowfalls, about a foot all together, were early, heavy, and wet, making for difficult snowmachining and trapping. Chair Entsminger helped Ahtna collect hair samples for their bear study. She attended the Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) meeting for Wrangell-St. Elias NPP and said that Ms. Cellarius would provide more details later. Chair Entsminger talked about the previous work on Arctic Village issues and the Council's efforts to establish a dialogue with Arctic Village residents. Ms. Entsminger said OSM is understaffed and did not send the letter to Arctic Village, requested by the Council, until August. She contacted Carrie Stevens with UAF who has been involved with Arctic Village and also spoke with Ben Stevens with TCC regarding wanting to have a meeting with residents of Arctic Village. She finally succeeded with Ms. Stevens' help and met for two hours with eight people from Arctic Village a day prior to the fall 2019 Council meeting. During her meeting with representatives from Arctic Village, Chair Entsminger took responsibility for the Alaska Board of Game proposal and explained the differences between the Federal and State proposal process, seasons, bag limits, and what you can and cannot do. The resulting dialogue was productive and respectful. She also told the Arctic Village representatives about the hunter ethics education and outreach efforts of the Council and that, perhaps, this program could include the sheep hunting issues near Arctic Village as one of its components. She invited the Arctic Village representatives to attend the Council meeting and participate in the round table on this topic.

## Old Business:

- Wildlife Closure Review WCR20-42 information update by Lisa Maas
- Status update on the hunter ethics education initiative by Katya Wessels
- The Council held roundtable discussion on hunter education initiative with all interested meeting participants
- “Domino effect” information requested by the Council by Lisa Maas
- 805(c) Report information update by Zachary Stevenson.

## New Business:

### *Wildlife Proposals:*

#### Regional Proposals:

*WP20-48 requests alignment of Federal and State regulations for the Fortymile Caribou Herd and expanding the delegated authority of the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office manager. Motion #4 by Mr. Woodruff, seconded by Mr. Glanz, to support WP20-48.*

The Council said that it is extremely important to keep the herd’s population sustainable and that conservation concerns still exist. The conservation concern is actually over-population, which might adversely affect the herd; therefore, hunting opportunities for subsistence users. The Council’s position on this proposal is supported by substantial evidence, including biological and traditional ecological knowledge. Reports from area managers indicated low parturition rates for three year-old cows, showing that there is stress on the herd and that it might be outgrowing its habitat, which could lead to a population crash. The Council does not support bull caribou harvest in October when the bulls are in rut and encourages managers to open the season on November 1. The Council also noted that the proposal would be beneficial to Federally qualified subsistence users and would create more ways to manage the herd so it doesn’t crash, thereby ensuring reliable resource for subsistence users and creating more hunting opportunities. Motion #4 passed unanimously.

*WP20-49 requests to open the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A to the harvest of sheep by non-Federally qualified users. Motion #5 by Mr. Woodruff, seconded by Mr. Bassich, to support WP20-49.*

The Council members engaged into a lengthy discussion with the Tribal representatives from Arctic Village and Venetie, who testified to the Council about their concerns with the proposal. The Council spoke of the importance of considering traditional ecological knowledge when making decisions on the Federal regulatory proposals and noted that according to the Tribal representatives’ testimonies, TEK observations show that counts of sheep are low. This is validated by the Federal survey results; therefore, the Council sees a conservation concern for the sheep population in the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and views this proposal as detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs of Federally qualified subsistence users.

The Council members pointed out that although the harvest records cited by the State may indicate that the residents of these communities rarely hunt sheep, these records might not reflect the actual reality of the situation, especially when one deals with “a paperless society.” The Council considered the lack of sufficient harvest data as justification for its decision on the proposal.

Additionally, the Council took into account the testimony of Tribal representatives from Arctic Village and Venetie about the Red Sheep Creek area. They believe it is sacred and has important spiritual and cultural significance for the Tribe. The Council thought that the proposal passed, it would negatively affect the traditional way of life and the customary and traditional uses of sheep in the area.

The Council believes its recommendation will continue to benefit subsistence users but will restrict other users in the area; however, the Council pointed out that there are many other areas in the State for other users to go sheep hunting.

The Council said that the Arctic Village and Venetie Tribal representatives desire to continue the dialogue about the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and have a more in-depth government-to-government consultation on the issue, which has been a recurring concern for over many years. The Council requested to have a more detailed tribal consultation with all of the involved tribes sighting the lack of local outreach. The Council voted to send a letter to the Board to form a subcommittee (working group) composed of all interested stakeholders to work on a viable solution. Motion #5 failed on a unanimous vote.

*WP20-50 requests that Federal and State hunt areas, seasons, and harvest limits for moose in Unit 12 remainder be more closely aligned to reduce user confusion.* Motion #6 by Mr. Koehler, seconded by Mr. Woodruff, to support WP20-50 with modification. The modification was to extend the fall season in Unit 12, remainder from 9/8 – 9/17 to 9/8 – 9/20, any bull, and eliminate the Tok River drainage hunt area, which had antler restrictions.

The Council said that this modification will provide a meaningful opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users. According to traditional ecological knowledge, bulls become more active later in the season and having a Federal season that is longer than the State season that allows the harvest of bulls with no antler restrictions would provide additional opportunity for the local Federally qualified subsistence users. Motion #6 passed unanimously.

*WP20-51 requests the Federal Subsistence Board to recognize customary and traditional uses of sheep in Unit 12 by rural residents of the community of Slana.* Motion #7 by Mr. Firming, seconded by Mr. McManus, to support WP20-51.

The Council noted the seasons and harvests on sheep provide a reasonable subsistence opportunity. The Council pointed out that it will benefit the subsistence users of Slana who hunt in Unit 11 and want to hunt in Unit 12 on Park Service lands. The Council also mentioned support for the proposal from the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. Motion #7 passed unanimously.

Crossover Proposals:

WP20-19 requests revisions to the elder/minor sheep hunt in Unit 11. Motion #8 by Mr. Bassich, seconded by Mr. Woodruff, to support WP20-19.

The Council stated that it wants to use the OSM Preliminary Conclusion on page 166 of the Council's October 2019 meeting book as the primary justification for their position on the proposal. The Council also shared its concern that opening a longer season could result in more sheep harvested. The Council believes that a separate youth hunt is unnecessary because there is already an ample opportunity for youth to participate in the regular hunt and for elders to go out with youth to pass on knowledge. Motion #8 failed.

Statewide Proposals:

WP20-08 requests implementing a statewide requirement that traps and snares be marked with either the trapper's name or State identification number. Motion #9 by Mr. Bassich, seconded by Mr. Glanz, to support WP20-08.

The Council noted the proposal would be burdensome, costly, and provide no benefit to Federally qualified subsistence users in remote areas. The Council believes that this proposal will not be effective in stopping illegal trapping because those hunting out of season, using the wrong bait, or wrong size trap will not mark their traps, regardless. The Council supported OSM's justification on page 179 of the Council's October 2019 meeting book, stating that it agrees with all of the main points brought up in the justification and that the proposal is not good for Federally qualified subsistence users. The Council emphasized that the proposal will not work in the bush. Motion #9 failed on a unanimous vote.

***2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program:***

Several Council members commented that the *Yukon River In-Season Salmon Management Teleconferences* Project 20-256 has been providing good information to subsistence users on management decisions and timing of fishing opportunities. One Council member thought the *Customary Trade in the Lower Middle Yukon River* Project 20-252 was an important project, as it would collect good information about how customary trade has changed over time.

***Identify Issues for FY2019 Annual Report:***

The Council identified the following topics for inclusion into the FY19 Annual Report.

- The need for more information on climate change
- Funding for small projects in the FRMP
- The need for more environmental monitoring
- The evaluation of Alaska hatchery program impacts to Bering Sea salmon production
- The hunter education and ethics initiative

## **Agency Reports:**

The following Agency reports were presented:

- Arctic NWR update by Vince Matthews and Nathan Hawkaluk
- Yukon Flats NWR update by Vince Matthews and Nathan Hawkaluk
- 2019 Yukon River Salmon Season Summary by Gerald Maschmann, USFWS, and Holly Carroll, ADF&G
- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve update by Marcy Okada and Scott Sample
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Staff report by Barbara Cellarius
- Denali National Park and Preserve Wildlife Update by Patricia Owen
- Overview of YRDFA's FRMP funded projects by Catherine Moncrieff
- ADF&G Results from the OSM funded Yukon River Burbot Radiotelemetry Study by Lisa Stuby and Alida Trainor
- ADF&G Overview of Wood Bison Program by Tom Seaton
- Eastern Interior and Central Yukon Field Offices Report for BLM by Jim Herrigas
- Tanana Chiefs Conference Natural Resources Program update by Brian McKenna
- AITRC report by Karen Linnell
- OSM Staff report by Tom Doolittle and Tom Kron

## **Future Meeting Dates:**

The Council confirmed the dates of March 3-4 for the winter 2020 meeting in Fairbanks and selected October 14-15 for the fall 2020 meeting in Fairbanks.

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Zachary C. Stevenson, DFO  
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

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Susan Entsminger, Chair  
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its March 3-4, 2020, meeting in Fairbanks, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

A detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Zachary Stevenson at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3674, email [zachary\\_stevenson@fws.gov](mailto:zachary_stevenson@fws.gov)



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

## Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

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

### How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

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

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

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

#### What your proposal should contain:

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

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

**You may submit your proposals by:**

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

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

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

**How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:**

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

**A step-by-step guide to submitting your proposal on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov):**

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



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

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

**Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199  
Telephone: (907) 786-3674, Fax: 907-786-3989  
Toll-Free: 1-800-478-1456

RAC/EI20003.ZS

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

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) submits this FY2019 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) under the provisions of Section 805 (a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, on October 15-16, 2019, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. The Council approved this annual report at its winter 2020 meeting in Fairbanks. The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns aligned with the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Eastern Interior Alaska Region.

**1. Documentation of and more information on climate change and historical comparison of climate change trends**

The Council requests more information on climate change to help inform land management decisions affecting Federally qualified subsistence users in the Eastern Interior Region. During the Council's public meeting in Fairbanks on October 15-16, 2019, several Council Members reported that significant changes in weather and climate have had a noticeable effect on fish, wildlife, and their habitat. Such things as high water temperatures visibly affected salmon runs and salmon die offs were reported. People are concerned how this is going affect the fry in the river and what the long-term effects on the runs will be in the future. In some cases, the runs came in late, so fish wheels started to ice over before users were able to harvest enough of fish to satisfy their needs. Due to the high air temperatures, moose did not go into rut until the end of hunting season and many users were not able to harvest their meat until the season was over. The warm weather conditions made moose hunting and meat processing difficult. Declining winter ice, early, heavy, and wet snowfalls, and low water levels on some rivers during the summer season affected users' ability to use established transportation routes to the

subsistence grounds. For example, you cannot go trapping until December near Tanana because the rivers are still open, or you cannot beaver trap or bird hunt in the spring because it is too warm. There are changes in the abundance and distribution of fish and wildlife important to meet the food security needs of Federally qualified subsistence users.

The Council requests that it would like to see OSM social scientists conduct outreach, document issues, and make historical comparisons. The Council suggests that the Board direct OSM to collaborate with other agencies and nonprofit organizations to collect information and provide it to the Councils. The Council believes that more information will help manage resources better. Climate has a dramatic effect on resources in the future, and it is important to consider it in order to adapt.

More and up-to-date consistent information on climate change will assist the Council in being more adaptive to change, particularly when participating in the Federal subsistence regulatory process pursuant to Title VIII of ANILCA. The Council requests the Board figure out the ways to provide this information to the Council on a continuous basis.

## **2. Funding for small projects in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program**

The Council is concerned that there seems to be a preference for funding large Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) projects, which may limit the ability to fund equally important smaller projects. The Council wants the Board to ensure that both large and small FRMP projects in the region receive equal consideration when funding decisions are made. The Council suggests that investigators applying for FRMP funding for larger projects should look for funding from other sources as well.

## **3. Request to include environmental monitoring component into FRMP**

The Council suggests that in the future the Board might want to consider expanding FRMP to include an environmental monitoring component because changes in the environment strongly impacts both fish and wildlife. The Council proposes that FRMP be structured to support environmental monitoring and that partnerships with other agencies and nonprofit organizations be encouraged. The Council noted several examples where environmental monitoring could be helpful to land managers and Councils alike, including the impacts of fire on habitat and how changes affect moose and caribou. The Council emphasized there have been severe fires over the past decade.

## **4. Analysis of biological impacts of hatchery production on Alaska's fisheries**

Hatchery production is having tremendous biological impacts on all of Alaska's fisheries. The Council emphasized that fish hatcheries coupled with climate change have the potential to affect the region in profound and unknown ways. The Council appreciates the Board's response to the issue (topic #3) of the effects of releasing 1.6 billion hatchery salmon into the marine environment brought forward in Council's FY18 annual report; however, the Council feels that this reply did not provide an adequate answer to its

concern.

The Council requests an evaluation of the effects of the Alaska salmon hatchery program on Bering Sea salmon production and Alaska's fisheries. The Council requests that the Board direct OSM staff to compile the information from the available research and present it to the Council, similar to what was done with "Domino" effect issue. For example, the Council would like to have an overview presentation of the research conducted by the University of Washington; University of Hokkaido; University of Alaska Fairbanks; Oregon State University; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; State of Alaska, and others on this issue. This Council believes that other Councils will be interested in this presentation since there are similar concerns statewide. If there is a possibility of inviting a research specialist from one of these universities or organizations to present, the Council would welcome this opportunity.

The Council stressed that the information they are requesting is important to understand the current biological impacts. The Council also pointed out that this information will help to hold the hatcheries to commitments that they made in 2001 and 2002. In January 2001, at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting hatcheries' managers promised to reduce hatchery production volume by 25 percent. Then, on June 28, 2002, hatcheries' managers entered into a *Joint Protocol on Salmon Enhancement* (#2002-FB-215) with BOF. The Council believes that understanding biological impacts is the key to restoring some of the fisheries.

##### **5. Continuation of the hunter ethics and education initiative and dialog with rural communities**

The Council is aware of the current staff shortages at OSM; however, the Council would like to emphasize to the Board that it wishes to continue work on developing the hunter ethics and education initiative in the year ahead. There is a need for increased cultural awareness and respect for people that live in the rural Alaska. The Council would like to engage in a direct dialogue with the communities like Arctic Village. For example, the Council wants to create a subcommittee to find mutually beneficial solutions to the situation in the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area. The Council voted on the record during its fall 2019 meeting to send a letter to the Board requesting permission to create a subcommittee that will engage all stakeholders. The letter was sent on October 28, 2019 (see enclosure), but the Council had not received a reply yet. The Council asks the Board to provide direction on appropriate ways to engage in a two-way dialogue with rural communities about subsistence issues at stake.

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council appreciates the Board's attention to these matters and for the opportunity to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal public lands and waters. The Council looks forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users from the Eastern Interior Region. If you have questions about this report, please

contact me via Zach Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator with the Office of Subsistence Management at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3676, or email at zachary\_stevenson@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan Entsminger  
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management  
Suzanne Worker, Acting Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
Pippa Kenner, Anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management  
Greg Risdahl, Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management  
Frank Harris, Fisheries Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management  
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Lisa Maas, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management  
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Zachary Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
George Pappas, State Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management  
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Mark Burch, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record

Enclosure

**Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

c/o Office of Subsistence Management

1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6119

Phone: (907) 786-3674, Fax: (907) 786-3898

Toll-Free: 1-800-478-1456

OSM/RAC 19042.ZS

**OCT 28 2019**

Mr. Anthony Christianson, Chair  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Christianson:

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) is requesting approval from the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) to form a subcommittee to address various subsistence issues related to the take of sheep in Unit 25A and the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.

During its October 2019 meeting, the Council voted unanimously to submit this request for Board consideration. The purpose of this subcommittee would be to make recommendations to the Council and who in turn would potentially submit regulatory comments for the Board and the Alaska Board of Game to consider. The primary focus of the subcommittee would be regulations concerning the take of sheep in Unit 25A and the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.

The Council recommends the make-up of this subcommittee be:

- Residents of Arctic Village
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff
- Office of Subsistence Management staff
- Stakeholders in the region, as determined by the Council

The Council requests permission to form this subcommittee as soon as possible so that comments may be prepared for consideration by the Council for possible submission at the Alaska Board of Game March 2020 meeting, prior to the comment deadline of February 21, 2020.

Mr. Christianson

2

Questions regarding this letter may be addressed directly to me through Acting Subsistence Policy Coordinator Suzanne Worker at (907) 786-3677 [suzane\\_worker@fws.gov](mailto:suzane_worker@fws.gov).

Sincerely,



Susan L. Entsminger

Enclosures

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Thomas Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management  
Suzanne Worker, Acting Subsistence Policy Coordinator  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Tom Kron, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record

# FORTY MILE CARIBOU HERD HARVEST PLAN 2019–2023



Photo by Robert Gingue, ADF&G

This plan was developed by the Harvest Management Coalition consisting of members of the Anchorage, Central, Delta, Eagle, Fairbanks, and Upper Tanana Fortymile advisory committees, Eastern Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Council, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in , and Dawson District Renewable Resource Council, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Yukon Department of Environment. (See *Appendix A* for further information about the composition of the Harvest Management Coalition)

Endorsed by the Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board in **LEFT BLANK**  
**INTENTIONALLY**





This document should be cited as:

HARVEST MANAGEMENT COALITION. 2019. Fortymile caribou herd harvest plan 2019–2023. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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- Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240.

The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers:

- (VOICE) 907-465-6077
- (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648
- (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646
- (FAX) 907-465-6078

For information on questions on this publication, please contact ADF&G/DWC, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-1551; telephone 907-459-7206.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This *Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2019–2023* (“2019 Harvest Plan”) covers regulatory years<sup>1</sup> (RY) 2019–2023. It was developed by the Harvest Management Coalition (HMC) to provide recommendations to the management agencies in Alaska and Yukon to 1) guide harvest management of the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) in Alaska, and 2) for allocation of an annual allowable harvest between Alaska and Yukon.

The following are changes in the 2019 Harvest Plan:

- Updated harvest recommendations, including expanded season and bag limit options to provide managers with additional tools to harvest more caribou from this increasing herd
- Provided recommendations for monitoring population dynamics used to assess the ability of habitat to support the herd
- Provided recommendations for harvest management under varying herd health and population trend scenarios

## **BACKGROUND**

### **HARVEST MANAGEMENT PLAN HISTORY**

Dedicated Canadian and Alaskan hunters and concerned citizens have contributed, compromised, and sacrificed to allow the FCH to grow while still allowing some harvest. Since 1995 when the first plan was put in place, the herd grew from approximately 20,000 caribou to a minimum of 73,009 caribou in 2017. The primary goal of all plans is to restore the FCH to its former range and abundance.

- *Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan 1995*
  - Plan covered RY96—RY00
  - Addressed aspects of herd management including allocation between Alaska and Yukon
  - Provisions were included to reduce caribou mortality
    - decreased harvest to a limit of 150 bulls per year under state-federal registration permit hunt
    - implemented nonlethal wolf management in Alaska
  - Simplify state-federal dual management by having a joint registration permit
- *Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2001–2006*

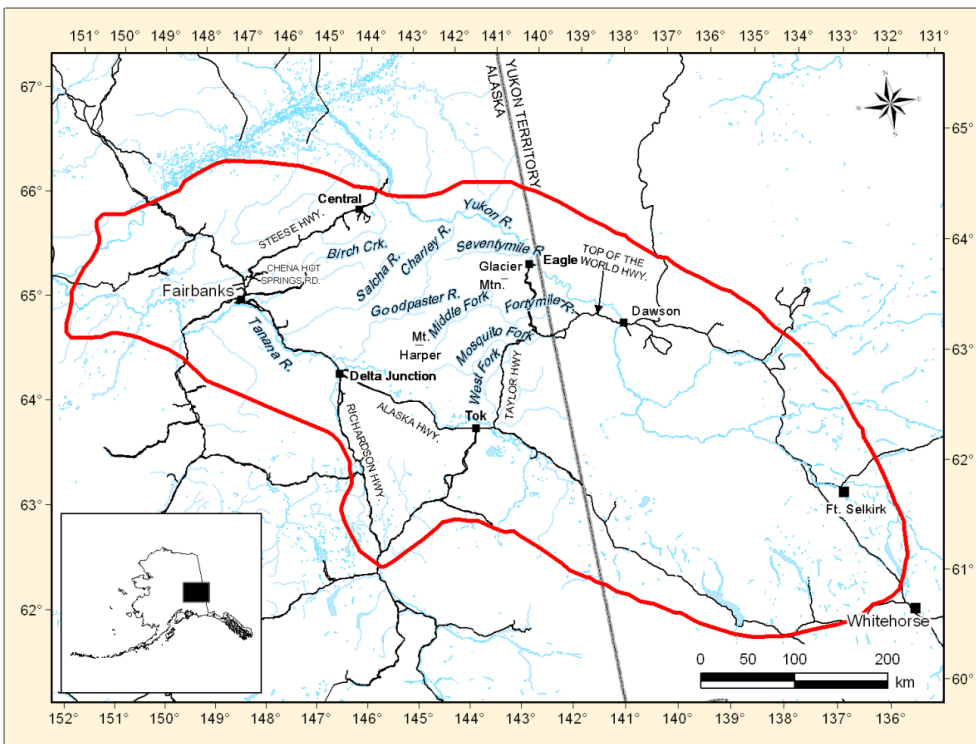
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<sup>1</sup> The state regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June of the following year. For example, RY19 = 1 July 2019–30 June 2020.

- Herd size increased, and a framework was created to expand hunting opportunities
- Herd-wide allowable harvest of 2–3% of the estimated population size
- Allowed for annual harvest allocation increases if the herd grew by 10% or more in the previous year
- Harvest allocated 65% to Alaska and 35% to Yukon
- Ended nonlethal wolf management program in 2001
- *Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2006–2012*
  - Added secondary goal to the plan of increasing harvest as the herd grew
  - Implemented lethal wolf management program to benefit Fortymile caribou in 2005
- *Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan 2012–2018 (2012 Harvest Plan)*
  - Group name changed from “Fortymile Caribou Herd Planning Team” to “Harvest Management Coalition”

**HERD HISTORIC RANGE AND POPULATION INFORMATION**

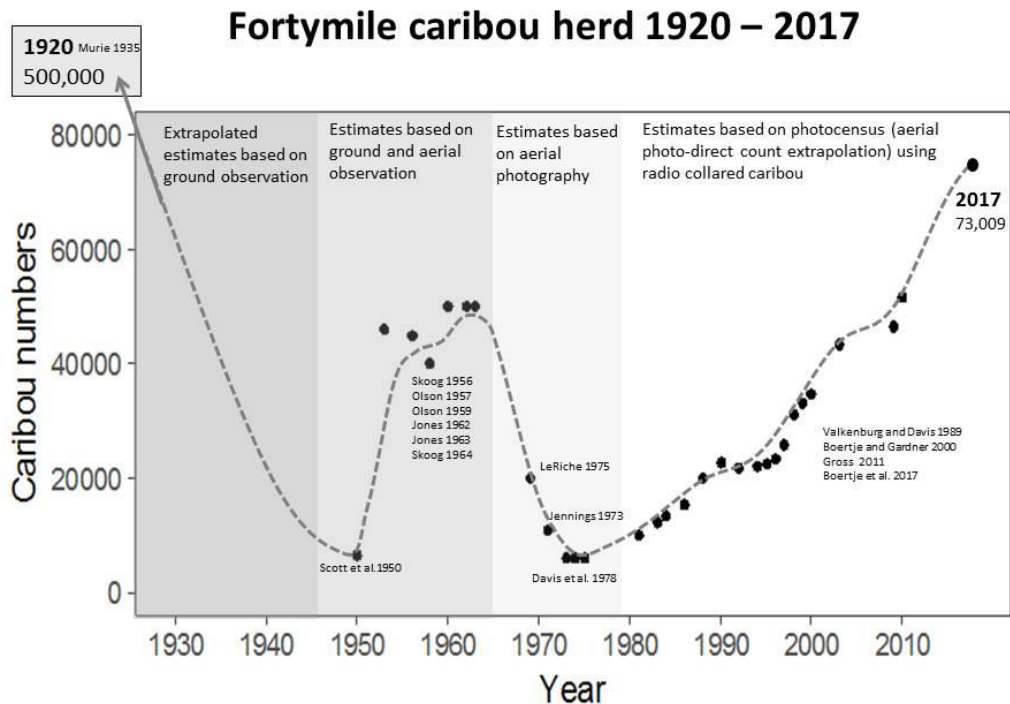
The record of the FCH historic range indicates the herds range may have encompassed as much as 101,000 square miles in the past, extending from Whitehorse in Yukon to the White Mountains, north of Fairbanks in Alaska (Murie 1935) (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1. Historic range of the Fortymile Caribou Herd.**

Methods for quantifying population estimates have varied through time from anecdotal evidence from historic written and oral resources through quantitative population estimates based on population models and rigorous field surveys.

- Population estimates in the 1920s were between 260,000 and 568,000 caribou (Fig. 2)
  - It should be noted that the estimates were not developed using scientific census methods employed during later population estimation efforts
- Population estimates from around 1950 indicated there were at least 46,000 caribou based on ground and aerial survey and observation efforts
- Population estimates from the early 1970s indicated that the population declined to an estimated low of 5,000 caribou based on aerial photography
- The population grew slowly between 1974 and 1990 to approximately 23,000 caribou based on aerial photography and modern photocensus techniques (which have been used in all population surveys since 1990)
- The population remained around 23,000 caribou until 1995, primarily due to low calf survival
- The population increased to a minimum of 43,375 caribou by 2003
  - The increase was attributed to the combination of an intensive private wolf trapping effort, nonlethal predator management in Alaska, favorable weather conditions, and reduced hunter harvest
  - During 2004–2010, the herd continued to increase by an average of 2–3% annually concurrent with lethal wolf removal in Alaska conducted by permitted members of the public (beginning in January 2005) and ADF&G staff (beginning in March 2009)
- The 2010 minimum herd size was 51,675 caribou based on results of a successful summer photocensus
- The next successful photocensus was completed in 2017, with a minimum herd size of 73,009 caribou
  - Population modeling using the Rivest et al. (1998) method resulted in a 2017 modeled estimate of 83,659 caribou, with a 95% confidence interval of 78,138 – 89,180 caribou [SE=2713.6, 95%,  $t(df=34-1)=2.345$ ]



**Figure 2. Fortymile caribou herd population estimates 1920–2017.**

### HARVEST HISTORY SINCE 1950

During the 1950s and 1960s harvest of the FCH was concentrated along the Steese, Taylor, and Top of the World highways, and along the Yukon River near Dawson City.

From the mid-1970s through the mid-1990s, FCH hunting regulations in Alaska were designed to benefit local hunters and to prevent harvest from limiting herd growth by utilizing bag limits, harvest quotas, and season openings. Hunting seasons were deliberately scheduled to avoid the period when road crossings were likely; harvest shifted to trail systems, rivers, and small airstrips scattered throughout the herd's range.

In 1994 a consensus-based planning effort was initiated by partners in Alaska and Yukon, which resulted in the 1995 Management Plan (RY96–RY00) that mandated an Alaska harvest quota of 150 bulls per year, while Yukon voluntarily suspended all harvest of the herd to encourage herd growth.

The 2001 and 2006 Harvest Plans for RY01–RY11 recommended a conservative annual harvest rate of 2–3% of the herd size.

- Harvest was allocated with 65% going to Alaska and 35% to Yukon
- No licensed hunting was allowed by the Yukon Department of Environment and First Nations in Yukon chose to forgo harvest of the herd and put its harvest allocation toward herd growth

- The Alaska harvest quota was divided between seasons, with 75% going to the fall hunt and 25% to the winter hunt. This harvest allocation was based on traditional harvest patterns

Beginning in RY04, the department began issuing one fall and one winter registration permit for all three zones to reduce confusion and the additional burden of having to issue multiple permits to hunters planning to hunt in more than one zone throughout the season.

During RY05–RY09, the FCH became increasingly available along Alaska road systems resulting in fall harvest quotas being reached or exceeded in 1–10 days. The extremely short seasons lead to concern over reasonable opportunity being provided for subsistence users, concentration of hunters and harvest along highways and the adjacent trail systems, “flock-shooting,” excessive wounding loss, safety issues, and concerns about the quality of the hunting experience.

In October 2009 Alaska members of the coalition met several times with ADF&G and federal managers to discuss interim solutions to the hunt issues that had developed over the previous 5 years. Starting in RY10, the opening date of the fall state hunt in the road accessible Zones 1 & 3 was changed from August 10<sup>th</sup> to August 29<sup>th</sup> and the bag limit for both the state and federal hunts was changed (bulls only). These changes were made to slow harvest to keep from exceeding the quota in a short period of time (1–3 days) and reduce the incidence of wounding loss associated with “flock shooting”.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HARVEST PLAN 2019–2023**

In October 2017, the HMC met in Tok where they were provided input on the current status of the herd based on data collected during the summer 2017 photocensus as well as nutritional information since 2010. The coalition reconvened in Fairbanks in January 2018 and in Tok in February 2019 to review and update the 2019 Harvest Plan. Consensus was reached on the following goals and objectives, which have been slightly modified from previous plans.

### **GOALS**

*Goal 1:* Promote continued sustainable growth and restore the herd to its historic range in both Alaska and Yukon.

*Goal 2:* Increase the allowable harvest of the FCH as the herd grows and as the herd can sustain harvest within the constraints of Goal 1.

*Goal 3:* Provide reasonable opportunity for Alaska subsistence uses.

*Goal 4:* Manage Alaska hunts to allow opportunity for non–subsistence hunters while staying within the constraints of all other goals.



## **HERD HEALTH AND HABITAT MONITORING**

The HMC recognizes that the FCH may reach a population greater than the habitat can support. Monitoring of caribou herd dynamics will continue to be used to assess the ability of habitat to support the herd.

Monitoring will include:

- Population size and growth rate
- Age and sex specific mortality rates
- Weights of 4-month-old caribou
- Birthrates of 3-year-old caribou
- Birthrates of other caribou
- Weather patterns
- Range quality
- Other

Data from a multi-year period should be used to signal when nutrition is compromised enough to require increasing harvest and stabilizing or reducing the population. For example, Boertje et al. (2012) suggested that if the 5-year average birthrate of 3-year-olds declines below 55% and adverse weather is not a factor, then managers should consider stabilizing the herd to conserve the habitat.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The HMC recommends the following objectives to achieve harvest management goals:

- Manage for a population of 50,000–100,000
- Determine annual harvest based on the most recent pre-hunt modeled population estimates
- Manage for desired population trend based on herd nutritional status using the following alternatives:
  - a. Slow growth alternative (preferred):
    - If the herd size is greater than 70,000, set harvest levels to attempt to maintain a growth rate of 1-2%
  - b. Stabilize population alternative:
    - Set harvest to stop herd growth and maintain population size
  - c. Deliberate population reduction alternative:
    - Set harvest and implement other management tools to reduce population size determined by biological analysis and consultation.

If the population declines naturally, set harvest and implement other management tools to stop or slow decline caused by poor health and nutritional stress.

### ALLOCATION OF HARVEST BETWEEN ALASKA AND YUKON

Harvest allocation should remain the same, with 65% of allowable harvest going to Alaska and 35% going to Yukon. Caribou will not be reallocated between Alaska and the Yukon. Untaken quota may be reassigned after consultation between Alaska and Yukon.

### ALASKA HARVEST MANAGEMENT

#### Alaska Harvest Management Zones

The FCH hunt area should continue to be divided into hunt zones in Alaska to help manage and distribute harvest.

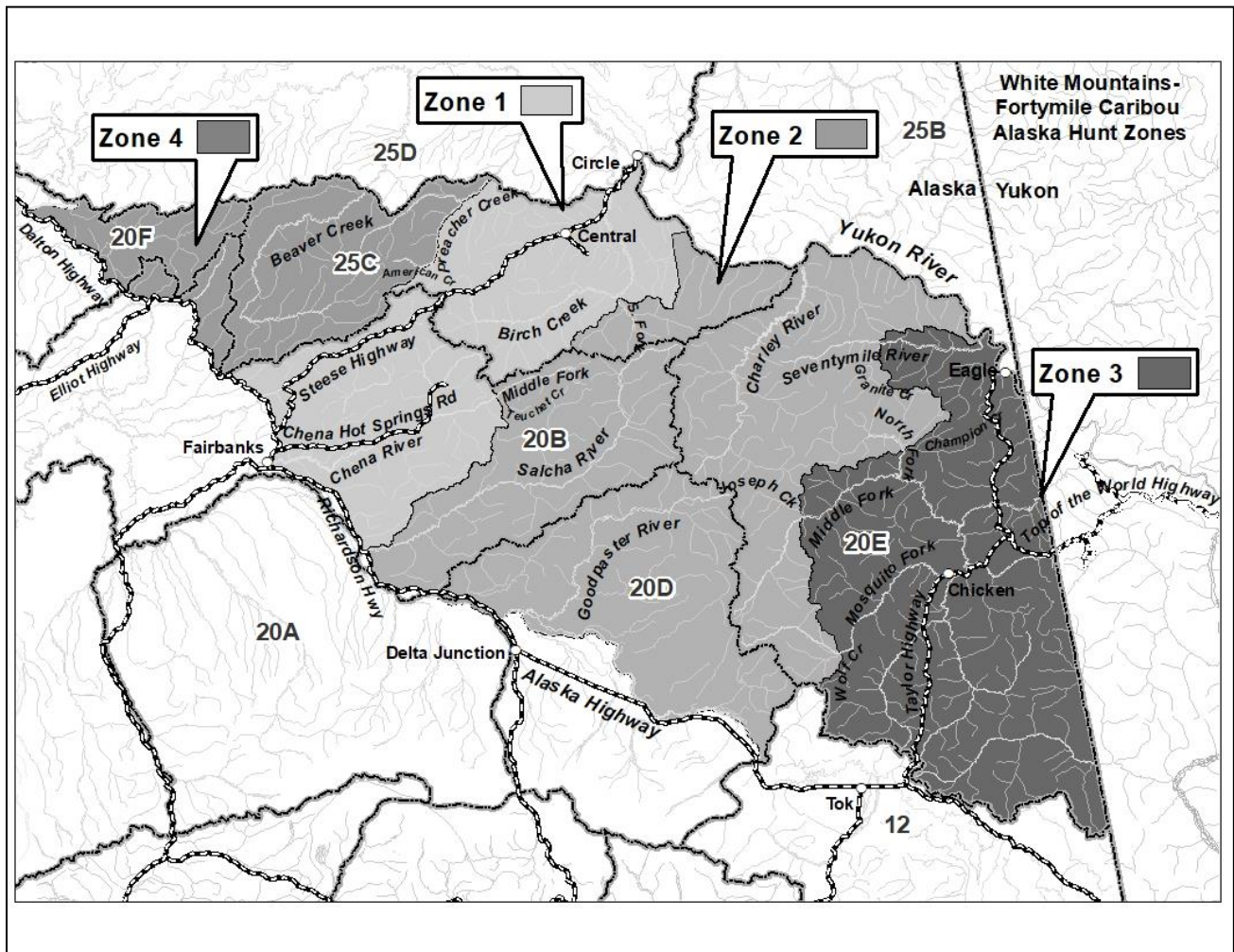


FIGURE 3. White Mountains-Fortymile caribou herd hunt management zones in Alaska for regulatory years 2019–2023. See Appendix B for a detailed description of zones.

### *Alaska Allocation*

The following Alaska allocations are recommended:

- Fall quota: Seventy-five percent of the Alaska annual harvest quota will be allocated to the fall hunt
  - Zone 2 – up to 300 caribou
  - Zones 1 & 4 – 40% of the remaining quota
  - Zone 3 – 60% of the remaining quota
- Winter quota: Twenty-five percent of the annual harvest quota and any surplus from the fall quota
  - Harvest in Zones 2 & 4 will be applied to the overall winter quota and will remain open until the end of the season
  - Sixty percent will be allocated to the road accessible Zone 1 or 3 where the majority of the herd is located immediately prior to the opening of the winter season
  - The remaining 40% of the quota will be assigned to the remaining road accessible zone
  - If the quota will not be met in one zone, 75% of remaining quota may be reassigned to the other zone

### *Additional Alaska Recommendations*

The HMC recommends the following:

- Use a single joint state-federal registration permit and coordinate seasons
- Use a mandatory short reporting period;
  - For successful hunters, 3 days after harvest
  - For unsuccessful hunters, 15 days from the close of the season
- Coordinate state and federal season openings and closures based upon reaching quotas, harvest reports, field observations, and reasonable opportunity for subsistence needs
- Monitor in-season harvest and movements and distribution to minimize heavy roadside harvest and to prevent harvest quotas from being exceeded
- Do not allow proxy hunting
- Allow up to 3 caribou to be taken by residents between the fall and winter seasons
- Managers should try to keep annual harvest as close to the annual quota as possible but may tolerate up to a 15% variation in a single year. If the quota is either not reached or exceeded in one year, harvest allocation normally will not be adjusted the following year to compensate

The HMC supports providing reasonable opportunity for subsistence hunters while continuing to support herd growth. The HMC stated during the 2012 Harvest Plan meetings that “In consideration of the fall and winter hunts being open to all Alaska residents through unlimited registration permits and provisions recommended for ADF&G to use discretionary permit authority to ensure that harvest is controlled and seasons are not cut unreasonably short by emergency orders, the HMC recommends the Board of Game continue to find that reasonable

subsistence opportunity, as required by state law, will be provided by implementing the harvest management guidelines included in the 2019 Harvest Plan. Further, the HMC recommends to the Federal Subsistence Board that they continue to find the 2019 Harvest Plan provides opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska in accordance with public land law (ANILCA Title VIII).”

### **SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS**

The hunting season for the FCH should continue to be split between a fall hunt and a winter hunt.

#### *Fall Season:*

- Registration hunt (RC860), all hunters, all zones
  - Up to 3 caribou by joint state-federal registration permit
  - 10 August–30 September
    - If 10 August falls on a Thursday – Saturday, opening day will be postponed to the following Sunday
- Youth drawing hunt (YC831), all hunters, Zones 1 & 3
  - One caribou per lifetime
  - 1–21 August

#### *Winter Season:*

- Registration hunt (RC867), resident hunters only, all zones
  - Up to 3 caribou by joint state-federal registration permit
  - 21 October–31 March

To offer fall hunting opportunity in the Eagle area, this plan recommends that ADF&G has the authority to announce a 1- to 3-day season for resident hunters to harvest caribou on state managed lands in the American Summit area between 20 October and 30 November. Registration permits will only be available in Eagle. This season will be opened if 1) there has been insufficient local opportunity in September to harvest caribou, and 2) Fortymile caribou are present in the area. This will be a state registration permit hunt, and every effort will be made to maintain the harvest at no more than 30 caribou. The animals harvested will be counted toward caribou harvested under the winter quota for Zone 3. This hunt is intended to accommodate residents of Eagle, but would be open to all Alaska residents. If excessive harvest occurs or other problems develop, it should be permanently suspended.

#### *Recommendations for Road Crossings*

- Temporary closures in road corridors or specific drainages
- Use targeted hunts to provide additional hunting opportunity if necessary to help meet winter harvest quotas
- Add a provision to the hunt conditions that hunters must remove all viscera from drivable surface due to the appearance as well as predators being attracted to roadways.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Education and outreach should continue to be an integral part of the success of managing the FCH and can be found online and at local ADF&G offices.

### *Current Efforts:*

- Newsletter *The Comeback Trail* (ADF&G)
- Brochure on caribou sex identification (ADF&G)
- Adding removal of viscera from drivable surfaces of roadways to permit hunt conditions
- Hunting ethics project in progress (EIRAC)
- Communicate with hunters about meat condition of October bulls

## YUKON HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Currently under development.

## WOLF AND GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT

The HMC recognizes that predator management in Alaska has been a vital aspect of increasing the size of the herd and maintaining high levels of harvest by people. Predator management tools in Alaska should remain available, even if they are not used continuously.

In Yukon, wolf management actions will be guided by the *Yukon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan* and by hunting and trapping regulations. Grizzly bear management actions will be guided by the *Yukon Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan* and by hunting regulations.

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## APPENDIX A. Composition of the Harvest Management Coalition.

Membership of the Harvest Management Coalition (HMC) has evolved over the years. Since the 2001 Harvest Plan, the state advisory committee membership of the HMC has been from the Eagle, Central, Fairbanks, Delta, and Upper Tanana–Fortymile committees. For the 2006, 2012, and 2019 harvest plans the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (EIRAC), and members of the Yukon contingent were added to the HMC. The Anchorage and Matanuska Valley AC expressed strong interest in joining the HMC and were added in 2012. No Matanuska Valley AC representative attended the planning meetings for the 2019 Harvest Plan.

As a result of growth of the Fortymile herd and expanding harvest opportunities, hunters who live outside of its immediate range want to have a voice in how harvest is managed. The HMC agreed that its Alaska membership should expand. The members agreed that even though the coalition should expand, it must not become so large that meetings would be difficult to manage. Furthermore, they expressed the desire that the five original local advisory committees should always hold a majority, and the EIRAC and Yukon contingent should always have representation. Beyond those members there should be two other Alaska seats, not necessarily always Anchorage and Matanuska Valley advisory committees, but people who would represent user groups and appropriate interests.

If others would like to join the HMC, they should come to the coalition, present their case, and request membership.

HMC members:

October 25–26, 2017:

Frank Neumann; Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Bill Glanz; Central Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Daniel Reynolds; Dawson District Renewable Resource Council  
Mark Wierda; Dawson District Renewable Resource Council  
Vern Aiton; Delta Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Andrew Bassich; Eagle Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Don Woodruff; Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council  
Mike Tinker; Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Natasha Ayoub; Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in  
Frank Entsminger; Upper Tanana–Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Graham Van Tighem; Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board  
Ron Chambers; Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board  
Matt Clarke; Yukon Government, Department of Environment

January 23–24, 2018

Phillip Calhoun; Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Bill Glanz; Central Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Daniel Reynolds; Dawson District Renewable Resource Council  
Mark Wierda; Dawson District Renewable Resource Council  
Vern Aiton; Delta Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Andrew Bassich; Eagle Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Don Woodruff; Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council

Al Barrette; Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Art Christensen; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in  
Natasha Ayoub; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in  
Frank Entsminger; Upper Tanana–Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Matt Clarke; Yukon Government, Department of Environment

February 5–6, 2019

Phillip Calhoun; Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Bill Glanz; Central Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Mark Wierda; Dawson District Renewable Resource Council  
Vern Aiton; Delta Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Don Woodruff; Eagle Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Michael Koelher; Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council  
Mike Tinker; Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Darren Taylor; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in  
Jacob Combs; Upper Tanana–Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Graham Van Tighem; Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board  
Matt Clarke; Yukon Government, Department of Environment



**APPENDIX B.** Hunt zone descriptions.

Note: Federal seasons are managed by game management unit (unit), not zones. Federal lands used for harvest of FCH are in Units 25C, 20E, and 20F.

**ZONE 1**

Unit 20B, that portion within the Chatanika River drainage north and east of the Steese Highway, and that portion south and east of the Steese Highway, except the middle fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and except the Salcha River drainage.

Unit 25C, that portion east of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then east of the east bank of American Creek, excluding that portion within the drainage of the south fork of Birch Creek and excluding that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve.

**ZONE 2**

Unit 20B, that portion south and east of the Steese Highway within the middle fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and the Salcha River drainage.

Unit 20D, that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River.

Unit 20E, that portion within the Charley River drainage, the Seventymile River drainage upstream from and including the Granite Creek drainage, the North Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from, but not including the Champion Creek drainage, the Middle Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage, the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Wolf Creek drainage, and the drainages flowing into the Yukon River downstream from the confluence of the Seventymile and Yukon rivers.

Unit 25C, that portion within the drainage of South Fork Birch Creek and that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve.

**ZONE 3**

Unit 20E, remainder (the road and trail accessible portion of the herd’s range in the vicinity of the Taylor Highway).

**ZONE 4**

Unit 20B and Unit 20F those portions north and west of the Steese Highway, north and east of the Elliot Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River, excluding the Chatanika River drainage.

Unit 25C, that portion west of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek.

# Fall 2020 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

*Last updated on 11/12/19*

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

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

# Winter 2021 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

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

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

## Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy

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

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

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

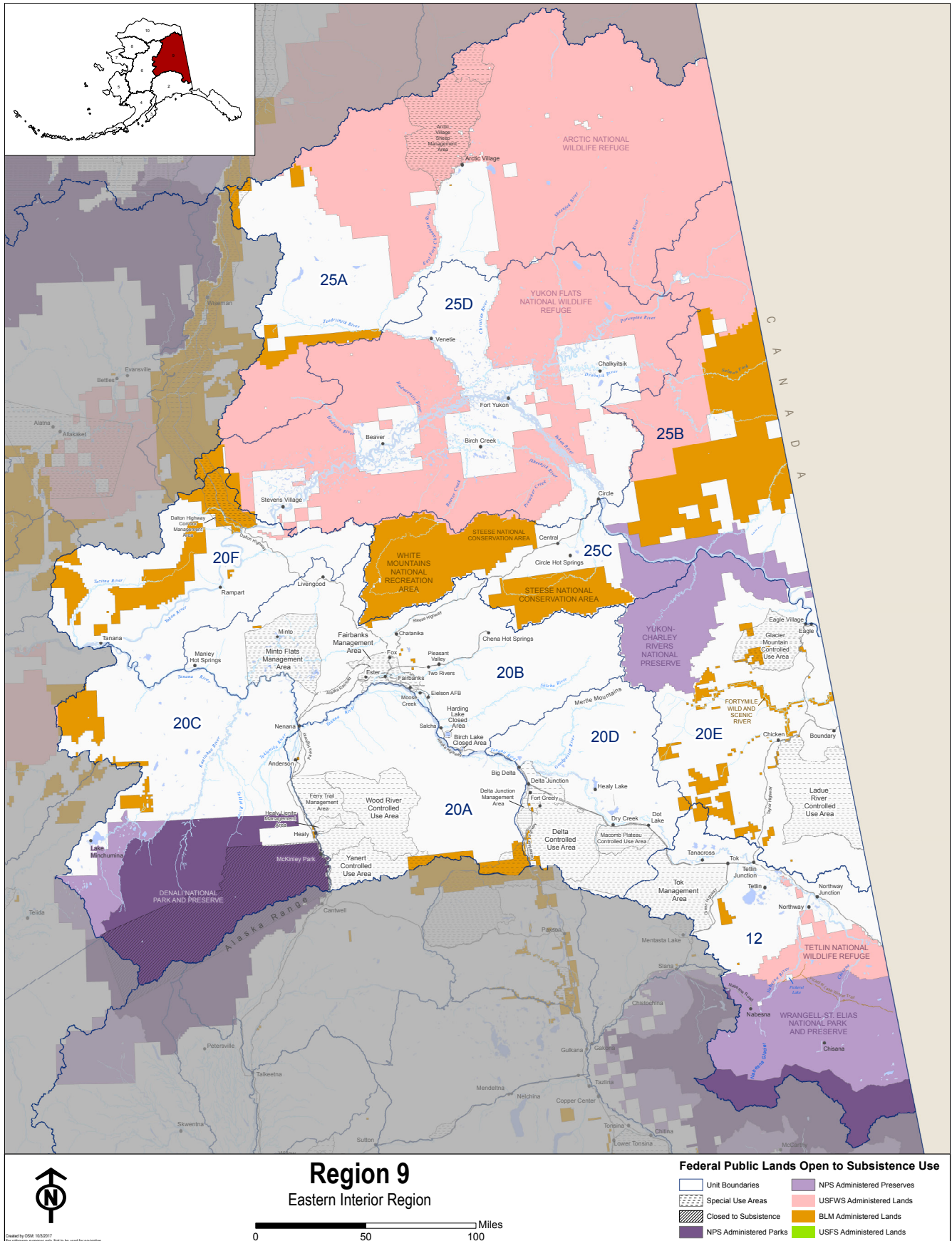
The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture created the Federal Subsistence Board and delegated to it the responsibility for managing fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. The Board was also given the duty of establishing rules and procedures for the operation of the Regional Advisory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

### Policy

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

6/15/04

4. As a general rule, Councils discuss and agree upon proposed correspondence during a public meeting. Occasionally, a Council chair may be requested to write a letter when it is not feasible to wait until a public Council meeting. In such cases, the content of the letter shall be limited to the known position of the Council as discussed in previous Council meetings.
5. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8 of this policy, Councils will transmit all correspondence to the Assistant Regional Director (ARD) of OSM for review prior to mailing. This includes, but is not limited to, letters of support, resolutions, letters offering comment or recommendations, and any other correspondence to any government agency or any tribal or private organization or individual.
  - a. Recognizing that such correspondence is the result of an official Council action and may be urgent, the ARD will respond in a timely manner.
  - b. Modifications identified as necessary by the ARD will be discussed with the Council chair. Councils will make the modifications before sending out the correspondence.
6. Councils may submit written comments requested by federal land management agencies under ANILCA §810 or requested by regional Subsistence Resource Commissions under §808 directly to the requesting agency. Section 808 correspondence includes comments and information solicited by the SRCs and notification of appointment by the Council to an SRC.
7. Councils may submit proposed regulatory changes or written comments regarding proposed regulatory changes affecting subsistence uses within their regions to the Alaska Board of Fisheries or the Alaska Board of Game directly. A copy of any comments or proposals will be forwarded to the ARD when the original is submitted.
8. Administrative correspondence such as letters of appreciation, requests for agency reports at Council meetings, and cover letters for meeting agendas will go through the Council's regional coordinator to the appropriate OSM division chief for review.
9. Councils will submit copies of all correspondence generated by and received by them to OSM to be filed in the administrative record system.
10. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8, Councils or individual Council members acting on behalf of or as representative of the Council may not, through correspondence or any other means of communication, attempt to persuade any elected or appointed political officials, any government agency, or any tribal or private organization or individual to take a particular action on an issue. This does not prohibit Council members from acting in their capacity as private citizens or through other organizations with which they are affiliated.



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

**Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

**Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Eastern Interior Alaska 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.
  - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
- e. Appoint one member to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission and one member to the Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission 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.

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

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$175,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.15 Federal staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional



**Director – Subsistence, Region 11, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:**

- (a) Approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings;
  - (b) Prepare and approve all meeting agendas;
  - (c) Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings;
  - (d) Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest; and
  - (e) Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.
- 9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
- 10. Duration.** Continuing.
- 11. Termination.** The Council will be inactive 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
- 12. Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

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

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

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

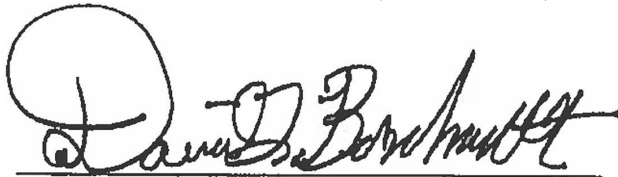
Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

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

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

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

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



Secretary of the Interior

DEC 12 2019

Date Signed

DEC 13 2019

Date Filed



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