

KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Meeting Materials

*April 22-23, 2019*

*Kodiak*





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## *On the cover...*

The Emperor Goose is a winter visitor to Kodiak's shoreline, spending the summer far to the north along Alaska's west coast.



USFWS photo by Lisa Hupp

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**KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Best Western Kodiak Inn and Convention Center  
Kodiak

April 22-23, 2019  
Convening at 9:00 a.m. 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 (*Designated Federal Officer*)
  - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
  - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes\*** (*Chair*) ..... 5
- 8. Reports**
  - Council Member Reports
  - Chair’s Report
  - Coordinator’s Report (*Zach Stevenson, Office of Subsistence Management*)
- 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)

**10. New Business (Chair)**

a. Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals\* .....24  
b. Council Charter Review\* .....40  
c. Approve FY2018 Annual Report\* .....33

**11. Agency Reports**

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

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations & Alaska Native Corporations

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- a. Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Update
- b. Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Update
- c. Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Update
- d. Alaska Region – Migratory Bird Management Update

National Park Service

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

- a. Board of Fisheries Update
- b. Kodiak Update
- c. Subsistence Fisheries Update .....36
- d. South Peninsula and Aleutians Fisheries Summary

OSM

- a. General Update
- b. Fisheries Program Updates
- c. Review of Statewide Finfish Fisheries Proposals

**12. Future Meeting Dates\***

Confirm fall 2019 meeting dates and location .....37  
Select winter 2020 meeting dates and location .....38

**13. Closing Comments**

**14. Adjourn (Chair)**

**To teleconference** into the meeting, call the toll free number: 1-866-820-9854, then when prompted enter the passcode: 4801802

*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 April 15, 2019.

**REGION 3**  
**Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Year Apptd Term Expires</b>	<b>Member Name and Community</b>	
<b>1</b>	2010 <b>2019</b>	<b>Antone Shelikoff</b> Akutan	
<b>2</b>	2001 <b>2019</b>	<b>Patrick Holmes</b> Kodiak	
<b>3</b>	2005 <b>2019</b>	<b>Richard Koso</b> Adak	
<b>4</b>	2004 <b>2019</b>	<b>Samuel Rohrer</b> Kodiak	
<b>5</b>	2017 <b>2020</b>	<b>Christopher Price</b> Unalaska	
<b>6</b>	2014 <b>2020</b>	<b>Coral Chernoff</b> Kodiak	
<b>7</b>	2014 <b>2020</b>	<b>Rebecca Skinner</b> Kodiak	<b>Vice Chair</b>
<b>8</b>	1997 <b>2021</b>	<b>Della Trumble</b> King Cove	<b>Chair</b>
<b>9</b>	2018 <b>2021</b>	<b>Natasha M. Hayden</b> Kodiak	
<b>10</b>	2012 <b>2021</b>	<b>Melissa Berns</b> Old Harbor	<b>Secretary</b>

## KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 16-17, 2018  
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.  
Kodiak, Alaska

### Meeting Minutes

The meeting called to order at 8:59 a.m.

#### **Roll call**

A quorum included the following Council members present: Della Trumble, Chair, Rebecca Skinner, Vice Chair, Melissa M. Berns, Secretary, Antone A. Shelikoff, Richard R. Koso, Christopher L. Price, Coral Chernoff, and Speridon M. Simeonoff, Sr. Council member Patrick B. Holmes participated in the meeting telephonically. Council member Samuel I. Rohrer was absent and excused from the meeting.

#### **Attending in Person:**

Greg Risdahl, Supervisor, Fisheries Division, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM); Scott Ayers, Fisheries Biologist, OSM; Robbin La Vine, Anthropologist, OSM; Tom Evans, Wildlife Biologist, OSM; Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional Director, OSM; Orville Lind, Native Liaison, OSM; George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, OSM; Zach Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, OSM; Patrick Fitzmorris, Wildlife Biologist, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR); Charlie Hamilton, Special Assistant, Marine Mammals Management, USFWS; James MacCraken, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Sea Otter and Pacific Walrus, Marine Mammals Management, USFWS; Robert Kaler, Wildlife Biologist, Seabirds, Migratory Bird Management, USFWS; Steve Delehanty, Refuge Manager, Alaska Maritime NWR, USFWS; Vince Tutiakoff, Sr., Unalaska Native Fishermen Association; Peter Devine, Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point and Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. representative to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council; Kelly Krueger, Tribal Biologist, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak; Tom Lance, Natural Resources Director, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak; Paul Gunderson, member of the public; Karen Pletnikoff, Environmental and Safety Program Manager, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.; Liza Mack, Executive Director, Aleut International Association; and Patricia Petrivelli, Subsistence Anthropologist, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) / Interagency Staff Committee Member, Federal Subsistence Management Program.

#### **Attending via Teleconference:**

Thomas L. Schwantes, member of the public, Mark Burch, Wildlife Biologist IV, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Michelle Stratton, Fisheries Biologist I, SPF-R2 Kodiak, ADF&G, Nathan Svoboda, Area Wildlife Biologist – Kodiak, ADF&G, James Jackson, Fishery Biologist III, COF-R4 Kodiak, ADF&G, Lisa Fox, Fishery Biologist III, COF-R4 Kodiak, ADF&G, Jacqueline Keating, Subsistence Resource Specialist II, Subsistence Statewide Region, ADF&G, Leticia Melendez, Deputy Manager, Izembek NWR, USFWS, Lauren Divine, Co-Director, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Ecosystem Conservation Office, Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, Kodiak NWR, USFWS, Tevis Underwood, Deputy Manager, Kodiak NWR, USFWS, Bill Pyle, Supervisory Biologist, Kodiak NWR, USFWS, and Diane Granfors, Acting Refuge Manager, Izembek NWR, USFWS.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

The Council reviewed and unanimously adopted the agenda with modification. The modifications included the following additions not included on the agenda in the meeting book:



8. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items (available each morning)  
Addressing Defense of Life and Property (*Neil DeWitt, member of the public*)
  
10. New Business (*Chair*)  
Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (*Scott Ayers, Fisheries Biologist, OSM*)  
Update of Federal Fisheries Proposal Cycle (*Scott Ayers, Fisheries Biologist, OSM*)
  
11. Agency Reports  
  
Tribal Governments
  - a. Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, Buskin Watershed Crayfish Status Report (*Kelly Krueger, Tribal Biologist and Tom Lance, Natural Resource Director*)
  - b. Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Ecosystem Conservation Office, Update on the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative (*Lauren Divine, Co-Director*)  
Native Organizations & Alaska Native Corporations
  - a. Update of behalf of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (*Karen Pletnikoff, Environmental and Safety Program Manager*)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - a. Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Report (*Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, Tevis Underwood, Deputy Manager, and Bill Pyle, Supervisory Biologist*)
  - b. Report on Izembek Inventory and Monitoring Surveys (*Diane Granfors, Acting Refuge Manager, Izembek NWR*)
  - c. Marine Mammals Management Update on Sea Otters (*Charlie Hamilton, Special Assistant, and James MacCraken, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Sea Otter and Pacific Walrus, USFWS*)  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
  - a. \*Request for 1:00 PM time slot on Tues., Oct. 16th - 2018 Buskin River Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment (*Michelle Stratton, Fisheries Biologist I, SPF-R2 Kodiak*)
  - b. Kodiak Update (*Nathan Svoda, Area Wildlife Biologist - Kodiak*)
  - c. Addressing the Four Major Subsistence Closures of this Season (*James Jackson, Fishery Biologist III, COF-R4 Kodiak*)
  - d. South Peninsula and Aleutians Fisheries Summary (*Lisa Fox, Fishery Biologist III, COF-R4 Kodiak*)
  - e. Purpose and Importance of Community Subsistence Harvest Surveys (*Jacqueline Keating, Subsistence Resource Specialist II, Subsistence Statewide Region*)
  - f. Notification of Kodiak Comprehensive Subsistence Harvest Survey and Project Updates (*Jacqueline Keating, Subsistence Resource Specialist II, Subsistence Statewide Region*)  
Office of Subsistence Management
  - a. Fall 2018 Report to the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (*Orville Lind, Native Liaison*)
  - b. Importance of Government-to-Government Consultation (*Orville Lind, Native Liaison*)
  - c. OSM Comments on the Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals (*George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison*)

\*Asterisk identifies an action item.

Skinner requested the inclusion of a topic addressing Alaska Board of Fish proposals. Stevenson responded, noting this topic will be addressed on Day 2 of the meeting, under agenda item number 11, Agency Reports, Office of Subsistence Management, sub item c. OSM Comments of Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals (*George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison*).

Koso requested the inclusion of a topic addressing permits for shooting beach geese or Emperor Goose. Trumble asked if this item is presently on the agenda. Stevenson clarified this item is not on the agenda. Trumble requested this topic be added under agenda item number 11, Agency Reports, ADF&G.

Skinner motioned to approve the agenda as modified, seconded by Chernoff. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Fall 2017 Draft Minutes**

The following corrections to the draft fall 2017 meeting minutes were made:

- *Page 5*, last sentence, Holmes noted the large fish and spawners are gone, pollock are without recruits, and cod have almost completely disappeared because there is only one age class supporting the fishery.
- *Page 7*, under Agency Reports, Skinner requested changing “Kodiak Native Association” to “Kodiak Area Native Association and abbreviated as KANA, all throughout that paragraph.”
- *Page 8*, Holmes noted that Skinner requested Svoboda provide a written report to the Council. Chernoff inquired about bear parts, handicrafts, and their legality. Pappas addressed current subsistence regulations adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board). During the discussion, Holmes mentioned that previously the Council did not endorse using bear parts in the region, due to comments from elders.
- *Page 9*, regarding the number of caribou in False Pass, Holmes noted the Council requested more harvest permits than were issued. The Council requested ten permits, hoped to receive five permits, and the Board approved three permits. This information is not provided in the draft minutes and should be included.
- *Page 9*, regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP), Holmes noted the Council objected to including Unalaska projects over a Kodiak project. The projects should be listed. Holmes believes the project was Southwest limnology.
- *Page 13*, regarding the discussion of blood quantum and sea otters, Holmes suggested focusing on species-specific harvest management plans.

Koso motioned to approve the fall 2017 draft minutes as modified, seconded by Trumble. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports**

#### Council Member Reports

##### *Patrick Holmes*

All the wild Sockeye Salmon runs failed and were closed. Wild Sockeye Salmon returns for the Kodiak area and Chignik were adversely impacted. Abundance of fat deer were observed along the road. Holmes participated in a productive meeting of the Kodiak/Aleutians and Bristol Bay Councils’ working group discussing priority information needs (PINs) for subsistence fisheries research in the region. This will be discussed in detail later in the meeting.

*Coral Chernoff*

Chernoff emphasized that the low Red Salmon returns this year were a big concern. She said that this issue had significant local impacts since the main river used for subsistence fishing in her area was closed for much of the summer. Many families who fish the Buskin River did not harvest any Red Salmon this summer because their boats were on the other side of the island when the fishery finally opened. The short opener, work related responsibilities, weather conditions, moving boats between fishing areas, and the availability of vessels impacted the success of subsistence fishing activities. The Council addressed these challenges before. Silver Salmon were plentiful, large, and healthy. Chernoff reported that a friend saw orcas, possibly hunting salmon or other small fish, chasing fish onto the beach, and scratching their bellies in shallow water near shore.

Berries arrived early, much earlier than in the past, and were plentiful, particularly salmonberries and blueberries. Traditional knowledge teaches that cranberries and blueberries should be harvested after the first frost, though the frost has not arrived yet. People are harvesting berries from patches accessible by road.

Emperor geese returned to the area. Last year the number of Emperor geese was significantly lower than expected, with approximately 39 Emperor geese harvested in the area. Chernoff expressed concern regarding not being able to hunt on the road system as this restriction limits hunter access to coastal areas favored by geese for feeding. Additionally, at the recent Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council meeting there was discussion of changing the subsistence season to have it open on April 7. Chernoff added all birds are gone by April 24 making it a very short season.

Chernoff gave an update on a project focused on sharing Alutiiq culture and knowledge of migratory birds that involves local students, the Sun'aq Tribe, and the Kodiak NWR. Participants submitted artwork and poetry for the annual Migratory Bird Calendar Contest. Students throughout the State submitted over 1,300 pieces of original artwork featuring migratory birds. Artwork from 12 students will be featured the 2019 calendar.

Chernoff said that invasive crayfish in the Buskin River remains a concern. The population of crayfish appears to be increasing. Many people had crayfish boils this past spring. Apparently, it is possible to harvest a bucket of crayfish in 20 minutes. Kelly Krueger of the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak will provide a report during this meeting addressing work conducted this past summer season on the Buskin River crayfish issue.

Chernoff expressed her passion for sharing traditional knowledge of subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering as well as nutrition value and processing of wild foods, and making traditional handicrafts with students. Participants from numerous communities attended subsistence youth education activities. The activities provided youth, Refuge interns, visitors, and others an opportunity to learn about the cultural uses of subsistence resources, the lands, and waters that sustain healthy environments and communities.

*Richard Koso*

Koso reported on favorable subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering in Adak, attributed to the area's low population. Fishing and hunting reports were good for halibut, cod, Pink Salmon, Red Salmon, and caribou.

Residents expressed interest in participating in a caribou survey. Many residents travel to the southern portion of the island to harvest caribou, while caribou remain hard to locate on the north end of the island. The scarcity of caribou was attributed to hunters coming in and harvesting caribou north of the mountain range.

Koso communicated with Lisa Fox and attempted to get a fishery opening earlier this year. The fishery opening did not happen. Koso expressed a hope that with advance preparation the fishery opening will happen next year.

Additionally, Koso gave a brief update of fishing conditions in Cold Bay, where he spent a month and a half this past summer. Unlike Adak, fishing condition in Cold Bay were less favorable. Despite a month long attempt to catch 250 Red Salmon, the harvest amounted to only 55 fish. Later in September, Silver Salmon arrived in abundance, as residents harvested their quota in an hour in Russell Creek. However, for most people, it was a poor year for harvesting Red Salmon.

*Rebecca Skinner*

Skinner observed many deer and bear on the road system as noted by others.

It was a bad year for Red Salmon in Kodiak and Chignik. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) took emergency action declaring an emergency for the Chignik fishery and adopting emergency regulations in July.

Adding to Holmes' report on cod, Skinner said that a survey conducted in the Northern Bering Sea found an extraordinary number of cod and pollock. The survey suggests the fish moved out of warmer waters and into the Bering Sea where marine waters are cooler.

Addressing Federal fish surveys, Skinner noted continuous challenges with securing adequate funding for fisheries research and a reduction in fisheries research vessel fleet. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship *Oscar Dyson* is out of commission. Fisheries surveys will not happen until securing a replacement boat.

Member of the Unalaska Fish and Game Advisory Committee (AC) expressed concern for lack of FRMP funding for the McLees Lake weir project. Skinner emphasized that this project is important for Unalaska and noted her intention to advocate for this initiative as one of the priorities.

*Chris Price*

There was no weir this summer. Lisa Fox will provide an update on final summer season fisheries estimates.

The region benefitted from strong Bristol Bay fisheries, noting plentiful red and silver salmon harvests. Unalaska Bay shows a return of King Salmon following the trawl closure three years ago. Currently, two charter companies are fishing for King Salmon in Unalaska Bay. As pollock return to Unalaska Bay, King Salmon have an abundant food source.

Aleut International facilitated a summer workshop in Unalaska that involved the Korean Maritime Institute. The workshop addressed Arctic environmental concerns of the Aleut people, increased marine vessel traffic, and various partnership initiatives.

Four interns worked for the tribe this summer. The interns participated in the monitoring of mussels for paralytic shellfish poisoning in partnership with the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA). The interns also participated in habitat restoration planning for Morris Cove, a site that provides salmon habitat of interest to the tribe, impacted by military debris from the Department of Defense and possible contamination.

Residents raised concerns regarding the marine bird die-off at St. George. Many want to know what is happening in the Bering Sea to cause this die-off.

Residents note fish and crab are moving north. This is a concern for communities as fisheries are changing. Fishers from Area M voiced concern; many were unable to fish this past summer.

*Antone Shelikoff*

May through June is sea duck season, known locally as rock ducks. The rock ducks seem to be recovering.

The Sockeye Salmon run occurred from June through September, and no closure was necessary. While permitting allowed 150 Sockeye Salmon to be harvested for subsistence use, the commercial fishery was a failure. Pink Salmon arrived last. Silver Salmon seem to be doing well.

Late August through September is berry season. Berries seemed abundant this year.

Attended a sea lion workshop in late July held in Nanwalek and convened the Alaska Sea Otter and Stellar Sea Lion Commission.

*Melissa Berns*

Due to the lack of Red Salmon, several fishers in Old Harbor gave up while fishing, rather than wasting gas and energy, in an unsuccessful search for fish.

A strong run of Silver Salmon occurred this fall. Big Creek and Barling Bay, located near Old Harbor, where people subsistence harvest, were full. People were able to fill their freezers. Berns was surprised by the scarcity of Pink Salmon and Dog Salmon, previously seen in abundance and harvested for drying.

Halibut are slowly appearing near the village. The harvest of cod was very low.

It has been a strong year for harvesting berries, including salmonberries and blueberries. It was unusual to harvest berries early in the season. Traditional knowledge teaches us to harvest berries after the first frost, when berries are ready. Cooler weather controls worms, and bears and people are not competing for your harvest.

Our community depends on commercial fishing for economic stability. We had a slow start and fished late into the season. Most boats were able to scrape by this season. King Salmon for sport fishing was abundant though small.

It was reported that four or five bears roamed Old Harbor, resulting in damage to smokehouses and a home.

Sightings of voles were frequent this year. This is unusual. Reports of major vole problems occurred in Port Lions, Ouzinkie, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, and Kodiak. The voles caused problems for gardening activities. Berns addressed speculation whether the proliferation of voles may be beneficial to eagles, also in abundance, with some found starving or dead in the Kodiak Archipelago.

Relatives had a successful elk hunt at Afognak and gifted meat to the family.

Berns reported on a pilot experiential science-based youth education project with curricula addressing brown bear biology, physiology, cultural and economic importance, and history conducted in partnership with the Old Harbor Native Corporation, Kodiak Island Borough School District, and Koniaq Education Foundation. Students selected a relevant topic and became subject matter experts, incorporating subject matter into their studies. The hope is to expand the project to other communities. Students also used

remains of another bear, culled for Defense of life and Property (DLP), for a study, which was a part of a paleontology curriculum.

*Speridon Mitch Simeonoff*

The deer population increased. Many hunters with guides search for bear and deer; people must be careful, and if guided hunts are underway, we do not hunt in the area.

Fishing was good this summer for the first time in many years. Many set netters were happy with their harvest. Overall subsistence resources are doing well; however, salmon runs are poor and streams are still in summer conditions. I hope the ADF&G will address this. Fish monitoring by camera at Akalura occurred in the past, and we may hear more about this.

Chair's Report

*Della Trumble*

Tremendous rain occurred from mid-June through August. We did not see summer. Weather conditions were wet, windy, and cold.

Salmon harvests were very bad. Red Salmon harvest was poor. In August, there were no Pink Salmon. Several years ago, the pink salmon return was very poor. This summer people did not fish for Pink Salmon hoping to increase escapement. This seemed to work well until September, when heavy rains and flooding affected creeks.

Salmon harvest in Cold Bay was a disaster. Family members fished this area and over a period of five days only harvested thirteen Red Salmon. Weather conditions improved in September, and people were able to harvest Silver Salmon. Silver Salmon derbies held in Sand Point, King Cove, and Cold Bay experienced fair weather and fish was caught.

The berry harvest was hit or miss in King Cove and Cold Bay. King Cove produced a good amount of salmonberries, though no moss berries or blueberries. Cold Bay had salmonberries, though few moss berries or raspberries.

People harvested caribou, though concern was expressed for the untimely issuing of Federal permits, which did not occur until August 18 and the season opened on August 1. This needs to be improved. A designated hunter program is very helpful, particularly for elders, who otherwise are unable to hunt. Similar discussions are underway with the State.

Residents of King Cove harvested moose at the end of the road system. Moose sighting are more frequent than in the past, occurring in greater abundance and on the lower part of the Peninsula. Some people questioned whether there is a hunt or not. Trumble said that there might already be a State hunt, though she prefers to see moose number build up before anything further develops.

More sport hunters were in Cold Bay targeting the one emperor goose and other birds. No reports were heard on the number of birds taken.

Greg Risdahl recently took a job with OSM. We are waiting for his replacement at the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

Residents of Cold Bay expressed concern regarding absence of law enforcement in the area, when the bird-hunting season opens on October 1. This concern is also included in the Council's annual report to

the Board.

#### Council Coordinator's Report

##### *Zach Stevenson*

Attended the Aleut Corporation's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Shareholder Meeting and Board Meeting in Anchorage and encouraged attendees to consider applying to serve on the Council. He thanked Orville Lind and Thomas Doolittle for their participation in outreach at the Aleut Corporation's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Meeting. A number of people expressed interest in applying. Stevenson also thanked ADF&G who provided tremendous support and participation in this meeting.

#### **Public and Tribal Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

Addressing Defense of Life and Property (*Neil DeWitt, Member of the Public*)

DeWitt was absent from the meeting and did not address the Defense of Life of Property issue included on the agenda.

##### *Thomas L. Schwantes*

The most recent sighting of an Emperor goose in Kodiak occurred on May 14. The Emperor goose returned much earlier than usual this fall. Emperor geese are typically not present until mid-September, though sightings of small groups occurred on August 14.

Approximately thirteen bears were sighted at the Flats, Bells Flats, and Womens Bay areas. The bears are hungry and starting to cause damage in the community. The bears are feeding on mountain-ash berries, which has not occurred in the area for 10-12 years. Schwantes noted bears damaged five of his trees, adding he would like to learn more about what situations are considered the defense of life and property.

The deer population looks good. The spring fawns appear to be larger and healthier than in previous years.

Expressed disappointment this Regional Advisory Council Meeting did not take place in the region, where those directly impacted by Federal decisions would have easier access to the information. Emphasized that every effort should be made to hold the meeting in the region. Acknowledged that this meeting occurred in Anchorage allowing Council members to attend the 2018 Alaska Federation of Natives. The Chair responded, noting the desire for in-region meetings is a priority noted in a previous annual report.

##### *Patrick Holmes*

Requested permission to write a letter of appreciation to Lem Butler of ADF&G thanking him for the agency's selective removal of wolves on the Peninsula's caribou calving grounds. Also requested permission to write a letter of appreciation to Greg Risdahl for his service as the Refuge Manager of the Izembek NWR. Holmes will prepare the draft letters and forward them to Stevenson.

##### *Della Trumble*

Attended the Board Meeting. The meeting covered approximately 60 Federal wildlife regulatory proposals over a three-day period. Due to time constraints, the Board addressed several of these proposals at a follow-up meeting held in May.

Hearings were held on Temporary Special Action Request WSA18-01 regarding the Unimak Island Caribou Herd. Attendees included, but were not limited to Holmes, Schwantes, Trumble, and residents of False Pass who delivered oral testimony. The State raised concerns that the current population may not be

ready for harvest. There were 10 permits available, and the special action allows to harvest up to three bulls, with immediate reporting following the harvest. After the harvest of the third bull, the hunt closes.

Trumble participated in the Kodiak-Aleutians/Bristol Bay Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) Priority Information Needs (PIN) Working Group teleconference.

### **Old Business**

Temporary Special Action WSA18-01 – Unimak Island Caribou (*Tom Evans*)

Tom Evans reviewed the special action from last year to open a caribou hunt in False Pass. Evans referenced Trumble's summary of the number of permits and harvest quota of three bulls, explaining that as of October 16, 2018, two bulls were harvested. Ten permits were available and four permits were issued. The hunt closed on October 15.

*Rebecca Skinner*

Clarified that there were ten permits available, four permits were issued, and two-bull caribou were harvested. Evans confirmed that this is correct.

*Peter Devine*

Reviewed the history when caribou were few. Emphasized the hard work done to get a caribou hunt. Now that a hunt exists, it is upsetting to see some people unable to hunt as subsistence users and to learn that a big game hunt happened. We conserve for subsistence, but as soon as we do not meet our quota, others come in through the back door and make money from this at our expense.

Responding to Devine, Trumble clarified that at first Federally qualified users were doing a subsistence hunt of five caribou per community throughout the region, except Akutan, where nine were allowed, and with Unimak closed. As caribou numbers increased, State and Federal quotas changed. Increased hunting was not the result of sport hunting; rather it resulted from hunting under the State caribou regulations.

*Richard Koso*

Recommended establishing a seat on the Council for a representative from St. Paul, Alaska, to represent the communities of St. Paul and St. George. Presently these communities are not represented, and they are getting more involved in Federal subsistence management issues.

Responding to Koso, Orville Lind addressed the protocol for adding a new member, encouraging residents of those communities to apply to serve on the Council. Trumble added that previously Richard Zaharoff represented the Pribilofs for several years on the Council. Patricia Petrivelli added the expense makes it unlikely the Council would see additional members added. The Board supported the Council in its request for geographic representation. Specifically, Petrivelli explained the Council's charter uniquely requires geographic representation of four members from the Kodiak Archipelago, three members from the Alaska Peninsula, and three from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. This is a goal. If people do not apply, it is hard to have geographic representation. Zach Stevenson added that the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation Office will share an update later in the meeting on the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

### **New Business**

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (*Scott Ayers*)

The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program is a competitive grant that provides funding for biologists, social scientists, or educator positions in Alaska Native and rural non-profit organizations to increase an organization's ability to participate in Federal subsistence management. The program supports opportunities for local students to connect with resource monitoring through science camps and paid internships. Karen Hyer and Jarred Stone are the contacts for this program at the OSM. The opening date



for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program funding will be announced in several weeks. Responding to a question from Richard Koso regarding the length of grant awards, Ayres noted that awards are for up to four years. An organization or individual could apply for continuous coverage for more than one cycle.

Update of Federal Fisheries Proposal Cycle (*Scott Ayers*)

The Federal fisheries regulatory cycle happens during the fall of even numbered years. During the fall meeting cycle, Regional Advisory Councils review the analyses of proposals submitted to the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Board takes action on these fisheries proposals during the January Board Meeting. Nineteen proposals were submitted during this regulatory cycle; however, there were no proposals submitted from or affecting the Kodiak/Aleutians region during this regulatory cycle.

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (*Scott Ayers, OSM*)

An update provided a summary of projects funded through FRMP with the prior cycle completed on May 25, 2018. Projects in the Kodiak/Aleutians region included:

- *Project 18-400* for the Buskin River Weir conducted by ADF&G, Sportfish Division.
- *Project 18-450* for Unalaska fish harvest practices conducted by ADF&G, Division of Subsistence.
- *Project 18-451* for subsistence harvest trends of salmon and non-salmon in four southern Kodiak Island communities with a focus on Olga and Akalura Lakes conducted by ADF&G, Division of Subsistence.

OSM will announce the 2020 FRMP notice of funding opportunity in the fall of 2019. The FRMP also supports the meaningful involvement of Alaska Natives and rural organizations and promotes collaboration among tribes, State and Federal agencies, and local organizations. The first step in this program is for Councils to identify priority information needs for subsistence fisheries research in their region.

Topics excluded from consideration include habitat protection, mitigation, restoration, enhancement, habitat propagation, supplementation, containment assessment, supplementation, evaluation, and monitoring. These activities are to be addressed by the land manager or regulatory agency.

FRMP Priority Information Needs (PINs) (*Scott Ayres and Robbin La Vine*)<sup>1</sup>

After thoughtful and nuanced deliberation, the Council required additional time to discuss the draft FRMP PINs. A working group representing members of the Kodiak/Aleutians and the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils met by teleconference to discuss the development of PINs for the Southwest FRMP region. The working group addressed PINs in three categories including southwest region-wide priorities, Kodiak/Aleutians priorities, and priorities specific to Bristol Bay. Results from the discussion will be combined with feedback from the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, who meets in November, to form a final list of 2020 priorities for the Southwest FRMP region.

Comments from Council members addressed the process for developing research priorities and evaluating research proposals. Stevenson responded, explaining the PINs identified by the Councils help to guide the call for proposals. Five criteria are used to evaluate proposals received by OSM including: 1) Strategic priorities; 2) Technical and scientific merit; 3) Investigator ability and resources; 4) Partnerships/Capacity building; and 5) Cost benefit. A draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan is prepared containing the project abstracts. The Councils receive the draft plan for review and comment. The Board then reviews the draft plan, Technical Review Committee recommendations, and Council comments and makes their

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<sup>1</sup> This topic item continued on the second day of the meeting.

final funding recommendations. The Assistant Regional Director (ARD) at OSM makes final funding decisions after reviewing the recommendations and comments from the Board, Technical Review Committee, and Councils. The ARD is responsible for implementing the final Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. Applicants, whose projects have been selected for funding, will be notified in writing.

Responding to a point raised by Chris Price regarding the need for fisheries stock genetics information, Robbin La Vine said that the FRMP seeks two types of proposals for research including stock, status, and trends. This first type of proposal includes genetic materials, run timing, abundance, quality of the runs, and resource. The second type of proposal includes harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects such as harvest surveys documenting local observations from those directly working with the resource. Approximately 60 percent of the program funding supports stock, status, and trends projects. Approximately 40 percent of the program funding supports harvest monitoring and traditional ecological projects.

Holmes emphasized the importance of including Chignik household subsistence surveys.

La Vine said that the Chignik household subsistence survey item was on the list of draft Kodiak/Aleutians PINs but the working group struck this item. La Vine reiterated how the draft region-wide FRMP PINs were developed by the working group, noting the working group also struck the region-wide PIN addressing reliable estimates of abundance of salmon populations in the Southwest Alaska Region and assessment of region-wide declines in populations. La Vine explained that this was a broad PIN, addressing stock, status, and trends covering Chignik, the Buskin River, McLees Lake, and other watershed. The Council, however, opted to make the region-wide FRMP PINs distinct to each subregion, the Kodiak/Aleutians and the Bristol Bay, therefore striking the item from the region-wide FRMP PINs. La Vine added that if the Council felt this was important, they could recommend the Bristol Bay Council carry this item forward.

Ayres and La Vine addressed questions and comments from Council members regarding the draft FRMP PINs. The Council unanimously approved as amended the following Southwest region-wide FRMP PINs:

- 1) Reliable estimates of harvest and use of salmon and other, non-salmon fish species for subsistence at Togiak, Port Lions, Ouzinkie, and Kodiak; and
- 2) Local observations of change in salmon and non-salmon populations (quality, run timing, sex ratios, and age composition) in the Southwest Alaska Region, and impacts on subsistence uses.

Additionally, the Council approved the following Kodiak/Aleutians region-specific FRMP PINs:

- 1) Comparative ecological evaluation of lake rearing habitats of Sockeye Salmon stocks in southwest Kodiak Island, including Olga Lakes and Akalura Lake watershed, and the assessment of (a) declines of salmon stocks and associated subsistence harvest opportunities and (b) potential effects of climate change on salmon production in these lake systems; and
- 2) Reliable estimates of abundance of salmon populations on the Kodiak Archipelago/Aleutians important for subsistence use and assessment of changes in these populations. Specific areas of critical importance are McLees Lake, Mortensen's Lagoon, and Kodiak Archipelago stocks.

Identify Issues for Annual Report (*Zach Stevenson*)

The Council identified the following issues for inclusion in its fiscal year 2018 Annual Report to the Board:

- Request for increasing education opportunities for Council Members.
- Request for evaluation of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program project selection process.
- Request for annual surveys of Adak Island caribou and salmon.

- Request for agencies to provide their reporting materials in a timely manner for inclusion in the Council's meeting book.
- Request for notification and Tribal consultation regarding special actions affecting Federally qualified subsistence users in the region.
- Request for improved advertisement and distribution of paper sport hunting permits for Emperor Goose.

## Agency Reports

### **Tribal Governments**

#### Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, Buskin Watershed Crayfish Status Report (Kelly Krueger)

Project related work in 2016 and 2017 was supported through a BIA invasive species grant. The BIA Project Officer was Rosalie Debenham. In 2017, a USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grant funded the study of the population dynamics of the Buskin watershed. This work will continue through 2020. The project goal is to characterize the distribution, movement, and diet of crayfish in the Buskin watershed. Any captured crayfish are sampled to determine the shell length, sex, age, and location of the animal. All captured crayfish are removed from the watershed. The research methods are consistent to enable meaningful comparisons across datasets. Snorkeling transect surveys at 30 sites provide means for collecting water quality and atmospheric information overtime. Bathymetry information has also been collected to help identify suitable crayfish habitat. A review of changes in sampling methods between 2016 and 2017 was provided. In 2018, the number of crayfish capture during the survey were 1,392. The smallest was five millimeters. This year there were slightly more males than females. The bathymetry of Buskin Lake was evaluated and historic maps were used to help to illustrate suitable crayfish habitat. Public outreach on this project entails youth activities at camp including lessons about the anatomy and dissection of invasive crayfish. News interviews were featured by KMCX and the Daily Mirror. Captured crayfish have been studied by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Next year snorkeling transects continue. Radio tagging and mark/recapture of crayfish will occur next summer to determine the latest distribution and abundance of crayfish. The USFWS and field crew were thanked for their support of this project. Follow-up comments were addressed and questions were answered.

#### Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Update on the Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC (Lauren Divine)

Provided an overview of the Aleutian and Bering Sea Island Landscape Conservation (ABSI) Cooperative (LCC). Introduced Steering Committee members in attendance including Karen Pletnikoff, Chris Price, and Rob Taylor. The LCCs in Alaska have been defunded by the USFWS. The Alaska Conservation Foundation now supports the ABSI Coordinator, Aaron Poe, and the Western Alaska LCC, encompassing the Kodiak region. The LCCs supported partnerships in gathering information to help communities and land managers better understand the effects of changing climate and promote conservation. Two projects in the region completed by the ABSI and Western Alaska LCCs include vessel traffic monitoring. This project used maps to help identify areas throughout the Western Aleutians to be avoided and locations that provide important marine mammal habitat. The other project, the Aleutian Life Forum, involved a series of workshops for State and Federal land managers, scientists, and local leaders who identified the effects of changing weather and climate on their communities and strategies for mitigating these impacts. Workshops were held in Kodiak, Kotzebue, and King Salmon. The ABSI LCC is now working on geofencing, using maps to help protect areas like migration corridors or feeding areas for marine mammals. The goal is to develop and use maps that can reduce or eliminate vessel traffic in important subsistence use areas or important ecological areas. The goal is to continue offering local workshops to share this information with communities. The hope is offer another workshop in Kodiak this winter or next spring, co-hosted by Alaska SeaGrant to coincide with the next Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence

Regional Advisory Council Meeting allowing for your participation. The Council was invited to submit a letter of support endorsing the continuation of this work.

Residents of the Aleut community of St. Paul Island have been encouraged to apply to serve on the Council. Residents throughout the region have so much in common including bountiful subsistence resources and similar challenges like the failure of berries and catch quotas that affect tribes and industry. There is a strong desire to listen and unite different perspectives to build a stronger future for the region. Follow-up comments were addressed and questions were answered.

Aleut International Association (*Liza Mack*)

The Council also invited a presentation from the Aleut International Association (AIA). The presentation was an addition and not reflected on the agenda. Liza Mack, Executive Director of AIA, explained that the organization is one of six permanent participants of the Arctic Council. AIA's mission is promoting continuity of the Aleut culture and protecting the resources needed to sustain it. Mack explained AIA has working partnerships with the USFWS and NPS. A description of AIA's Bering Sea subnetwork was provided. This project involved subsistence harvest surveys between 2009 and 2013 and produced 7,100 interviews. This project continued into a second phase, the Bering Sea subnetwork II, and results for Gambell, Katchala, Savoonga, and Togiak are available to the public on AIA's website. The results are also available to the public on three other websites designed to share circumpolar scientific knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge including the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic (ELOKA).

AIA also works with Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), to support knowledgeable decision making at the national and international levels. Between 2013 and 2017 this work focused on community surveys and mapping in Gambell, Sand Point, Savoonga, and Togiak and was funded by the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) and the Alaska Native Fund. The surveys involved local hunters and fishers possessing knowledge of their communities and way of life. Additional ABSI research initiatives were addressed including a digital information sharing application CONAS funded by the NPRB and Alaska Native Fund. This project will continue through 2021 with additional funding support from the USFWS and NPS. AIA also works with the ABSI LCC and the NPS Shared Beringia Heritage Program. Through this partnership, AIA hopes to provide communities with access to lifetime subsistence harvest information to support community member involvement in State and Federal policy. Additional information will be collected from communities, potentially including Kohilan, Nikolski, Timlant, or Togiak. This new information will be compared with survey results collected over the past 10 years to better understand and compare changes facing subsistence users and policy makers. Mack responded to comments from the Council and concluded by expressing appreciation for the Council's support.

Public Comment

The Chair paused to accept a request for public testimony from Vince Tutiakoff, who previously served on the Council. Tutiakoff delivered comments representing his views and those of the Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association (UNFA) supporting the McLeese Lake, Summers Bay, and Unalaska projects. Tutiakoff said that these projects did not receiving funding. Tutiakoff noted the importance and urgency of these projects explaining the area's fisheries runs were very poor this year when compared with previous years. Tutiakoff noted UNFA funded the hire of Andy Diettrich who collaborated with the City of Unalaska and Unalaska Corporation and conducted fisheries surveys at McLees Lake. Six trips were made at fifteen miles each trip before a single fish was caught.

Tutiakoff described how Red Salmon finally arrived in mid-July lasting a week to two weeks. Surveys were conducted for Unalaska at Summers Bay Lake. Results are expected at the next UNFA meeting. Information from McLeese Lake is very important because we have a 15 to 20 year record of information

on this location and just experienced one of the worst years. We will continue to talk with the USFWS and State of Alaska to see this project supported. Skinner questioned the impact of not having the weir available to do subsistence harvesting. Tutiakoff said that he does not think there will be a reduction because users in McLeese Lake increased from 10 to 15 households to over 300 over the period of 15 to 20 years, and most of them do not qualify for a subsistence permit because they have been in the community or Alaska for thirty days. Many of the fish are shipped out of state. Tutiakoff said that he observed fifty to sixty people snagging fish off the beach with no law enforcement present for the State Troopers. Tutiakoff expressed empathy for those in the community, and said that he will continue to support locals and elders in getting their fish.

Price responded, thanking Tutiakoff for his service and for sharing this information. Price noted the importance of this information, particularly when information was otherwise difficult to obtain. Price noted the UNFA aerial survey information will be helpful to communicate the circumstances in Unalaska Bay. If people are unable to get fish at McLeese Lake this will increase pressure on other streams that are already stressed. Holmes suggested that Tutiakoff's Advisory Committee (AC) could submit a request to the Board of Fisheries to close snagging in saltwater near Summers Bay. Holmes asked Tutiakoff if there was an effort to obtain a community harvest permit for McLeese Lake to help elders. Tutiakoff responded, directing Holmes to the Tribe, adding he shared 30 salmon with elders given the low salmon return.

Trumble asked Ayres and La Vine to explain why the project was not funded. LaVine said that this information is private and that the review of the project proposal from the Technical Review Committee goes to the principal investigator. The principal investigator has the right to share, or not share, this information, as they feel appropriate. In the competitive application process, another project ranked higher on the five evaluation criteria. La Vine added that the Council may write a letter of support to the Technical Review Committee supporting the McLees Lake weir.

Holmes emphasized the importance of this project to the people of the region and said that a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request would be submitted to Senator Lisa Murkowski's office if the Council was unable to obtain an explanation as to why the McLees Lake weir project was not funded.

Tom Doolittle mentioned the recommendations delivered by the Council last year in Cold Bay regarding the prioritization process and support for the McLees Lake. Doolittle added that limited funding required some difficult choices be made. Doolittle added that approximately \$700,000 have been forward funded into existing projects, providing a buffer, and should funding levels remain stable, allow for increased funding on FRMP in the next funding cycle. Doolittle emphasized there is a better future for the program and encouraged the Council to write letters supporting the project because letters of support strengthen the review of project proposals and strengthen the process. Doolittle added that there will also be an evaluation of the FRMP process and encouraged the Council to submit a letter providing comments regarding PINs.

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (Karen Pletnikoff)

There is strong local capacity in the Aleut region and Pribilofs to do high quality subsistence monitoring and better understand a changing environment. This information is critically important to keep pace with changes that are happening faster than our regulatory process and in-season law enforcement. This information is necessary to ensure people get the food they need and to maintain healthy communities and lifestyles. Encourage the Council to keep pushing the USFWS to address the region's FRMP PINs. Pletnikoff introduced Peter Devine, the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association representative on the Alaska Migratory Co-Management Council (AMBCC).

An update was provided on the Emperor Goose. Devine explained that we are in the second year of a

three-year regulatory cycle. Of the thousand permits available, only 128 birds were harvested. The harvest level will increase a little more at the end of three years and help to bring back a more traditional hunt. In 2006 and 2007, the hunt period was determined and shortened. People do not hunt for eggs for 120 days. We tried to split the hunt with 30 days for harvesting eggs and the remaining time for hunting birds. This was not allowed because of concern for interrupting the existing fall sport hunt. We need to resubmit the proposal by December with the goal of getting a fall or winter hunt. This effort is supported in the Kodiak region and up north, where a winter hunt is desired, instead of a spring or summer season hunt. Devine answered questions from the Council addressing other methods for hunting birds, present obstacles to obtaining permits, and the logistics getting the hunt opened at the right time for Federally qualified subsistence users.

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

### Kodiak NWR Report (Michael Brady and Tevis Underwood)

Bill Pyle was unavailable. Michael Brady provided a report for the Kodiak NWR. Addressing fisheries, western side Sockeye Salmon runs were good, while poor returns at Litnik and Buskin resulted in closures around July 16 for subsistence Red Salmon fishing. The Akalura weir continues and 2018 data is not yet available. The information will be provided as soon as it is available.

Bears surveys from the Sturgeon area show much lower numbers than 2007 when there were 237 bears. Current estimates 115 bears per thousand kilometers square. There were no stream surveys conducted this year. Berries were sampled. Bill Laylock and Bill Pyle worked on a series of scientific research papers. Some limited sea otter numbers are available for 2018.

Bird colony surveys were performed around Afognak and Shuyak Island. These results are available. The Refuge is also working with the ADF&G on an ongoing research project focused on Arctic terns in the Aleutians. The agencies are looking for a graduate student to help with this project.

The outreach and education initiatives involved six communities, not three communities as was indicated in the Refuge printed report.

Bill Leacock, the Refuge bear biologist since 2006, will be leaving to work at the Arctic NWR. This position will be filled. The Resource Information Technician (RIT) position has not been filled, since the Refuge has not been given a permission to fill it. The Refuge hopes to fill this position this year.

Brady answered questions from the Council addressing the status of sea otter surveys at Chiniak Bay and Womens Bay and the decline of shellfish and data collection at Afognak and Shuyak. Brady also answered questions from the Council addressing brown bear surveys.

### Report on Izembek Inventory and Monitoring Surveys (Diane Granfors and Patrick Fitzmorris)

Diane Granfors referenced a written report and noted the Refuge Manager position should be advertised soon and hopefully filled by next spring. An update was provided on Unit 9D caribou population status and subsistence caribou hunt permit allocation. An update was provided on waterfowl addressing Pacific Brant, tundra swan, and Steller's eider at Izembek Lagoon, the Pavlov Unit, and Nelson Lagoon respectively. Ongoing monitoring provides continued surveillance for Avian influenza.

A brief update was provided on a bear survey and water temperature monitoring. Refuge personnel addressed several questions from Council members.

### Marine Mammals Management Update on Sea otters (Charlie Hamilton and James MacCraken)

Charles Hamilton and James MacCraken provided an extensive report with an update on the regulatory

framework and ongoing research pertaining to sea otters in the region. Numerous questions from the Council were addressed. Several Council members expressed the desire to attend a workshop in southern Alaska addressing, in part, the need for updating the regulatory framework for sea otters. Additionally a Council Member requested a list of authorized tanneries.

Alaska Maritime NWR Update (Steve Delehanty)

An overview of the Alaska Maritime NWR's commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Attu was provided. An informative video is available on this topic. An overview of the seabird monitoring was provided, including a scorecard illustrating the status of seabirds in the region. A summary of the seabird die-off in the Gulf of Alaska, Alaska Peninsula, and Beaufort/Chukchi Seas was provided. An update was provided on efforts to eradicate rats from St. Paul Island, and rats were reported to not be reproducing on the island.

Kodiak Update (Nathan Svoboda)

An overview and harvest update was provided for State and Federally managed salmon stocks in the Kodiak region including the significant subsistence fisheries of Buskin, Pasagshak, Afognak, Settler Cove, Saltery, Ouzinkie, Pauls Bay, Alaktak, and Larsen Bay. The update noted the lowest salmon escapement for the Buskin River since 1985, resulting in a restriction to the subsistence fishery on the Buskin River on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

The sockeye salmon fishery at Afognak showed the lowest escapement since 1978, and the subsistence fishery was restricted to meet escapement goals.

The Duck Bay section was also closed to conserve Sockeye Salmon. The Pasagshak weir showed the lowest Sockeye Salmon escapement since the weir's inception in 2011, resulting in the restriction of the commercial fishery on the east side and a restriction on subsistence fishery on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

The remoteness of Saltery results in low subsistence harvest. The area is significant for sport fishing and provides Sockeye Salmon brood stock for a project at Speridon Lake.

Sockeye escapement was the lowest seen since 1986. Correspondingly, the commercial fishery at Saltery was severely restricted. The Ugak fishery was opened early, nothing was caught, and then it was restricted, with the east side generally closed due to the poor return of Pink Salmon.

The escapement goal at Saltery was met. Settler Cove is an important subsistence stock. The area experienced warm waters over the past three years with low fish egg survival and a declined subsistence harvest. A poor fishery is projected in 2019. Numerous questions from the Council were answered.

Buskin River Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment (Michelle Stratton)

An update on Buskin River Sockeye Salmon was provided reflecting preliminary results from the 2018 season. The escapement for 2018 was below average and the lowest on record since 1985. Sport and subsistence fishing were closed on the Buskin River as of June 14<sup>th</sup>. An update on run timing and the Sockeye Salmon weir counts, including Lake Louise, were provided. Questions from Council members were answered.

Addressing the Four Major Subsistence Closures of this Season (James Jackson)

An overview of major Kodiak area salmon stocks was provided. The overview addressed the Kodiak subsistence Sockeye Salmon fishery, the State and Federally managed Buskin fishery, the State and Federally managed Afognak salmon fishery, the State managed Ouzinkie hatchery project, the subsistence fishery at Saltery Creek, and the subsistence stock at Settler Cove. Harvest levels, escapement trends, and runtimes were provided as applicable. Final numbers for the subsistence fisheries are expected by the end

of the year. Questions from Council members were answered.

South Peninsula and Aleutians Fisheries Summary (*Lisa Fox and Cassandra Whiteside*)

An overview of the 2018 salmon season pertaining to subsistence fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula, an overview of the Orzinski River Weir escapement, and the status of McLees Lake and Unalaska salmon escapement projects were provided. Though numbers returning to Orzinski River Weir were low, the fish appeared healthy. An update on the McLees Lake Weir was provided. An explanation was provided for why the McLees Lake project was not selected for funding through the FRMP. An overview of a proposal to the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund was provided, addressing aerial surveys to monitor Sockeye Salmon escapement in Unalaska Lake, the Iliuliuk River drainage, Sumer Bay Lake, and McLees Lake. Additionally a brief overview of a new project examining fish spawning involving the use of drone surveys at Iliuliuk Lake, Morris Cove Lake, and Summer Bay was provided. This work was funded by the Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association (UNFA). Questions from Council members were answered.

Kodiak Update (*Nathan Svoboda*)

An update on brown bear harvest was provided, including both sport hunting and non-sport mortalities. Non-sport mortalities were slightly more frequent than preferred. A detailed overview of a bear research project at Afognak Island and Sitkalidak Island was provided. The Afognak Island and Sitkalidak project seeks to better understand how different ecosystems affect prey variation, the abundance of bears, and bear diet. An overview of a research project addressing bear ecology at Afognak was provided. Additionally an overview of a youth education project involving Old Harbor, Old Harbor Native Corporation, the Kodiak Island Borough School District, and the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust was provided. This collaborative project involves youth in the developing curriculum lessons focused on the ecological, cultural, and economic significance of bears. An update of a defense of life and property incident involving a bear at Old Harbor was provided. An update on bear related research involving the State of Alaska and the Kodiak NWR was provided.

An update on deer and elk was provided. The update included an overview of deer and elk harvested, surveys, and descriptions of population size, cow/calf ratios, calf recruitment, and bull/cow ratios. Questions from Council members were answered.

An update on mountain goat was provided. The update included an overview of male and female mountain goat harvest. The mountain goat harvest and population is increasing. No mountain goat research is underway, though a sightability index is being developed for extrapolation purposes.

An update on the caribou population was also provided. The update included an overview of the spike in harvest. There is no harvest ticket caribou hunt and this is of concern. The caribou population shows a slight increase. The caribou are found on the southwest portion of Kodiak Island in the Ayakulik and Sturgeon River areas. Questions from Council members were answered.

Purpose and Importance of Community Subsistence Harvest Surveys and Notification of Kodiak Comprehensive Subsistence Harvest Survey and Updates (*Jacqueline Keating*).

An overview of subsistence harvest surveys was provided. The overview addressed requesting permission from the community to conduct the subsistence household surveys, protecting cultural intellectual property in the subsistence harvest surveys, research methodology for the subsistence harvest surveys (surveys), how information collected through in the surveys is used, and who uses the information collected in the surveys. Questions from Council Members were answered.

Additionally, summaries of three surveys were provided. The first example addressed a salmon survey involving the communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville. The second example, funded by the FRMP, addressed subsistence resource sharing networks in Bristol Bay involving



the communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville, Iguigik, and Port Heiden. Reports for these two projects are expected in June 2019. The third example addressed a comprehensive subsistence harvest survey from 2017 for the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, and Sand Point. Data review for this third project is expected in November or December. A subsistence harvest survey for Kodiak, funded by OSM, will be starting this spring. Questions from Council members were answered.

## OSM

### Fall 2018 Report to the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (Tom Doolittle)

An update was provided on Proposal 20 regarding caribou. An update also addressed staffing at OSM. Additionally, a regulatory update was provided, emphasizing the critical role played by the Councils in developing regulations. Questions from Council members were answered. More than 40 letters of delegation have been passed. Consultation with 114 out of 220 Federally recognized tribes was conducted. Contact with all regional corporations has been made, including attendance at the Aleut Corporation shareholder meeting. Funding remains flat and approximately half of the OSM budget goes outside to State and Tribal partners.

### Importance of Government-to-Government Consultation (Orville Lind)

Orville Lind had to depart the meeting early. A presentation addressing the Importance of Government-to-Government Consultation will be addressed at the winter 2019 Council's Meeting.

### OSM Comments on BOF Proposals (George Pappas)

George Pappas provided a brief overview of Statewide Finfish Proposals affecting to the Council to be addressed by the BOF. The Council received an overview of Statewide Finfish Proposals 161, 162, 165, and 166.

The Council received an overview of Statewide Finfish Proposal 161, which would require weekly reporting of salmon harvest by all permit or license holders as proposed by Ralph Lohse, a commercial fisherman in the Cordova area and former Chair of the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The Council opposed Statewide Finfish Proposal 161, stating a 24-hour reporting is not reasonable for the region and would misalign with the escapement model of salmon management used in the region.

The Council received an overview of Statewide Finfish Proposal 162, which would require reporting of all sport, personal use, and subsistence Chinook Salmon catch within 14 days through the ADF&G website or other appropriate methods provided by the department as proposed by Cordova District Fishermen United. The Council opposed Statewide Finfish Proposal 162, stating the proposal should be area specific, does not apply to the region, and would result in undue hardship for the region.

The Council also received an overview of Statewide Finfish Proposal 165, which would allow a fishing guide vessel to de-register after registration in a calendar year as required by the Alaska Charter Association. The Council had a neutral position on Statewide Finfish Proposal 165, noting some concerns about the proposal language and the desire for more information on the proposal before adopting a position.

Additionally, the Council received an overview of Statewide Finfish Proposal 166, which would require a person sport fishing from a vessel when releasing a species of rockfish immediately use a deep water release mechanism to return the fish to the depth it was hooked at or to a depth of at least 100 feet as proposed by the Seward Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The Council did not take a position on Statewide Finfish Proposal 166.

**Future Meeting Dates**

The Council voted unanimously to hold the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council winter 2019 Meeting on February 21-22 in Kodiak, Alaska, and the fall 2019 Meeting on September 19-20 in Cold Bay, Alaska.

**Closing Statements**

The Council members provided the following closing comments.

*Melissa Berns*

Had to leave the meeting early, at 4:00 p.m. and did not provide closing comments on the record.

*Patrick Holmes*

Questioned whether upcoming ADF&G household subsistence harvest surveys would occur on the south end of Kodiak Island at Kodiak, Port Lions, and Ouzinke. This should be examined. Inviting ADF&G to report to the Council on the status of these studies would be good too. Thanked Trumble for her leadership in running the meeting. Thanked Stevenson for solving problems and getting things done the right way. Noted he is a good man who will serve the Council well. Added the Council demonstrates tremendous growth and meaningful reports, accomplishing so much because we care about each other and our communities. Wished everyone a good trip home.

*Coral Chernoff*

Thanked everyone for their attendance, delivery of reports, and answering questions. Chernoff wished everyone a safe journey home.

*Richard Koso*

Thanked everyone for the information shared with the Council, adding this was a productive meeting.

*Rebecca Skinner*

Thanked everyone, including Council Members, Staff, and the public for their dedication and attendance. Announced the resignation of the State Lieutenant Governor and swearing-in of Valerie Davis.

*Chris Price*

Thanked everyone for supporting the McLees Lake project and supporting Unalaska. Expressed anticipation for attending upcoming Council meetings in Kodiak and Cold Bay.

*Antone Shelikoff*

Had no comments.

*Speridon Mitch Simeonoff*

Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn from others about their use of subsistence resources and how we can help the region. Emphasized this is one best boards he has been a part of because of the vast area served. Acknowledged the desire to help Adak and noted this seems like a slow process.

*Della Trumble*

Thanked Mitch and everyone else. Noted surprise regarding news pertaining to the State Lieutenant Governor. Noted this is a learning process and we are moving forward. Emphasized this was a productive meeting. Added that it was nice to hold the meeting in Anchorage with many agency representatives in attendance, including 26 people from the State of Alaska. Stated that she would print and bring a bird-

hunting permit for Koso to the next meeting. Thanked Risdahl for his service at the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Thanked Lem Butler for his support of the Council for many years. Thanked Stevenson for his work preparing this meeting and organizing the presenters. Wished everyone a safe trip home.

**Adjourn (Chair)**

The Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

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

February 24, 2019

/s/

*Zachary C. Stevenson, Council Coordinator  
Office of Subsistence Management, United States Fish & Wildlife Service*

/s/

*Della Trumble, Chair*  
Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its winter 2019 meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.



## Federal Subsistence Board News Release



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

Forest Service

**For Immediate Release:**  
January 31, 2019

**Contact:** Caron McKee  
(907) 786-3880 or (800) 478-1456  
caron\_mckee@fws.gov

### Call for Proposals to Change Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Regulations

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) is accepting proposals through March 27, 2019 to change Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of wildlife on Federal public lands for the July 1, 2020–June 30, 2022 regulatory years. The Board will consider proposals to change Federal subsistence hunting and trapping seasons, harvest limits, methods of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations.

#### Submit proposals:

- **By mail or hand delivery**  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management – Attn: Theo Matuskowitz  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-121  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
- **Online at <https://www.regulations.gov>**  
Search for docket number FWS-R7-SM-2018-0015.
- **At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting**  
A current list of meeting dates and locations can be found at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions>, or by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management at the phone number or email address below. Due to the recent lapse in funding for the Federal government budget, some of the meeting dates published in the proposed rule (84 FR 623; January 31, 2019) have been changed. Revised meeting dates and locations will be announced in subsequent news releases as they become available.

The proposed rule, *Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2020–21 and 2021–22, Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations*, published in the Federal Register on January 31, 2019 (84 FR 623).

You may call the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456 or email [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov) with questions.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence) or by visiting [www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska).

**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).

-###-

1011 East Tudor Road MS-121 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199 • [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov) • (800) 478-1456 / (907) 786-3888  
This document has been cleared for public release #20601312019.



U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have made a preliminary determination that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This proposed rule involves a safety zone lasting for 2 hours that will prohibit entry within 100-yards of swim participants. Normally such actions are categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L63(a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 01. A preliminary Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this proposed rule.

#### G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places, or vessels.

#### V. Public Participation and Request for Comments

We view public participation as essential to effective rulemaking, and will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Your comment can help shape the outcome of this rulemaking. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <http://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, visit <https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice>.

Documents mentioned in this NPRM as being available in the docket, and all public comments, will be in our online docket at <https://www.regulations.gov>

and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted or when a final rule is published.

#### List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard is proposing to amend 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

#### PART 165—SAFETY ZONE; TANAPAG HARBOR, SAIPAN, CNMI

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 46 U.S.C. 70034 (previously codified in 33 U.S.C 1231); 46 U.S.C. 70051 (previously codified in 50 U.S.C. 191); 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

■ 2. Add § 165.114–0020 to read as follows:

#### 165.114–0020 Safety Zone; Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, CNMI.

(a) *Location.* The following area, within the Guam Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone (See 33 CFR 3.70–15), all navigable waters within a 100-yard radius of race participants in Tanapag Harbor, Saipan. Race participants, chase boats and organizers of the event will be exempt from the safety zone.

(b) *Effective Dates.* This rule is effective from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on March 31, 2019.

(c) *Enforcement.* Any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant, or petty officer, and any other COTP representative permitted by law, may enforce this temporary safety zone.

(d) *Waiver.* The COTP may waive any of the requirements of this rule for any person, vessel, or class of vessel upon finding that application of the safety zone is unnecessary or impractical for the purpose of maritime security.

(e) *Penalties.* Vessels or persons violating this rule are subject to the penalties set forth in 46 U.S.C. 70036 (previously codified in 33 U.S.C. 1232) and 46 U.S.C. 70052 (previously codified in 50 U.S.C. 192).

Dated: January 23, 2019.

**Christopher M. Chase,**  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Guam.

[FR Doc. 2019–00563 Filed 1–30–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9110–04–P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### Forest Service

#### 36 CFR Part 242

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 100

[Docket No. FWS–R7–SM–2018–0015; FXFR13350700640–190–FF07J00000; FBMS#4500129154]

RIN 1018–BD11

#### Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska—2020–21 and 2021–22 Subsistence Taking of Wildlife Regulations

**AGENCIES:** Forest Service, Agriculture; Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This proposed rule would establish regulations for hunting and trapping seasons, harvest limits, and methods and means related to taking of wildlife for subsistence uses during the 2020–21 and 2021–22 regulatory years. The Federal Subsistence Board is on a schedule of completing the process of revising subsistence taking of wildlife regulations in even-numbered years and subsistence taking of fish and shellfish regulations in odd-numbered years; public proposal and review processes take place during the preceding year. The Board also addresses customary and traditional use determinations during the applicable cycle. When final, the resulting rulemaking will replace the existing subsistence wildlife taking regulations. This rule would also amend the general regulations on subsistence taking of fish and wildlife.

#### DATES:

*Public meetings:* The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils will hold public meetings to receive comments and make proposals to change this proposed rule on several dates between February 5 and March 12, 2019, and then will hold another round of public meetings to discuss and receive comments on the proposals, and make recommendations on the proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board, on several dates between September 19 and November 5, 2019. The Board will discuss and evaluate proposed regulatory changes during a public meeting in Anchorage, AK, in April 2020. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific information on dates and locations of the public meetings.

*Public comments:* Comments and proposals to change this proposed rule must be received or postmarked by March 27, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Public meetings:* The Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils' public meetings will be held at various locations in Alaska. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific information on dates and locations of the public meetings.

*Public comments:* You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Electronically:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for FWS–R7–SM–2018–0015, which is the docket number for this rulemaking.
- *By hard copy:* U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121, Attn: Theo Matuskowitz, Anchorage, AK 99503–6199, or hand delivery to the Designated Federal Official attending any of the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council public meetings. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for additional information on locations of the public meetings.

We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Public Review Process section below for more information).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attention: Thomas C.J. Doolittle, Office of Subsistence Management; (907) 786–3888 or [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov). For questions specific to National Forest System lands, contact Thomas Whitford, Regional Subsistence Program Leader,

USDA–Forest Service, Alaska Region; (907) 743–9461 or [twhitford@fs.fed.us](mailto:twhitford@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3111–3126), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretaries) jointly implement the Federal Subsistence Management Program. This program provides a rural preference for take of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence uses on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska. The Secretaries published temporary regulations to carry out this program in the **Federal Register** on June 29, 1990 (55 FR 27114), and final regulations were published in the **Federal Register** on May 29, 1992 (57 FR 22940). The Program has subsequently amended these regulations a number of times. Because this program is a joint effort between Interior and Agriculture, these regulations are located in two titles of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): Title 36, “Parks, Forests, and Public Property,” and Title 50, “Wildlife and Fisheries,” at 36 CFR part 242.1–28 and 50 CFR part 100.1–28, respectively. The regulations contain subparts as follows: Subpart A, General Provisions; Subpart B, Program Structure; Subpart C, Board Determinations; and Subpart D, Subsistence Taking of Fish and Wildlife.

Consistent with subpart B of these regulations, the Secretaries established a Federal Subsistence Board to administer the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Board comprises:

- A Chair appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture;
- The Alaska Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

- The Alaska Regional Director, National Park Service;
- The Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management;
- The Alaska Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs;
- The Alaska Regional Forester, USDA–Forest Service; and
- Two public members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Through the Board, these agencies and public members participate in the development of regulations for subparts C and D, which, among other things, set forth program eligibility and specific harvest seasons and limits.

In administering the program, the Secretaries divided Alaska into 10 subsistence resource regions, each of which is represented by a Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council). The Councils provide a forum for rural residents with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska. The Council members represent varied geographical, cultural, and user interests within each region. Members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

**Public Review Process—Comments, Proposals, and Public Meetings**

The Councils have a substantial role in reviewing this proposed rule and making recommendations for the final rule. The Federal Subsistence Board, through the Councils, will hold public meetings on this proposed rule at the following locations in Alaska, on the following dates:

Region 1—Southeast Regional Council .....	Wrangell .....	February 12, 2019.
Region 2—Southcentral Regional Council .....	Anchorage .....	February 26, 2019.
Region 3—Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Council .....	Kodiak .....	February 21, 2019.
Region 4—Bristol Bay Regional Council .....	Naknek .....	February 12, 2019.
Region 5—Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council .....	Bethel .....	March 12, 2019.
Region 6—Western Interior Regional Council .....	Anchorage .....	February 20, 2019.
Region 7—Seward Peninsula Regional Council .....	Nome .....	March 5, 2019.
Region 8—Northwest Arctic Regional Council .....	Kotzebue .....	February 27, 2019.
Region 9—Eastern Interior Regional Council .....	Fairbanks .....	March 5, 2019.
Region 10—North Slope Regional Council .....	Utqiagvik .....	February 13, 2019.

During April 2019, the written proposals to change the subpart D, take of wildlife regulations, and subpart C, customary and traditional use determinations, will be compiled and distributed for public review. During a

subsequent public comment period, written public comments will be accepted on the distributed proposals. The Board, through the Councils, will hold a second series of public meetings in September through November 2019,

to receive comments on specific proposals and to develop recommendations to the Board at the following locations in Alaska, on the following dates:

Region 1—Southeast Regional Council .....	Petersburg .....	October 8, 2019.
Region 2—Southcentral Regional Council .....	Seward .....	October 2, 2019.

Region 3—Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Council .....	Kodiak .....	September 19, 2019.
Region 4—Bristol Bay Regional Council .....	Dillingham .....	November 5, 2019.
Region 5—Yukon—Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council .....	Bethel .....	October 12, 2019.
Region 6—Western Interior Regional Council .....	Aniak .....	October 8, 2019.
Region 7—Seward Peninsula Regional Council .....	Nome .....	October 22, 2019.
Region 8—Northwest Arctic Regional Council .....	Kotzebue .....	October 28, 2019.
Region 9—Eastern Interior Regional Council .....	Fairbanks .....	October 15, 2019.
Region 10—North Slope Regional Council .....	Utqiagvik .....	October 22, 2019.

Prior to both series of meetings, notices will be published of specific dates, times, and meeting locations in local and statewide newspapers, along with announcements on radio, television and social media sites. Locations and dates may change based on weather or local circumstances. The amount of work on each Council's agenda determines the length of each Council meeting, but typically the meetings are scheduled to last 2 days. Occasionally a Council will lack information necessary during a scheduled meeting to make a recommendation to the Board or to provide comments on other matters affecting subsistence in the region. If this situation occurs, the Council may announce on the record a later teleconference to address the specific issue when the requested information or data is available. These teleconferences are open to the public, along with opportunities for public comment; the date and time will be announced during the scheduled meeting and that same information will be announced through news releases and local radio, television, and social media ads.

The Board will discuss and evaluate proposed changes to the subsistence management regulations during a public meeting scheduled to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, in April 2020. The Council Chairs, or their designated representatives, will present their respective Councils' recommendations at the Board meeting. Additional oral testimony may be provided on specific proposals before the Board at that time. At that public meeting, the Board will deliberate and take final action on proposals received that request changes to this proposed rule.

Proposals to the Board to modify the general fish and wildlife regulations, wildlife harvest regulations, and customary and traditional use determinations must include the following information:

- a. Name, address, and telephone number of the requestor;
- b. Each section and/or paragraph designation in this proposed rule for which changes are suggested, if applicable;
- c. A description of the regulatory change(s) desired;

d. A statement explaining why each change is necessary;

e. Proposed wording changes; and

f. Any additional information that you believe will help the Board in evaluating the proposed change.

The Board immediately rejects proposals that fail to include the above information, or proposals that are beyond the scope of authorities in § \_\_\_\_\_.24, subpart C (the regulations governing customary and traditional use determinations), and §§ \_\_\_\_\_.25 and \_\_\_\_\_.26, subpart D (the general and specific regulations governing the subsistence take of wildlife). If a proposal needs clarification, prior to being distributed for public review, the proponent may be contacted, and the proposal could be revised based on their input. Once distributed for public review, no additional changes may be made as part of the original submission. During the April 2020 meeting, the Board may defer review and action on some proposals to allow time for cooperative planning efforts, or to acquire additional needed information. The Board may elect to defer taking action on any given proposal if the workload of staff, Councils, or the Board becomes excessive. These deferrals may be based on recommendations by the affected Council(s) or staff members, or on the basis of the Board's intention to do least harm to the subsistence user and the resource involved. A proponent of a proposal may withdraw the proposal provided it has not been considered, and a recommendation has not been made, by a Council. After that, the Board must approve withdrawal of a proposal. The Board may consider and act on alternatives that address the intent of a proposal while differing in approach.

You may submit written comments and materials concerning this proposed rule by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. If you submit a comment via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, will be posted on the website. If you submit a hardcopy comment that includes personal identifying information, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

We will post all hardcopy comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we used in preparing this proposed rule, will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by appointment, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, at: USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503.

*Reasonable Accommodations*

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to these meetings for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to the Office of Subsistence Management, 907–786–3888, [subsistence@fws.gov](mailto:subsistence@fws.gov), or 800–877–8339 (TTY), at least 7 business days prior to the meeting you would like to attend.

*Tribal Consultation and Comment*

As expressed in Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," the Federal officials that have been delegated authority by the Secretaries are committed to honoring the unique government-to-government political relationship that exists between the Federal Government and federally Recognized Indian Tribes (Tribes) as listed in 79 FR 4748 (January 29, 2014). Consultation with Alaska Native corporations is based on Public Law 108–199, div. H, Sec. 161, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 452, as amended by Public Law 108–447, div. H, title V, Sec. 518, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3267, which provides that: "The Director of the Office of Management and Budget and all Federal agencies shall hereafter consult with Alaska Native corporations on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order No. 13175."

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act does not provide specific rights to Tribes for the subsistence taking of wildlife, fish, and shellfish. However, because tribal members are affected by subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping regulations, the Secretaries, through the Board, will provide federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native corporations

an opportunity to consult on this proposed rule.

The Board will engage in outreach efforts for this proposed rule, including a notification letter, to ensure that Tribes and Alaska Native corporations are advised of the mechanisms by which they can participate. The Board provides a variety of opportunities for consultation: Proposing changes to the existing rule; commenting on proposed changes to the existing rule; engaging in dialogue at Council meetings; engaging in dialogue at the Board's meetings; and providing input in person, by mail, email, or phone at any time during the rulemaking process. The Board commits to efficiently and adequately providing an opportunity to Tribes and Alaska Native corporations for consultation in regard to subsistence rulemaking.

The Board will consider Tribes' and Alaska Native corporations' information, input, and recommendations, and address their concerns as much as practicable.

#### Developing the 2020–21 and 2021–22 Wildlife Seasons and Harvest Limit Regulations

Subpart C and D regulations are subject to periodic review and revision. The Federal Subsistence Board currently completes the process of revising subsistence take of wildlife regulations in even-numbered years and fish and shellfish regulations in odd-numbered years; public proposal and review processes take place during the preceding year. The Board also addresses customary and traditional use determinations during the applicable cycle.

The current subsistence program regulations form the starting point for consideration during each new rulemaking cycle. The regulations at § \_\_\_\_\_.24 pertain to customary and traditional use determinations; the regulations at § \_\_\_\_\_.25 pertain to general provisions governing the subsistence take of wildlife, fish, and shellfish; and the regulations at § \_\_\_\_\_.26 pertain to specific provisions governing the subsistence take of wildlife.

The text of the proposed amendments to 36 CFR parts 242.24, 242.25, and 242.26 and 50 CFR parts 100.24, 100.25, and 100.26 is the final rule for the 2018–2020 regulatory period for wildlife (83 FR 50758; October 9, 2018).

These regulations will remain in effect until subsequent Board action changes elements as a result of the public review process outlined above in this document.

#### Compliance With Statutory and Regulatory Authorities

##### *National Environmental Policy Act*

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement that described four alternatives for developing a Federal Subsistence Management Program was distributed for public comment on October 7, 1991. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was published on February 28, 1992. The Record of Decision (ROD) on Subsistence Management for Federal Public Lands in Alaska was signed April 6, 1992. The selected alternative in the FEIS (Alternative IV) defined the administrative framework of an annual regulatory cycle for subsistence regulations.

A 1997 environmental assessment dealt with the expansion of Federal jurisdiction over fisheries and is available at the office listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The Secretary of the Interior, with concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, determined that expansion of Federal jurisdiction does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment and, therefore, signed a Finding of No Significant Impact.

##### *Section 810 of ANILCA*

An ANILCA § 810 analysis was completed as part of the FEIS process on the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The intent of all Federal subsistence regulations is to accord subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands a priority over the taking of fish and wildlife on such lands for other purposes, unless restriction is necessary to conserve healthy fish and wildlife populations. The final § 810 analysis determination appeared in the April 6, 1992, ROD and concluded that the Federal Subsistence Management Program, under Alternative IV with an annual process for setting subsistence regulations, may have some local impacts on subsistence uses, but will not likely restrict subsistence uses significantly.

During the subsequent environmental assessment process for extending fisheries jurisdiction, an evaluation of the effects of this rulemaking process was conducted in accordance with § 810. That evaluation also supported the Secretaries' determination that these rules will not reach the "may significantly restrict" threshold that would require notice and hearings under ANILCA § 810(a).

##### *Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)*

This proposed rule does not contain any new collections of information that require Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. OMB has reviewed and approved the collections of information associated with the subsistence regulations at 36 CFR part 242 and 50 CFR part 100, and assigned OMB Control Number 1018–0075, which expires June 30, 2019. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

##### *Regulatory Planning and Review (Executive Order 12866)*

Executive Order 12866 provides that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget will review all significant rules. OIRA has determined that this proposed rule is not significant.

Executive Order 13563 reaffirms the principles of E.O. 12866 while calling for improvements in the nation's regulatory system to promote predictability, to reduce uncertainty, and to use the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends. The executive order directs agencies to consider regulatory approaches that reduce burdens and maintain flexibility and freedom of choice for the public where these approaches are relevant, feasible, and consistent with regulatory objectives. E.O. 13563 emphasizes further that regulations must be based on the best available science and that the rulemaking process must allow for public participation and an open exchange of ideas. We have developed this rule in a manner consistent with these requirements.

##### *Regulatory Flexibility Act*

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) requires preparation of flexibility analyses for rules that will have a significant effect on a substantial number of small entities, which include small businesses, organizations, or governmental jurisdictions. In general, the resources to be harvested under this proposed rule are already being harvested and consumed by the local harvester and do not result in an additional dollar benefit to the economy. However, we estimate that two million pounds of meat are harvested by subsistence users annually and, if given an estimated value of \$3.00 per pound, this amount would equate to about \$6 million in food value statewide. Based upon the amounts and



values cited above, the Departments certify that this rulemaking will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

#### *Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act*

Under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), this proposed rule is not a major rule. It will not have an effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, and will not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

#### *Executive Order 12630*

Title VIII of ANILCA requires the Secretaries to administer a subsistence priority for rural Alaskan residents on public lands. The scope of this program is limited by definition to certain public lands. Likewise, these proposed regulations have no potential takings of private property implications as defined by Executive Order 12630.

#### *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*

The Secretaries have determined and certify pursuant to the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, 2 U.S.C. 1502 *et seq.*, that this rulemaking will not impose a cost of \$100 million or more in any given year on local or State governments or private entities. The implementation of this rule is by Federal agencies and there is no cost imposed on any State or local entities or tribal governments.

#### *Executive Order 12988*

The Secretaries have determined that these regulations meet the applicable standards provided in §§ 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, regarding civil justice reform.

#### *Executive Order 13132*

In accordance with Executive Order 13132, the proposed rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment. Title VIII of ANILCA precludes the State from exercising subsistence management authority over fish and wildlife resources on Federal lands unless it meets certain requirements.

#### *Executive Order 13175*

Title VIII of ANILCA does not provide specific rights to tribes for the subsistence taking of wildlife, fish, and

shellfish. However, as described above under *Tribal Consultation and Comment*, the Secretaries, through the Board, will provide federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native corporations an opportunity to consult on this proposed rule.

#### *Executive Order 13211*

Executive Order 13211 requires agencies to prepare Statements of Energy Effects when undertaking certain actions. However, this proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action under E.O. 13211, affecting energy supply, distribution, or use, and no Statement of Energy Effects is required.

#### **Drafting Information**

Theo Matuskowitz drafted this proposed rule under the guidance of Thomas C.J. Doolittle, Jr. of the Office of Subsistence Management, Alaska Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska. Additional assistance was provided by:

- Daniel Sharp, Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management;
- Clarence Summers, Alaska Regional Office, National Park Service;
- Dr. Glenn Chen, Alaska Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs;
- Carol Damberg, Alaska Regional Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and
- Thomas Whitford, Alaska Regional Office, USDA–Forest Service.

#### **List of Subjects**

##### *36 CFR Part 242*

Administrative practice and procedure, Alaska, Fish, National forests, Public lands, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wildlife.

##### *50 CFR Part 100*

Administrative practice and procedure, Alaska, Fish, National forests, Public lands, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wildlife.

#### **Proposed Regulation Promulgation**

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Federal Subsistence Board proposes to amend 36 CFR part 242 and 50 CFR part 100 for the 2020–21 and 2021–22 regulatory years.

- The text of the proposed amendments to 36 CFR 242.24, 242.25, and 242.26 and 50 CFR 100.24, 100.25, and 100.26 is the final rule for the 2018–2020 regulatory periods for wildlife (83 FR 50759; October 9, 2018).

Dated: December 21, 2018.

**Thomas C.J. Doolittle,**

*Acting Assistant Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

Dated: December 21, 2018.

**Thomas Whitford,**

*Subsistence Program Leader, USDA—Forest Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019–00424 Filed 1–30–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411–15–4333–15–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **38 CFR Part 17**

#### **RIN 2900–AQ47**

#### **Urgent Care**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.  
**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to amend its regulations that govern VA health care. This rule would grant eligible veterans access to urgent care from qualifying non-VA entities or providers without prior approval from VA. This rulemaking would implement the mandates of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 and increase veterans' access to health care in the community.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 4, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted through <http://www.Regulations.gov>; by mail or hand-delivery to: Director, Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, North West, Room 1063B, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273–9026. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.) Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “RIN 2900–AQ47 Urgent Care.” Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461–4902 for an appointment. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.) In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph Duran, Director of Policy and Planning, 3773 Cherry Creek North Drive, Denver, CO 80209.  
*Joseph.Duran2@va.gov.* (303) 370–1637. (This is not a toll-free number.)



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).

**Kodiak/Aleutians 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 KA 19008.ZS

Anthony Christianson, Chair  
Federal Subsistence Board  
c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) submits this FY2018 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 Anchorage, Alaska on October 15-16, 2018, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. 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 Kodiak/Aleutians Region. [*The Council approved this report at its winter 2019 meeting in Kodiak.*]

**1. Request for increased educational opportunities for Council Members**

Under the current system, the only time training is provided to the Council is a couple of hours prior to the winter meeting for newly-appointed Council members. The rare opportunity to attend extensive training at the 2016 All-Council meeting was very welcome. There is a need for continuing education opportunities for Council Members including, but not limited to: 1) a one-page summary description of the role of the Regional Advisory Councils in making recommendations to the Board; 2) circulating an updated Regional Advisory Council Operations Manual for Council Members; 3) convening a more in-depth orientation for new members than what is currently provided (the two-day training session provided in Anchorage in 2017 is a great example); and 4) having the Coordinator hold training classes for the Council. Training materials should be appropriate for a variety of learning styles and include the use of web-based (online) and video-based instruction materials.

## **2. Request for evaluation of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) project selection process**

There needs to be a meaningful way for the Council to have its comments and input taken into consideration during the FRMP project selection process. This Council's prior communications with the Board on the topic of McLees Lake do not appear to have been considered. The Council believes that it is its unique role to establish priorities for its region, not a State or Federal agency representative. The Council understands the present FRMP process is designed to protect the integrity of project selection; however, it ignores the region's needs. The present Technical Review Committee project selection process should not override the Regional Advisory Council's defined research needs for subsistence users in the region. The Council requests that the Board examine this policy or provide some other means to achieve this goal. The Council requests an evaluation of the FRMP process and presentation of findings to the Council and Board.

## **3. Request for annual surveys of Adak Island caribou**

The Council requests that the Board support annual surveys of Adak Island caribou and salmon. The last caribou survey for Adak Island was conducted in approximately 2010. Adak Island caribou are an important subsistence resource to Federally qualified subsistence users in the Kodiak/Aleutians Region. Hunting pressure for caribou on Adak Island is high, and updated annual surveys are needed to determine how many caribou remain. The Council also recommends the Board explore the use of drones for conducting these surveys, as a possible means to reduce survey costs.

## **4. Agencies need to provide timely reports for inclusion in the Council's meeting book**

The Council appreciates the written reports that agencies produce for its meetings. However, it is more convenient for the Council to absorb these reports if they are included in the Council's meeting book. Council Coordinators begin their outreach to agencies for such reports months in advance of the Council meeting. For the fall 2018 Council meeting, extensive outreach began in July 2018. The majority of agencies responded within 24-48 hours. Several agencies did not provide presentation materials until 24, 48, or 72-hours before the meeting. The Council understands that land management agency staff are conducting fieldwork during the summer season. But a lack of advance production of reports does not provide Council members adequate time to review materials prior to the meeting.

The Council thanks the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and Mark Burch in particular, for arranging the 23 ADF&G personnel who participated in the fall 2018 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Meeting.

Chairman Christianson

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**5. Request for notification and tribal consultation regarding special actions affecting Federally qualified subsistence users in the region**

There has not been adequate notification and tribal consultation regarding special actions issued by Federal managers and affecting Federally qualified subsistence users in the Kodiak/Aleutians Region. The Council has five members who live in Kodiak. The Council was not involved in the 2018 summer closures affecting Federally qualified subsistence users in the Saltery, Pasagshak, and Kodiak areas. The Council understands that the in-season manager has the authority to enact closures, but they are supposed to conduct this process in consultation with the State of Alaska, the Council Chair, and tribes. The Council is aware that the Federal Subsistence Board recently updated the delegation of authority letters and would appreciate the in-season manager taking appropriate steps to provide notifications and consultation obligations prior to enacting future special actions.

Thank you for the opportunity for this Council to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal Public lands and waters. If you have questions about this report, please contact me via Zach Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, with the Office of Subsistence Management at 907-786-3676 or zachary\_stevenson@fws.gov

Sincerely,

Della Trumble,  
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Thomas Doolittle., Acting Assistant Regional Director,  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Jennifer Hardin, PhD., Subsistence Policy Coordinator,  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Greg Risdahl, Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management  
Chris McKee, Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management  
Katerina Wessels, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor,  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Zach Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
George Pappas, State Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management  
Mark Burch, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record

## **Division of Subsistence, ADF&G**

**Meeting Updates, Winter 2019 KARAC**

**April 22-23, 2019, Kodiak AK**



### **FRMP 18-450 Changing Regulations, Changing Environment, Changing Practices: A Study of Fish Harvest Practices in Unalaska**

Division researchers will be traveling to Unalaska this spring to conduct community scoping meetings and groundtruth. Researchers will return to conduct comprehensive household harvest surveys in the winter of 2020, and return again for community data review meetings the following year.

Contact: Amy Wiita, Subsistence Resource Specialist III, (907) 267-2360, [amy.wiita@alaska.gov](mailto:amy.wiita@alaska.gov)

### **FRMP 18-451 Subsistence Harvest Trends of Salmon and Nonsalmon Fish in Four Southern Kodiak Island Communities, with a Focus on Olga and Akalura Lakes**

Two division staff traveled to the communities of Larsen Bay, Ahkiok, and Old Harbor for project scoping meetings in January 2019. Attempts were made to conduct a scoping meeting and surveys in Karluk, but community consent was not obtained. Between February 10<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>, researchers travelled to the three communities to conduct subsistence household harvest surveys. Between the three communities, three Local Research Assistants (LRAs) were hired, 62 household surveys were completed, and 8 key informant interviews were conducted. Data is being analyzed and researchers will present preliminary results to each community in the winter of 2020 to solicit feedback before final publication.

Contact: Lauren Sill, Subsistence Resource Specialist III, (907) 465-3617, [lauren.sill@alaska.gov](mailto:lauren.sill@alaska.gov)

### **Relevant FRMP 2020 Proposals**

The Division has submitted a project proposal titled “Subsistence harvest trends of salmon and nonsalmon fish in Kodiak City and road-connected areas” to address two primary information needs by providing “reliable estimates of the harvest and use of fish used for subsistence” in Kodiak, and documenting “local observations of change in fish populations (quality, run timing, sex ratios, age composition, etc.) in the Southwest Alaska Region, and associated effects on subsistence uses.” We are collaborating with the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak. The project would conduct comprehensive subsistence surveys on the Kodiak Road System (last conducted in 1993), conduct interviews to document local observations, and hire local research assistants including tribal citizens. We would like to thank members of the KARAC, Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak, and the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge for their guidance and collaboration in this proposal.

Updates presented by Jacqueline Keating, Subsistence Resource Specialist II, (907) 267-2269, [jacqueline.keating@alaska.gov](mailto:jacqueline.keating@alaska.gov)



# Fall 2019 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

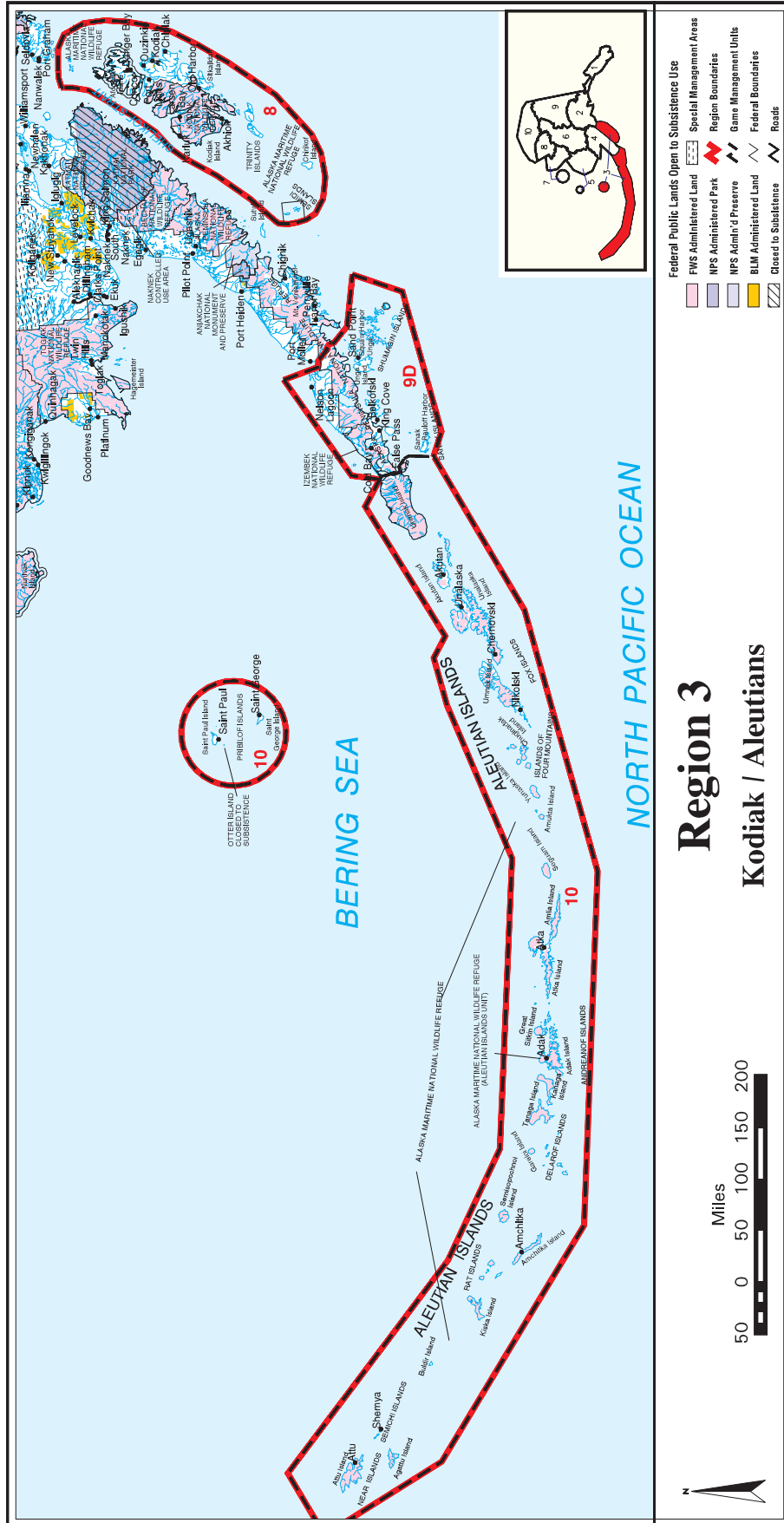
Due to travel budget limitations placed by Department of the Interior on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Subsistence Management, the dates and locations of these meetings will be subject to change.

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>
				<b>K/A — Cold Bay</b>		
<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>
			<b>SC — Seward</b>			
<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>
		<b>WI — Aniak</b>				
<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>
		<b>EI — Fairbanks</b>		<b>AFN — Fairbanks</b>		
<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>
		<b>NS — Utqiagvik</b>				
		<b>SP — Nome</b>				
<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>
	<b>NW — Noatak</b>					
			<b>BB — Dillingham</b>			
<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>
		<b>SE — Saxman (Ketchikan)</b>				
		<b>YKD — St. Mary's</b>				

## Winter 2020 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. 2</i>	<i>Feb. 3</i> <i>Window Opens</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>	<b>YKD — Bethel</b>		<i>Feb. 13</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>
<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i> <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY</b>	<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>	<b>SE — Petersburg</b>			<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Feb. 29</i>
<i>Mar. 1</i>	<i>Mar. 2</i>	<b>EI — Fairbanks</b>		<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>Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 14</i>



## Region 3

### Kodiak / Aleutians

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

**Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

**Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Kodiak/Aleutians 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 of, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
  - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
  - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the 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. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
- f. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
- g. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
- h. Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:
  - (1) Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary's Orders, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
  - (2) Policies and programs that:
    - (a) increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focus on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;
    - (b) expand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service lands in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;
    - (c) increase energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; and
    - (d) create greater collaboration with states, tribes, and/or territories.
- i. Provide recommendations for implementation of the regulatory reform initiatives and policies specified in section 2 of Executive Order 13777: Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs; Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review, as amended; and section 6 of Executive Order

13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:

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

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

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 1.0 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 advisory committee's and subcommittees' 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, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

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

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

For geographic membership balance, it is a Council goal to seat four members who reside on the Kodiak Archipelago, three members who reside on the Alaska Peninsula, and three who reside on the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands.

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 or other subgroups of the Council, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

DEC 01 2017

Date Signed

DEC 04 2017

Date Filed





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