



NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

March 16-17, 2020

Kotzebue



What's Inside

Page

- 1 Agenda
- 3 Roster
- 4 Draft Fall 2019 Council Meeting Minutes
- 10 How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations
- 13 Council's FY2019 Draft Annual Report
- 16 Fall 2020 Council Meeting Calendar
- 17 Winter 2021 Council Meeting Calendar
- 18 Federal Subsistence Board Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy
- 20 Region 8 – Northwest Arctic Map
- 21 Council Charter

On the cover...

Sinigraitchiaq shelter cabin on Selawik
National Wildlife Refuge



USFWS photo

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NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association Conference Room
Anchorage

March 16-17, 2020
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*) 4
- 8. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)
- 10. New Business** (*Chair*)
 - a. Fisheries Program Information Update (*OSM*)

b. Call for Federal Fish and Shellfish Proposals* 10
c. Approve FY2019 Annual Report* 13

11. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

- a. Tribal Governments
- b. Native Organizations & Alaska Native Corporations
- c. Bureau of Land Management
- d. National Park Service
- e. United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- f. Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- g. Office of Subsistence Management

12. Future Meeting Dates*

Confirm fall 2020 meeting dates and location 16
Select winter 2021 meeting dates and location 17

13. Closing Comments

14. Adjourn (Chair)

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

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to Zach Stevenson, 907-786-3674, zachary_stevenson@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on March 2, 2020.

REGION 8

Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Appointed <i>Term Expires</i>	Member Name and Community
1	2019 <i>2022</i>	Enoch A. Shiedt, Sr. Kotzebue
2	2019 <i>2022</i>	Thomas C. Baker Kotzebue
3	<i>2019</i>	<i>VACANT</i>
4	2010 <i>2022</i>	Michael C. Kramer Kotzebue Chair
5	1917 <i>2020</i>	Raymond E. Lee, Jr. Buckland
6	2018 <i>2020</i>	Replogle Swan, Sr. Kivalina
7	1993, 2015 <i>2020</i>	Louie A. Commack, Jr. Ambler Vice-Chair
8	<i>2021</i>	<i>VACANT</i>
9	<i>2019</i>	<i>VACANT</i>
10	2018 <i>2021</i>	Barbara M. Atoruk Kiana

NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Room
Kotzebue
October 28-29, 2019

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order on Monday, Oct. 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Council members Tristen Pattee (via teleconference the morning of Oct. 28, due to a weather-related flight cancellation and in-person on the afternoon of Oct. 28 and Oct. 29), Beverly Moto, Michael Kramer, Raymond Lee Jr., Replogle Swan Sr., Louie Commack Jr., Enoch Mitchell, and Barbara Atoruk were present in person. With eight out of eight seated Council members present (Council has two vacant seats) the quorum was established.

Attendees:

In person:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Fairbanks: Klaus Wutting, Philip Joy; *Kotzebue:* Alex Hansen

Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Anchorage: Thomas Doolittle, Lisa Maas, Karen Hyer, George Pappas, Zach Stevenson, Hannah Voorhees

Northwest Arctic Borough, Kotzebue: Charlie Gregg, Carl Wisener

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Kotzebue: Susan Georgette, Tessa Johrendt, Brittany Sweeney

Western Arctic National Parklands (WEAR), Kotzebue: Maija Lukin

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Homer: Glenn Chen

Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Kotzebue: Scott Bjork; *Fairbanks:* Justin Rodgers

Via teleconference:

OSM, Anchorage: Orville Lind

NPS, Anchorage: Joshua Ream; *Fairbanks:* Marcy Okada; *Denver:* Kyle Joly

Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion #1 by Ms. Atoruk, seconded by Mr. Commack, to adopt the agenda with the following changes:

- Item #10, New Business, (b) the 2020 Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program will be presented by the OSM Fisheries Division and Anthropology Division;
- Under Item #11, Agency Reports, (e) the Bureau of Land Management will present an Anchorage Field Office update for the fall 2019 season; and
- At the request of Mr. Pattee, a presentation will be delivered on caribou by a caribou biologist affiliated with the Red Dog Mine.

The motion #1 passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion #2 by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Swan, to approve the winter 2019 meeting minutes with the following modifications:

- The minutes incorrectly state that Selawik NWR opposed the Ambler Road. In the December 2019 meeting of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group in Anchorage, the working group, not the Refuge, took a position opposing the Ambler Road

The motion #2 passed unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports:

Barbara Atoruk of Kiana reported the absence of caribou when they should have been present, which continues a pattern observed for the past two years. Otherwise fishing and hunting were good. Hunters traveled to Onion Portage to harvest caribou. Some caribou gathered near a village before the freeze-up. Berry picking was good and occurred during rainy weather conditions.

Replogle Swan Sr. of Kivalina reported that caribou arrived later and that this pattern has been observed for the past five years. Mr. Swan added that hunters try to adapt to this change, even if caribou arrive a month later than usual.

Raymond Lee Jr. of Buckland also reported caribou arriving later than normal. Mr. Lee added that moose are showing signs of infestation by tapeworms, a condition never observed before, and some people were able to salvage some of the moose meat. It is raining hard in Buckland, and the water is unsafe.

Enoch Mitchell of Noatak reported fishing and berry picking were favorable this year. Caribou hunting was favorable too, though predators kept caribou from gathering by the river. Mr. Mitchell added that many people harvested caribou. Mr. Mitchell noted the Federal closure helped provide a successful hunting season for Federally qualified subsistence users this year. Mr. Mitchell reported that the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd lingered in the area longer than last year. He also said that caribou were sighted up until the bull closure date, while normally they have left by this time. Mr. Mitchell added that the caribou migration pattern has been diverted, and it is very important to document these observations to help with future decision making. The climate is changing, the rut is occurring later, and people are having difficulty harvesting caribou. Mr. Mitchell emphasized that documentation of these changes will be helpful when advocating for these subsistence resources.

Beverly Moto of Deering reported strong wind conditions and the absence of caribou, adding it was a poor spring hunt for caribou. Ms. Moto explained that people now have to travel farther to harvest caribou, requiring more gasoline, and wondered if the caribou migration has changed. Ms. Moto noted many people had successful fishing and berry picking seasons. Ms. Moto added that she observed people sharing their moose harvest and thinks moose hunting was favorable.

Louie Commack Jr. of Ambler reported a favorable summer fishing season, starting in July, producing salmon, whitefish, and Sheefish. Mr. Commack reported people were able to harvest caribou, moose, and bear during the fall season. Mr. Commack added that berry picking was favorable during the fall season too and that bears and wolves were within or near the village.

Michael Kramer of Kotzebue reported that he was not able to do much hunting this year due to health related reasons. Mr. Kramer reported observing people having successful hunts. He also reported observing caribou traveling near Kotzebue, the Agashashok (Aggie) River, Knapp Creek, Hugo area, and Lower (Noatak River) Canyons. He added that he did not get a moose tag this year, though he observed six bull moose. Mr. Kramer noted that many people were successful in harvesting bearded seals, adding there were several sick animals and reports of seals and birds washing ashore sick or dying for reasons unknown. Mr. Kramer reported the salmon fishery and berry harvest were productive. He also reported

favorable weather conditions changing to strange weather conditions. Mr. Kramer said that he heard concerns about caribou numbers. He has been recently reappointed to the ADF&G Kotzebue Advisory Committee. Mr. Kramer added that caribou hunting on the Upper Kobuk River was slow, with caribou arriving late and in low numbers in Ambler and Kiana. He also reported that spring fishing was favorable for Sheefish and King salmon and that conditions were favorable for bird hunting.

Tristen Pattee of Ambler reported the fall caribou hunt was successful for residents of Ambler. Mr. Pattee noted that while the herd arrived late, people were successful in harvesting enough meat for the winter season. He emphasized some positive news, noting multiple observations from hunters, of thousands of caribou migrating through Onion Portage and the hunting grounds near Ambler and the Jade Mountains in late September and early October. He explained that this hunter success improved local morale as many residents invested considerable time and resources hunting up to that point with limited success. Mr. Pattee also reported that some hunters were successful in harvesting moose and shared their harvest with family and friends in Ambler and other communities. He said that sport hunters shared their harvest and that this was greatly appreciated. Mr. Pattee acknowledged several people for sharing their harvest including Gig Williams, Johnny Emal, Eva Downey, Lorne and Jade Genteman, Charlie Douglas, and Morgan and Lolo. Mr. Pattee also reported hearing concerns about the presence of wolves before the caribou arrived. Some people believed the wolves were responsible for the delayed migration. He added that some people were concerned about public safety while hunting at Onion Portage with more than 50 boats in the area. Mr. Pattee reported that some hunters used large caliber rifles to hunt caribou swimming in the river and this was unnecessary. He also acknowledged those who took children or grandchildren hunting and instilled the values of respect for other hunters and their harvest.

Old Business:

- Wildlife closure review WCR20-19 (Unit 23 moose) – information update (*OSM Wildlife*)
- 805(c) Report – information update (*Council Coordinator*).

New Business:

Wildlife Proposals:

Regional Proposals:

WP20-43/44/45/46: Eliminate bull closure and prohibition on calf harvest for caribou in Unit 23

Motion #3 by Ms. Atoruk, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to support WP20-43 that requests a year round bull season in Unit 23.

The Council stated that WP20-43 would increase subsistence opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users and supported harvesting young bull caribou when larger bull caribou are in rut.

Motion # 3 passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion #4 by Ms. Atoruk, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to support WP20-44 that requests permitting of caribou calf harvest in Unit 23. The motion #4 passed on a seven to one vote.

Motion #5 by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Atoruk, to reconsider and rescind the previous vote on WP20-44. Mr. Mitchell said that he has vision difficulties that prevented him from fully reading the motion and hence he requested a rescinding and reconsideration of the previous motion. He said he is opposed to calf harvest. The motion #5 passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion #6 by Ms. Atoruk, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to support WP20-44.

The Council justified opposition to WP20-44, citing cultural values as the basis for wanting to avoid establishing an open season for any calf, while supporting the incidental harvest of mortally wounded or orphaned calves. The Council discussed the possibility of modifying the proposal to allow the incidental harvest of wounded or orphaned calves. An Alaska Wildlife Trooper noted the enforcement of such a modification is impossible given the vast geography and limited number of law enforcement personnel in the region. The Council clarified the harvest of calves is uncommon and suggested modifying the RC907 permit to document the incidental harvest of wounded or orphaned calves. One Council member expressed opposition to the harvest of calves, noting the harvest of calves is inconsistent with Iñupiaq cultural values.

Motion #6 failed on a vote three to five.

Motion #7 from Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Atoruk, to take no action on WP20-45 that requests a year-round bull season for caribou in Unit 23 and on WP20-46 that requests a year-round bull season and that calf harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 23, because of action taken on WP20-43 and WP20-44.

Motion #7 passed on a unanimous vote.

WP20-47: Eliminate cow season for moose in Unit 23

Motion #8 by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Swan, to support WP20-47 as modified by OSM. The Council justified its position noting a concern for conserving the region's declining moose population while also expressing concern about the ability for Federally qualified subsistence users to access the RM880 permit.

Motion #8 passed on a unanimous vote.

Statewide Proposals:

WP20-16/17: Extend the sealing period and eliminate the harvest quota for hunting and trapping, and liberalize the hunting harvest limit for wolf in Unit 2

Motion #9 by Mr. Pattee, seconded by Mr. Commack, to take no action on WP20-16/17. This proposal was brought to the attention of the Council at the request of the Chair, who expressed interest in learning how other regions are addressing predator management. The Council justified its position on the proposal, noting that WP20-16/17 is strictly limited to Unit 2 and would not affect the Northwest Arctic region.

Motion #9 passed on a unanimous vote.

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

Motion #10 by Mr. Swan, seconded by Ms. Atoruk, to support WP20-08.

The Council stated WP20-08 would be burdensome to Federally qualified subsistence users as the justification for its recommendation. A Council member noted that they boil traps to remove any scents,

but did not think the tags would could be boiled, so the tag's scent could deter furbearers from their traps.

Motion #10 failed on a unanimous vote.

2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program:

Council members wanted to know why Project 20-151 *Increasing Beaver Activity in Northwest Alaska* investigators limited their investigations to the communities of Noatak, Kotzebue, Shungnak, and Kobuk, as the negative impacts of beaver activity have occurred region-wide. Council members asked to expand the project to more, or even all, communities in the region. Council members also had concerns about threats to water quality, public health and safety caused by beaver activity.

Identify Issues for FY2019 Annual Report:

- The Council is concerned about impacts to Federally qualified subsistence users from the proposed Ambler Road and the desire for: 1) Reducing impacts to air quality from the release of naturally occurring asbestos known to cause cancer; 2) Reducing impacts to Federally qualified subsistence users from disturbances to the leaders migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd; 3) Reducing impacts to Federally qualified subsistence users from disturbances to graves, cultural, archaeological, and historic sites; and 4) Reducing impacts to water quality, fisheries habitat, and spawning areas.
- The Council desires to develop a youth educational initiative to help teach students about the importance of the subsistence way of life and how to effectively participate in the Federal regulatory process to influence decisions affecting the management of subsistence resources on Federal public lands important to their communities.

Agency Reports:

- Selawik NWR Update presented by Susan Georgette
- Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve Update presented by Marcy Okada
- ADF&G Update presented by Alex Hansen, Kotzebue
- Western Arctic National Parklands Superintendent's Report presented by Maija Lukin
- Western Arctic National Parklands Wildlife Report presented by Raime Fronstin
- Cultural Resources Report presented by Justin Junge, WEAR and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Cape Krusenstern National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) and Kobuk Valley National Park SRC Report presented by Hannah Atkinson, WEAR
- National Park Service Anchorage Regional Office Report by Dr. Joshua Ream
- Gates of the Arctic National Parks SRC Report and Wildlife Report by Marcy Okada, NPS
- ADF&G Advisory Committee Report presented Hazel Smith, Kotzebue
- ADF&G Report on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd presented by Alex Hansen, Kotzebue
- Office of Subsistence Management Report presented by Tom Doolittle
- State Subsistence Liaison Report presented by George Pappas, OSM

- Invitation to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Council presented by Zachary Stevenson, OSM
- Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Project Report presented by Bill Hedman, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Central Yukon Field Office
- BLM Anchorage Field Office Report presented by Tom Sparks
- NANA Lands Report presented by Elizabeth Cravalho, NANA Regional Corporation
- Law Enforcement Update by Joe DalleMolle, Western Arctic National Parklands, Walker Guse, BLM Anchorage Field Office, Scott Bjork, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Kotzebue, and Kirk Gregg, NANA Lands Department, Kotzebue.

Future Meeting Dates:

Motion #8 by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Atoruk, to confirm February 20-21 dates for the winter 2020 meeting in Kotzebue and to select November 3-4 dates for the fall 2020 meeting in Kotzebue.

Motion #8 passed unanimously.

Zachary Stevenson, DFO
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Michael Kramer, Chair
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its winter 2020 meeting in Anchorage, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

A more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Zachary Stevenson at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3674, email zachary_stevenson@fws.gov.



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

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

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

How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

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

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

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

What your proposal should contain:

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

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

You may submit your proposals by:

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

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

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

How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:

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

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

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

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

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

Northwest Arctic 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/NWA20000.ZS

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

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) submits this FY2019 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board under the provisions of Section 805 (a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska, on October 28-29, 2019, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. The Council finalized and approved this report at its winter 2020 meeting in Kotzebue. The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns regarding the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Northwest Arctic Region.

1. Impacts to Federally qualified subsistence users from the proposed Ambler Road

The Council requested a report on the proposed Ambler Road from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the lead agency in the Ambler Road Environmental Impact Statement. The Council asks the Board to assist the Council on receiving the information from BLM on how they plan to reduce impacts:

- To air quality during road construction and post-construction road usage, from the release of naturally occurring asbestos known to cause cancer
- To Federally qualified subsistence users resulting from disturbances to the lead migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd;
- To water quality, fisheries habitat, and important spawning areas; and

- To Federally qualified subsistence users from disturbances to graves, cultural, archaeological, and historic sites.

2. Support for the development of a youth education program to provide training for greater participation in the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal regulatory process.

The Council requests the Board to provide support and direction in developing an education program to provide training for youth to participate in the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal regulatory process. The Council believes that such training could help prepare the next generation of leaders to serve on the Councils and encourage youth leadership in each community. The Council also believes that youth education could help reinforce science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instructions in the classroom and provide for hands-on training about how to participate in the Federal regulatory process. Such an experience will provide opportunities to youth to learn traditional knowledge of hunting, fishing, and gathering from elders. At the same time, it will prepare youth for leadership position in their communities and strengthen the Councils.

The Council thanks you for the opportunity to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal Public lands and waters. We look forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users of the Northwest Arctic Region. If you have questions about this report, please contact me via Zach Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management, at zachary_stevenson@fws.gov, or 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3676.

Sincerely,

Michael Kramer
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Suzanne Worker, Acting Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Greg Risdahl, Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Chris McKee, Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Kron, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Lisa Maas, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Zachary Stevenson, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence

Management

George Pappas, State Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management

Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Interagency Staff Committee

Administrative Record

DRAFT

Fall 2020 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated on 11/12/19

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

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

Winter 2021 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

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

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

Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy

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

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

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

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

Policy

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

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

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

Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (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. Appoint three members to each of the Cape Krusenstern National Monument and the Kobuk Valley National Park Subsistence Resource Commissions and one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with section 808 of ANILCA.
 - f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
 - g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
 - h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
 - i. Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary's Orders, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
 - (2) Policies and programs that:
 - (a) increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focus on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;
 - (b) expand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service lands in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;
 - (c) increase energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; and
 - (d) create greater collaboration with States, Tribes, and/or Territories.

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

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

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

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

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$150,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.0 Federal staff years.

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

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

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

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

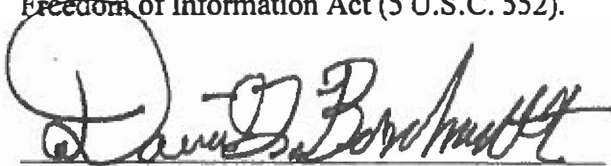
Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

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

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

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

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



Secretary of the Interior

DEC 12 2019

Date Signed

DEC 13 2019

Date Filed

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