



SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

February 13 - 14, 2017
Anchorage



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On the cover...

Winter aerial of Mt. Drum in Wrangell -
St. Elias National Park



NPS photo by Bryan Petryl

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SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
1131 East International Airport Rd.
Anchorage

February 13 – 14, 2017
9:00 am – 4:30 pm daily

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

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

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

AGENDA

*Asterisk identifies action item.

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

10. Old Business (Chair)

- a. Revisions to Draft MOU with State of Alaska
- b. Delegation of Authority

11. New Business (Chair)

- a. Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals
- b. Review and Approve FY2016 Annual Report* Supplemental
- c. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska Native Relations Policy (*Crystal Lionetti*)*
- d. Memorandum of Agreement between Ahtna and Department of the Interior 18

12. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

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OSM

13. Future Meeting Dates*

Confirm Fall 2017 meeting date and location44

Select Winter 2018 meeting date and location45

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (Chair)

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

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to Donald Mike, 907-786-3629, donald_mike@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 2, 2017.

REGION 2
Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Appointed <i>Term Expires</i>	Member Name and Community
1	2016 2019	Edward H. Holston Cooper Landing
2	2014 2019	Eleanor Dementi Cantwell
3	2003 2019	Richard Greg Encelewski Ninilchik Chair
4	2016 2019	Diane A. Selanoff Valdez
5	2016 2019	Daniel Stevens Chitina
6	2003 2017	Gloria Stickwan Tazlina Vice Chair
7	2011 2017	James R. Showalter Soldotna
8	2011 2017	Michael V. Opheim Seldovia
9	2011 2017	Andrew T. McLaughlin Chenega Bay
10	2009 2018	Judith C. Caminer Anchorage Secretary
11	2015 2018	Ingrid B. Peterson Homer
12	2003 2018	Thomas M. Carpenter Cordova
13	2015 2018	Ricky J. Gease Kenai



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



Forest Service

Federal Subsistence Board News Release

For Immediate Release:
December 9, 2016

Contact: Carl Johnson
(907) 786-3676 or (800) 478-1456
carl_johnson@fws.gov

Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture appoint members to Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, with the concurrence of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, has made appointments to the 10 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. The Councils advise the Federal Subsistence Board on subsistence management regulations and policies and serve as a forum for public involvement in Federal subsistence management in Alaska. With these appointments (shown in bold), the current membership of the Councils is:

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Steve K. Reifentuhl, Sitka
Frank G. Wright Jr., Hoonah
Patricia A. Phillips, Pelican
Michael A. Douville, Craig
Harvey Kitka, Sitka
Robert Schroeder, Juneau

Albert H. Howard, Angoon
Donald C. Hernandez, Pt. Baker
Kenneth L. Jackson, Kake
Raymond D. Sensmeier, Yakutat
John A. Yeager, Wrangell
Michael D. Bangs, Petersburg
Cathy A. Needham, Juneau

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

Diane A. Selanoff, Valdez
Eleanor Dementi, Cantwell
R. Greg Encelewski, Ninilchik
Deaniel E. Stevens, Chitina
Edward H. Holsten, Cooper Landing
Gloria Stickwan, Copper Center

James R. Showalter, Sterling
Michael V. Opheim, Seldovia
Andrew T. McLaughlin, Chenega Bay
Judith C. Caminer, Anchorage
Ingrid Peterson, Homer
Thomas M. Carpenter, Cordova
Ricky J. Gease, Kenai

KODIAK/ALEUTIANS

Antone A. Shelikoff, Akutan
Patrick B. Holmes, Kodiak
Richard Koso, Adak
Samuel I. Rohrer, Kodiak

Thomas L. Schwantes, Kodiak
Coral Chernoff, Kodiak
Rebecca Skinner, Kodiak
Della Trumble, King Cove
Speridon M. Simeonoff Sr., Akhiok
Melissa M. Berns, Old Harbor

BRISTOL BAY

Pete M. Abraham, Togiak
Dennis Andrew, Sr., New Stuyahok
Nanci A. Morris Lyon, King Salmon
Molly B. Chythlook, Dillingham

Senafont Shugak, Jr., Pedro Bay
Dan O. Dunaway, Dillingham
Lary J. Hill, Iliamna
Victor A. Seybert, Pilot Point
Richard J. Wilson, Naknek

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA

William F. Brown, Eek
James A. Charles, Tuntutuliak
John W. Andrew, Kwethluk
Michael Peters, Marshall
Lester Wilde Sr., Hooper Bay
Dale T. Smith, Jr., Mekoryuk

Anthony Ulak, Scammon Bay
Annie C. Cleveland, Quinhagak
Dorothy G. Johnson, Mountain Village
Raymond J. Oney, Alakanuk
Greg J. Roczicka, Bethel
Robert E. Aloysius, Kalskag
David A. Bill, Sr., Toksook Bay

WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA

Shirley J. Clark, Grayling
Donald V. Honea Jr., Ruby
Pollock Simon Sr., Allakaket
Raymond L. Collins, McGrath
Jack L. Reakoff, Wiseman

Darrel M. Vent, Sr., Huslia
Timothy P. Gervais, Ruby
Dennis R. Thomas, Sr., Crooked Creek
Jenny K. Pelkola, Galena
Fred W. Alexie, Kaltag

SEWARD PENINSULA

Theodore Katcheak, Stebbins
Brandon D. Ahmasuk, Nome
Louis H. Green Jr., Nome
Thomas L. Gray, Nome
Leland H. Oyoumick, Unalakleet

Fred D. Eningowuk, Shishmaref
Elmer K. Seetot Jr., Brevig Mission
Joseph A. Garnie, Teller
Charles F. Saccheus, Elim
Ronald D. Kirk, Stebbins

NORTHWEST ARCTIC

Raymond Stoney, Kiana
Beverly M. Moto, Deering
Hannah P. Loon, Kotzebue
Michael C. Kramer, Kotzebue
Enoch Mitchell, Noatak

Verne J. Cleveland Sr., Noorvik
Louie A. Commack, Jr., Ambler
Enoch A. Shiedt Sr., Kotzebue
Percy C. Ballot Sr., Buckland
Calvin D. Moto, Deering

EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA

Susan L. Entsminger, Tok Cutoff
Andrew P. Firmin, Fort Yukon
Lester C. Erhart, Tanana
William L. Glanz, Central

Andrew W. Bassich, Eagle
Rhonda O. Pitka, Beaver
Will M. Koehler, Horsfeld
Donald A. Woodruff, Eagle
Virgil L. Umphenour, North Pole

NORTH SLOPE

Ester Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass
Robert V. Shears, Wainright
Wanda T. Kippi, Atqasuk
Steve Oomituk, Point Hope
William J. Maines, Dillingham

Sam Kunaknana, Nuiqsut
James M. Nageak, Anaktuvuk Pass
Gordon R. Brower, Barrow
Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik
Rosemary Ahtaungaruak, Barrow

The Federal Subsistence Board is accepting applications for the 2017 appointment cycle until February 3, 2017. For more information, go to the Federal Subsistence Management Program website at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/statewide>.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting 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.

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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE ALASKA REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Gorsuch Commons, University of Alaska Anchorage
3700 Sharon Gagnon Lane #602
Anchorage, Alaska
October 17-18, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Greg Encelewski

Roll Call: Present; Greg Encelewski, Lee Adler, Gloria Stickwan, Michael Opheim, Andrew McLaughlin, Judy Caminer, Ricky Gease. **Online;** Mary Ann Mills, Tom Carpenter. **Absent:** Eleanor Dementi, James Showalter, Ingrid Peterson

Quorum established

Seven members present and two members participating via teleconference.

Introductions

Each Council member introduced themselves and introductions from State and Federal representative and participating public in attendance.

Review/Adopt Agenda

- Move Tribal Government reports following Chairs report
- Move the RFR update before Fisheries proposals
- add FSB Delegation of Authority letter to Agencies
- add Alaska DOT/PF Cooper Landing by-pass road project
- NTC video presentation added under Tribal reports

Review/Approve Meeting minutes

-Ms. Caminer moved to adopt meeting minutes of March 09, 2016. 2nd called by Mr. Carpenter. Minutes approved as presented.

-Chair Encelewski and Council member Gease, the sitting chair, and member from the Kenai River Sportfishing Association, were advised to recuse themselves from participating on the Kenai River subsistence gillnet proposals. The recusal requests are due to ongoing litigation from NTC with the USFWS, and the Kenai River Sportfishing Association being a party involved in Requests for Reconsideration (RFR) with the Federal Subsistence Board related to the Kenai River subsistence gillnet fishery.

Chair and Council RAC member Reports

Mr. Encelewski reported the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Director, Mr. Greg Siekanic, visited with the NTC to discuss various resource management issues.

Council members reported on FSB meetings that they attended and other members of the Council reported on actions taken by the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC for subsistence planning. RAC

members from Unit 13 communities reported on recent Dall sheep population surveys. Other members reported on the importance of emergency special actions being truly an emergency when subsistence needs are not being met. Other reports included, deer populations in Prince William Sound, and general species observations, salmon runs on the Kenai Peninsula, fishing declines potentially due to climate change, and Black bear numbers declining in Seldovia area.

Tribal Reports

The Ninilchik Traditional Council (NTC) presented a video production for a subsistence fishery on the Kenai River entitled “One day on the Kenai”. The video highlighted the efforts of the NTC to provide subsistence Sockeye to rural residents of Ninilchik and also provided Sockeye to community members.

The NTC also provided a PowerPoint presentation following the NTC video presentation. The PowerPoint technical presentation presented details on the operations plan and results of the subsistence gillnet fishery.

RFR Update

Mr. Stewart Cogswell, acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), provided an update on the RFR regarding the Kenai River subsistence gillnet fisheries. Mr. Cogswell indicated that a draft threshold analysis was undergoing a final internal review before going to the ISC for their review and recommendation.

Old Business

Rural/ Nonrural Determination

Nonrural Determination was presented by Ms. Ameer Howard, Policy Coordinator for OSM. Council member Caminer inquired if the Council will not be given deference for Nonrural determination and further, the onus will be the communities, which may be a time consuming process for the communities. Other question(s) from the Council; are Tribes able to submit proposals as a “community”. The Council would prefer deference given to the Councils.

The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) supported the policy and further commented that deference should be given to the Councils when the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) considers Rural/Non-Rural.

New Business

Fisheries Proposals

The following is a summary of action taken by the SCRAC. Official record of action can be found on the SCRAC transcripts.

FP17-06/07 Salmon. Remove _27(e)(10)(J) from current regulations gillnet on the Kenai River.

Action: The Council opposed FP17-06/07.

Justification: The gillnet fishery on the Kenai River was executed and the impact to the fish species of concern was minimal. The fishing gear allowed to operate to harvest sockeye Salmon is only 60 feet in length gillnet (10 fathoms) and fishes the shallow section of the river away from migrating Chinook.

FP17-08 Chinook. Close parts of the Kenai River to the take of Chinook Salmon; revise size restrictions, seasonal and daily harvest and possession limits.

Action: Oppose

Justification: There currently is not any conservation concern on the Kenai River of Chinook Salmon and the current subsistence harvest is minimal. The Alaska Board of Fisheries will address a similar proposal and the proponent should consider submitting the proposal again and revisit the Federal regulations for the take of Chinook Salmon on the Kenai River.

FP17-09 Salmon. Revise gillnet regulations on the Kasilof River

Action: Support with Amendments. The RAC amended the proposal to start the fishery June 16 and ending August 15; and require an annual report be submitted at the end of the fishing season.

Justification: The Council supported FP17-09 with two Council amendments, both proposed by the proponent (Ninilchik Traditional Council) during their public testimony. The first amendment was to change the fishery date range to June 16 through August 15. This suggested modification would match the current Kasilof River dip net/fish wheel/rod and reel fishery dates for Sockeye Salmon and Chinook Salmon, and would align with the current Steelhead closure that begins August 16. The Council voiced support for this amendment as it provided increased opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users, while at the same time continuing to afford protections for Steelhead Trout. Fisheries for Coho Salmon later in the year would continue to use a more selective gear type (rod and reel).

The second amendment to the proposal was to add an annual post-season reporting requirement. This requirement is a part of the current fishery, but would be removed if the proposal was adopted as written. The Council noted that this would be a way to ensure that pertinent information about the fishery be provided to the in-season manager as well as the Council for further discussion of the fishery at a later date.

FP17-10 Salmon. Revise gillnet regulations on the Kenai River.

Action: Support with Amendments. Amend the season dates of the fishery from June 15 – September 30. A completed application/notice submitted to OSM by Feb 1, and OSM conduct Tribal consultation with interested parties and stipulate the final operations plan be approved and completed by May 15.

Justification: The proposed fishing dates affects a small area on the Kenai River and no conservation concern exist for the fishery and any conservation concerns are addressed by the operations plan. The proposal as amended, will benefit subsistence users and the gillnet fishery can be operated without affecting other fisheries of concern.

The Council commented about the concern of reduced harvest by residents of Cooper Landing and Hope. An analysis can be completed to review the four thousand harvest limit for sockeye and investigate the possibility to allow household harvest limit.

The Council also moved to recommend to the OSM that OSM continue to work on the analysis and add options for the Board to address any regulatory conflicts should the Board adopt the proposals as modified by the Council.

FP17-11 Request C&T determination for residents of Dry Creek in the Glennallen sub-district of the upper Copper River.

Action: Support

Justification: The Council supported the proposal submitted by the proponent and demonstrating their use of the fishery resources for a recognizable long term use pattern. The Council received written public comments from the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission supporting the proposal stating the community met the C&T Use criteria for the community.

Public Testimony

The Council heard public testimony on FP17-06 and FP17-07 from residents of Cooper Landing. Testifiers opposed any gillnet fishing on the Kenai River. Conservation is important for future generations. Other methods are available to harvest salmon.

Delegation of Authority

Mr. Andrew McLaughlin requested to remove/rescind the delegation of authority for moose and deer in Prince William Sound. The Council discussed requiring a consultation process prior to closures, in advance of any delegation of authority action.

Mr. Carpenter moved to have OSM compile a list of delegated authorities, for all of SC region, re; sunset clause in Unit 6 and all parameters regarding the delegation of authority. The second was called by Mr. McLaughlin. Question called, motion carried.

Mr. McLaughlin moved to rescind delegation of authority for Unit 6D moose/deer and to end correspondence to FSB with request. Discussion. Mr. Carpenter prefers to have input/discussion from land managing agencies before rescinding. Question called. Vote: 2-5, motion failed.

Public comment on delegation of authority: NTC opposed to the delegation of authority without proper framework, noting it has potential for negative effect.

Cooper Landing Bypass DOT/PF highway project

Mr. Ricky Gease provided a synopsis on the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, highway improvement on the Sterling Highway for MP45-60.

The Council voted unanimously to request a reconsideration of the selection of G South Alternative as the preferred alternative on the Sterling Highway MP45-60 project. The Council requests that this selection is reevaluated in consideration of the following comments in opposition to the preferred alternative of G South, which fails to provide necessary long-term protections for a healthy Kenai River. We support the more Kenai River friendly Juneau Creek Alternative.

FRMP

The Fishery Resource Monitoring Program was presented by Ms. Jennifer Hardin and Mr. Scott Ayers. They reviewed the Priority Information Needs (PIN) list which the SCRAC working group had drafted and with the assistance of Ms. Judy Caminer, and discussed each PIN.

MOU

The Council requested to see the changes made on the draft MOU since the last review by the Council. The previous draft will assist the Council to develop its comments for the next Council meeting; the Council would like to see what were the last comments made to the draft document and what the other regions have suggested. Draft document for 2017 review should include additions highlighted and deleted language as strikeout.

The Council commented that collaboration on projects between the State and Federal agencies is important on different policies. The draft MOU should state the document is a cooperative effort by the parties.

Annual Report

The following lists are the items the Council will address in its annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board:

1. Nonrural Policy Implementation

The Council appreciated the opportunity to receive a briefing on the draft Nonrural Determination Policy, and has some thoughts on how the policy should be implemented. The Federal Subsistence Board should consider the use of fish and game household surveys and data. Existing data and surveys are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Office of Subsistence Management for staff to compile, interpret and provide in their analyses. This information would assist the Council in developing informed decisions prior to submitting its recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board when making nonrural determinations.

2. Cook Inlet Fishery Regulations

At its fall 2016 meeting, the Council discussed the need to review the Cook Inlet subsistence fishery regulations to streamline regulations for consistency and clarification. The regulations for subsistence harvest of salmon by dip net and rod and reel cover several areas on the Kenai Peninsula with various methods and means for the harvest of Salmon, which results in a complex and confusing regulatory environment for subsistence users. It is also, apparently, quite confusing to staff as well.

The Council suggests convening a workgroup to review existing Federal subsistence regulations with support from the Federal Subsistence Board to provide technical guidance to review the Federal subsistence regulations. The workgroup should consist of appropriate OSM staff, rural subsistence stakeholders, State fishery biologists, and other user groups to review the existing Federal regulations and provide a recommendation for the Council to consider. The product of the workgroup will be focused on streamlining the regulations for consistency and clarification for the Kenai Peninsula. The goal would be to submit a proposal during the next fisheries regulatory cycle to simplify the Kenai regulations.

3. Delegation of Authority

The Council discussed the Delegation of Authority (DA) authorized for each land manager for Federal public lands for the Southcentral Region with authority to close or open harvest of wildlife during situations of biological concerns or public safety. The Council requests specifics for each DA and for the Board to establish clear administrative authority for each species or unit. The Council also requests OSM staff to compile a list of all DA letters issued to land managing agencies in the Southcentral region.

4. Sterling Highway Improvement

The Council had the opportunity to review and comment to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Federal Highway Administration on the issue of the Cooper Landing/Kenai River Bypass on the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project. The ecological health and wellbeing of the Kenai River has a direct impact on the access and opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to fish and hunt in their customary and traditional use areas on Federal public lands of the Kenai Peninsula. Additionally, the Kenai River supports many uses by other key user groups that also depend upon healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

The Council voted unanimously to request a reconsideration of the selection of G South Alternative as the preferred alternative on the Sterling Highway MP45-60 project. The Council requests that this selection is reevaluated in consideration of the following comments in opposition to the preferred alternative of G South, which fails to provide necessary long-term protections for a healthy Kenai River. We support the more Kenai River friendly Juneau Creek Alternative, which is the best route to bypass both Cooper Landing and the Kenai River.

The Council strongly opposes the selection of any alternative that fails to protect the Kenai River and believes that the protection of such a crucial resource should receive the highest priority in the decision making process.

5. Salmon Biology and Ocean Acidification

Salmon and other marine finfish species harvested by subsistence, recreational and other users have observed those species' growth patterns decline to half the size they were about a decade ago. The decline in Chinook Salmon on the Copper River, observed changes in the sex ratios of Chinook Salmon, and in-season management restrictions are all a concern.

The abundance and size of fish are changing. Managers need marine indicators to help determine and forecast run timing in Alaska's freshwaters. Ocean acidification is another

potential factor in the marine environment that affects productivity for salmon and other finfish species.

The Council encourages the Board to engage with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other entities managing the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska fisheries to fund research focused on marine productivity to address declining Chinook populations and why the changes are occurring.

6. Klutina and Gulkana River Chinook

The Klutina and Gulkana River Chinook Salmon are experiencing population declines. Factors for the decline are overfishing in these rivers and efficiency of the fishwheel, and the fishwheel harvests Chinook along with the targeted Sockeye Salmon by subsistence and personal use fishers.

Inseason managers should review the management plan for Chinook Salmon on the Klutina and Gulkana Rivers to assess current and future returns and take action to protect the Chinook Salmon from further decline. Options to consider include shortening the recreational users' time on the river and limiting the fishwheel fishery when Sockeye Salmon returns are at their most abundant.

7. Unit 13 Subsistence Community Hunt

The community hunt program for moose in Unit 13, which allows harvest of any bull, has greatly benefited rural residents within Unit 13. It is also managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and is now open to all State residents according to testimony received at our fall meeting. However, the intent was it to benefit only the residents of Unit 13 residents. The result has been competition among Alaska residents and Unit 13 residents.

The Unit 13 community hunt is unsustainable if left open to all Alaska residents. It would be helpful to see data on what communities are participating in the Unit 13 community hunt. The Board can begin dialogue with the Alaska Board of Game to address the situation, reduce the competition for the resource, and hopefully assist Unit 13 residents to find ways to meet their subsistence needs.

Agency Reports

Federal agencies representing the US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Office of Subsistence Management provided reports on various resource management activities as well as report from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Future Meeting Dates

The SCRAC confirmed its winter meeting for February 13-14, 2017 in Anchorage. The fall 2017 meeting dates are November 6-7, 2017 in either Seldovia or Soldotna.

Closing Comments

Adjourn

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

January 4, 2017

Donald Mike, DFO
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Richard Greg Encelewski, Chair
Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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



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: Theo Matuskowitz
(907) 786-3867 or (800) 478-1456
theo_matuskowitz@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.



Ahtna

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND
AHTNA INTER-TRIBAL RESOURCE COMMISSION
FOR
A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF
CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL SUBSISTENCE USES IN THE AHTNA REGION**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is entered into for the purpose of formalizing the subsistence wildlife management partnership between the United States Department of the Interior (Department) and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission (hereinafter referred to as AITRC) for the allocation and harvest of moose and caribou by rural residents of the Native villages in the Ahtna region (as shown on the attached map) on Federal public lands. It also establishes a process for the formation of a local advisory committee and memorializes the parties' mutual goal of developing a regional management plan for moose, caribou, and other wildlife populations traditionally taken by the Ahtna villages to allow for better informed management and decisionmaking in the future.

ARTICLE I – BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Department is committed to developing a subsistence wildlife management partnership project with the AITRC that will result in empowering the rural Native villages of the Ahtna region with greater self-determination and, when possible and in accordance with applicable law, providing improved hunting opportunities that will allow them to continue practicing their customary and traditional way of life. The Department recognizes that special circumstances within the Ahtna region have not permitted these local residents to meet their subsistence needs. Moreover, the Department recognizes the right of the rural resident members of the Native villages in the Ahtna region to maintain their cultural identity through opportunities to practice their subsistence lifestyle on the Federal public lands in a manner that enables them to pass down traditional knowledge and customary practices from generation to generation. The Department further recognizes that it has an obligation to uphold the Federal trust responsibility to tribes, a well-established legal obligation that originates from the unique historical relationship between the United States and the tribes. Central to the Department's mission is honoring and supporting the government-to-government relationship with tribes.

The Department and AITRC share a mutual interest in the conservation of healthy wildlife populations and their habitats as well as the opportunity for customary and traditional subsistence uses. The Department and AITRC are committed to developing and maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship that will serve the best interests of the residents of the Ahtna region, the wildlife management agencies within the Department, and the wildlife resources and the environment necessary to sustain healthy populations. To that end, the Department is committed to incorporating Ahtna traditional ecological knowledge and customary and traditional management practices, based on Ahtna's special geographical, historical, and cultural connections to the lands, waters and wildlife in the Ahtna traditional territory, into the Department's subsistence wildlife management structure and policies. The AITRC values the scientific and monitoring tools that the Department brings to subsistence wildlife management, and is committed to building capacity in this area and partnering with the Department on such projects. The Department and AITRC are committed to working together to arrive at mutually beneficial solutions and programs when, through law or policy, wildlife management objectives differ between the parties.

The Department and AITRC also share a mutual concern for the already very evident impact of climate change on the habitat and resources within the Ahtna region, including wildlife populations. The parties agree that in order to begin to address this changing environment, it will be necessary to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge broadly into wildlife management decision making, including, when appropriate, comprehensive wildlife and habitat management plans for the public lands within the Ahtna region.

ARTICLE II - AUTHORITY

The following authorities support the MOA:

- Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. § 3111 et seq.
- Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments"
- Secretarial Order 3317, "Department of Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes"
- Secretarial Order 3335, "Reaffirmation of the Federal Trust Responsibility to Recognized Indian Tribes and Individual Indian Beneficiaries"
- Secretarial Order 3342, "Identifying Opportunities for Cooperative and Collaborative Partnerships with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in the Management of Federal Lands and Resources"
- Federal Subsistence Board Regulations at 36 C.F.R. § 242 and 50 C.F.R. § 100

Congress has vested authority in the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture (Secretaries) through Title VIII of ANILCA to manage subsistence uses and resources on the Federal public lands in Alaska. The Secretaries have delegated significant aspects of subsistence management on Federal public lands to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board). The Secretary of Interior, (Secretary) however, retains broad management authority over the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management public lands in Ahtna's

traditional territory. Section 809 of ANILCA authorizes the Secretaries to enter into cooperative agreements or otherwise cooperate with other Federal agencies, the State of Alaska (State), Native Corporations, other appropriate persons and organizations to effectuate the purposes and policies of Title VIII. Additional Federal laws, including the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act as amended, authorize contracts, compacts and other forms of funding agreements with tribes for Federal programs.

The AITRC is composed of a representative of each of the eight federally recognized tribes in the Ahtna region, (Native Villages of Cantwell, Mentasta, Cheesh'na, Chitina, Gulkana, Gakona, Tazlina, and Kluti Kaah) Ahtna Inc., the ANCSA regional corporation, and Chitina Native Corporation, the ANCSA village corporation for the Native Village of Chitina. The other seven ANCSA village corporations for the Ahtna region merged with Ahtna, Inc. The eight federally recognized Ahtna tribes through resolutions of their governing bodies established the AITRC for the purpose of management of customary and traditional resources, lands and waters, including engaging in cooperative management agreements, and for related Federal tribal contracting opportunities.

The Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (SCRAC) and Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EIRAC) (collectively, RAC), which were established pursuant to section 805 of ANILCA, have authority to make recommendations to the Board and Secretary on issues related to the taking of subsistence wildlife on the public lands within Ahtna's traditional territory. The Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) for the Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks are responsible for developing annual recommendations for subsistence hunting programs on park and preserve lands in Ahtna's traditional territory. The SRC recommendations go directly to the Secretary.

Both the Regional Advisory Council and SRC recommendations concerning the taking of fish and wildlife are entitled to deference pursuant to sections 805 and 808 of ANILCA and Federal regulations.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

This MOA formalizes an agreement for the purpose of establishing a process and structure as a demonstration project within the Federal Subsistence Management Program that provides the AITRC with authority to cooperatively manage, within parameters established by the Board, certain aspects of subsistence hunting on Federal public lands by rural residents who are members of the eight federally recognized tribes in the Ahtna region, which is delineated on the attached map.

A. The Department will immediately commence rulemaking to allow the issuance of AITRC-managed community harvest permit(s) through the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

- 1) The Department agrees that during the next subsistence regulatory cycle following the signing of this MOA, the Department will commence rulemaking with the goal of authorizing the Board to issue a permit, or series of permits, to the AITRC for subsistence taking of wildlife species, including moose, caribou, and other species culturally and

traditionally harvested, on Federal public lands within the Ahtna region pursuant to the following goals and caveats:

- a) Such permit or permits will allow AITRC to establish harvest limits, quotas, season dates, and methods and means within the framework, if any, established by the Board through its regulatory process and included as a condition or conditions of the permit(s) for the purposes of conservation of healthy populations, public safety, or administration. The objective is to provide maximum opportunity for the continuation of the Ahtna tribes' hunting way of life and right to self-determination through providing AITRC with authority to manage the taking of wildlife according to the customary and traditional knowledge and practices of the Ahtna people through a process that is consistent with the Board's legal mandates.
 - b) Such permit(s) may be for the benefit of the AITRC's member tribal communities only; however, the parties understand and agree that the taking of fish and wildlife on all Federal public lands must be implemented in a manner consistent with the statutory rural priority set forth in Title VIII.
 - c) The Secretaries will direct the Board to strive to authorize the subsistence taking on the Federal public lands within the Ahtna region of allocations of moose, caribou, and other wildlife species that are sufficient to meet the needs of the participating Ahtna villages to the fullest extent possible in light of the Board's legal obligations.
 - d) At its discretion, the Board may delegate to the agency field officers for the Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali National Parks, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, and for the Bureau of Land Management lands within the Ahtna region, the authority to issue the permit(s) and establish the AITRC quotas.
- 2) The AITRC agrees that when implementing the permit or permits, it will:
- a) Provide notice of all openings, closings, limits, and changes to methods and means to the appropriate agency field officers and the Office of Subsistence Management in a timely manner so as to allow adequate advanced notice to the public;
 - b) Comply with all permit conditions;
 - c) Provide the Department and Board with a list of all participants who will be hunting under the permit(s). The AITRC will also provide all hunters participating in the permit with a harvest tag or some other form of identification showing their eligibility to participate in the permit hunt and will ensure that all hunters understand all permit stipulations and applicable regulatory requirements.

B. The Department will seek to establish an Ahtna region specific local advisory committee pursuant to ANILCA section 805 to allow greater reliance on local ecological knowledge and input by regional residents into subsistence hunting management plans and decisionmaking.

- 1) The Department agrees that within 30 days following the signing of this MOA, the Office of Subsistence Management will, in consultation with AITRC, draft a charter for a subsistence local advisory committee pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 242.12, 50 C.F.R. § 100.12, and section 805(a) of ANILCA and initiate the regulatory process for implementing the charter. It is anticipated that membership shall consist of six residents of the Ahtna region nominated by AITRC and appointed by the Secretary, one representative each from the SCRAC, EIRAC, the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC, the Denali SRC, and the State of Alaska, for a total of eleven members.
 - a) The purpose of the local advisory committee will be to make recommendations concerning policies, standards guidelines, and regulations to the Secretary, Board (or its delegate), RAC's, and SRC for implementing a recommended strategy for the management and taking of wildlife species customarily and traditionally used within the Ahtna traditional territory.
 - b) The local advisory committee shall be permitted to meet at least twice per year, with planning, administrative assistance, and travel expenses including per diem (except for the State representative) to be borne by the Office of Subsistence Management.
 - c) The Board shall give substantial weight to the recommendations of the local advisory committee except when such recommendations either contradict the recommendations of the appropriate regional advisory council or, as set forth in section 805(c) of ANILCA, are not supported by substantial evidence, are contrary to recognized principles of fish or wildlife management, or are detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs.
 - i. Ahtna traditional knowledge and understanding of the customary and traditional needs, practices and uses of Ahtna tribal communities will be presumed to be substantial evidence.
 - ii. Ahtna traditional knowledge and customary and traditional management practices shall be presumed to be consistent with recognized principles of wildlife management unless it is demonstrated that there is a significant likelihood that the local advisory committee's recommendations for harvest management will result in material detriment to the conservation of a wildlife stock or population.
- 2) With regard to the establishment of the local advisory committee, AITRC understand as follows:

- a) Such committee will be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), including, but not limited to the requirements of: advanced notice and open meetings; attendance at meetings by a Designated Federal Officer; a membership that is fairly balanced in terms of those directly affected, interested, and qualified on the issues to be addressed by the committee; and, an approved charter.
 - b) Charter approval is a statutory prerequisite to action by any federal advisory committee. Such approval is a lengthy process and cannot be guaranteed, however, the Department will make all good faith efforts to expedite the process and charter approval.
- C. The future cooperative development and implementation of policies, programs and projects for the conservation and sustainable subsistence harvest of wildlife customarily and traditionally utilized on lands within the Ahtna region.**
- 1) Many wildlife species migrate, and none recognize political or ownership boundaries. The Department and AITRC agree that there are substantial potential benefits for the managers of neighboring land within the Ahtna region to cooperate in reaching subsistence wildlife management objectives. Section 802(3) of ANILCA recognizes the need for cooperation among Native corporations and adjacent land managers such as AITRC “in managing subsistence activities on public lands and in protecting the continued viability of all wild renewable resources in Alaska.” The parties therefore agree to a cooperative partnership for the development and implementation of policies, programs, and projects that will serve mutual subsistence management objectives.
 - 2) The partnership will address the conservation and sustainable subsistence harvest of wildlife customarily and traditionally utilized within the Federal public lands and Ahtna lands within the Ahtna region. The parties acknowledge that it may not be practicable to include all wildlife populations customarily and traditionally utilized by the Ahtna Native villages in the initial phases of the cooperative partnership. Moose, caribou, and any other large mammal populations identified by either party after consultation with the other party will be included.
 - 3) A central purpose of the partnership is the incorporation of Ahtna’s traditional ecological knowledge and customary management practices into the Department’s subsistence wildlife management structure and policies. The parties agree that one important means for achieving this mutual goal is the meaningful incorporation of AITRC in the implementation of the policies, programs, and projects derived from the partnership.
 - 4) Policies, programs, and projects cooperatively developed for purposes related to conservation and sustainable subsistence harvests will include those related to takings quotas and allocations, habitat conservation and enhancement, harvest and population monitoring, research, trespass control and enforcement, and access for subsistence hunting, including access by motorized vehicles to retrieve harvested game. The work of the partnership is intended to inform wildlife-related decisionmaking by the Board, the

Department land managing agencies, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and the AITRC for the foreseeable future.

- 5) Both parties agree that it would be beneficial to the residents of the Ahtna region to include the State of Alaska in the development and implementation of the policies, programs and projects described in this section of the MOA. The Department and AITRC therefore mutually agree to invite the State's participation in the work described in this section in the hope that the State: 1) will participate in discussions with the parties that are consistent with the goals and purposes of this section into the future; and 2) will agree, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, to implement policies, programs, and projects mutually agreed upon by AITRC, the Department and the State on State managed lands. The State's participation shall have no impact on the ability of AITRC and the Department to reach independent agreements on other subsistence related matters, policies, programs, and projects.

D. Funding AITRC capacity building and participation in the development and implementation of the MOA.

Both parties agree to diligently pursue sources for funding that will assist AITRC in developing and sustaining the capacity to meaningfully participate in the permits and programs set forth in this MOA. It is the mutual goal of the parties that AITRC will, within the near future and depending on the availability of appropriations, enter into funding agreement(s) with the Department for the capacity, expertise, research, and administrative costs associated with development and implementation of the parts of this MOA.

ARTICLE IV – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. No member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this document, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.
- B. The provisions of this MOA are complementary to and are not intended to replace Federal responsibility under Title VIII or any other law for the conservation of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and the subsistence uses thereof.
- C. Nothing herein is intended to conflict with Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.
- D. Upon signing, the parties shall each designate an individual and an alternate to serve as the principal contact or liaison for implementation of this MOA.
- E. This MOA becomes effective upon signing by all signatories and will remain in force until: (1) terminated by one or both of the parties; or, (2) dissolution of AITRC or cessation of operations thereby.
- F. In the event that the State of Alaska assumes subsistence management on public lands within the Ahtna traditional territory under Title VIII of ANILCA, Article III Section A

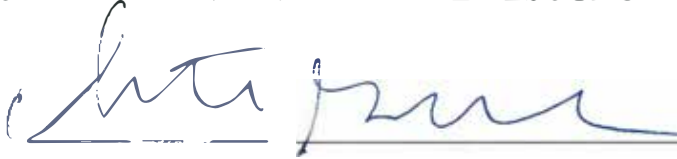
of this Agreement will be suspended for the period of State management. In the event that the State of Alaska ceases to manage public lands, this Agreement will resume and Article III Section A will return to full force and effect as if never suspended.

- G. Except as already required by law, nothing in this document shall be construed as obligating the signatories to expend funds or involving the United States or AITRC in any contract or other obligations for the future payment of money, except as may be negotiated in future cooperative funding agreements.
- H. This MOA establishes mutual goals and establishes proposed courses of action for reaching those goals, but it does not create any legally enforceable obligations or rights.
- I. This MOA does not restrict the signatories from participating in any other agreements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

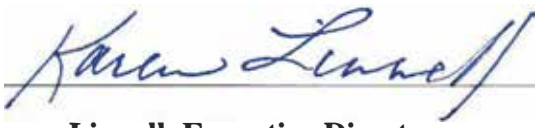
ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

FOR THE AHTNA INTERTRIBAL RESOURCE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher Gene", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Gene, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Linnell", written over a horizontal line.

Karen Linnell, Executive Director

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Connor", written over a horizontal line.

Michael L. Connor, Deputy Secretary of the Interior

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

Ahtna, Incorporated acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Jackson", written over a horizontal line.

Nicholas Jackson, Chairman of Ahtna, Incorporated

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Anderson, President of Ahtna, Incorporated

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Ahtna Customary and Traditional Use Committee acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eleanor Dementi". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Eleanor Dementi, Chair, Ahtna Customary and Traditional Use Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roy Ewan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Roy Ewan, onorary Elder, Ahtna Customary and Traditional Use Committee

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Chitina Native Corporation acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Anne Thomas, President of Chitina Native Corporation

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Native Village of Cantwell acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rene Nicklie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Rene Nicklie, Native Village of Cantwell

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Native Village of Chistochina acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Sinyon", is written over a horizontal line.

Larry Sinyon, Native Village of Chistochina

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Chitina Traditional Indian Village Council acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rose Tyone", is written over a horizontal line.

Rose Tyone, President Chitina Traditional Indian Village Council

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Native Village of Gakona acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darrin Gene". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Darrin Gene, Native Village of Gakona

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Native Village of Gulkana acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eileen Ewan", is written over a horizontal line.

Eileen Ewan, Native Village of Gulkana

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Native Village of Kluti-Kaah acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Craig", is written over a horizontal line.

John Craig, Native Village of Kluti-Kaah

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Native Village of Mentasta acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ted Sanford", written over a horizontal line.

Ted Sanford, Native Village of Mentasta

ARTICLE V.

SIGNATORIES:

SIGNATURE OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Native Village of Tazlina acknowledges and supports this Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, and the spirit of cooperation it manifests.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Stickwan".

Gloria Stickwan, Native Village of Tazlina

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

Ahtna Subsistence Local Advisory Committee

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Ahtna Subsistence Local Advisory Committee (Committee).
2. **Authority.** The Committee is established under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior as set out in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 3111 et seq.) and in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. § 410hh-2. The Committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Committee is to assemble local residents with knowledge of area conditions and traditional management practices, along with State and Federal biologists and officials, to seek area-specific solutions to the unique and challenging problems of hunter access, wildlife management, and competition for wildlife resources that exist in the area. These problems have prevented local rural residents and Alaska Natives from meeting their subsistence needs and continuing their cultural practices for many years.

The activities of the Committee will be restricted to the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory, as that area is defined by the enclosed map.

4. **Description of Duties.** The Committee possesses the authority to perform the following duties:
 - a. Recommend the initiation of, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses and management of wildlife on public lands within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter impacting or relating to the subsistence uses of wildlife on public lands within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory.
 - c. Encourage local participation by those with knowledge of the needs, practices, and uses of people in the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory in the decision making process affecting the taking of wildlife on the public lands within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory for subsistence uses.

- d. Collect, gather, and disseminate Ahtna traditional ecological knowledge and customary and traditional management practices, based on the regional peoples' special geographical, historical, and cultural connections to the lands, waters and wildlife in the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory, for incorporation into federal subsistence wildlife management plans, policies, and proposals.
 - e. Make recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to the Secretary, the appropriate Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, the Subsistence Resource Commissions, the Federal Subsistence Board, and the Federal land managing agencies.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee 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 Committee 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 staff years.
 8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Southcentral or Eastern Interior 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:
 - Approve or call all of the local advisory committee's meetings,
 - Prepare and approve all meeting agendas,
 - Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings,
 - Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and
 - Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.
 9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Committee will be permitted to meet at least 2 times per year but may meet less often if the Committee Chair concludes that a meeting is unnecessary, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
 10. **Duration.** Continuing.

11. Termination. The Committee is subject to biennial review and will terminate 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 Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

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

The composition of the Committee will be designed to ensure diversity of viewpoints and geographic diversity. In particular:

- Six residents of the Ahtna region traditional territory who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of wildlife within the area and who are knowledgeable about Ahtna traditional needs, practices, and uses, to be nominated by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission;
- One representative each from the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission, and the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission and nominated by the Councils and Commissions; and,
- One representative from the State of Alaska, to be nominated by the Governor.

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 up to a 3-year term. A vacancy on the Committee will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

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

Members of the Committee will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee and subcommittee members other than the State representative who are engaged in Committee, 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 Committee or subcommittee member may participate in any specific party matter in which the member has a direct financial interest

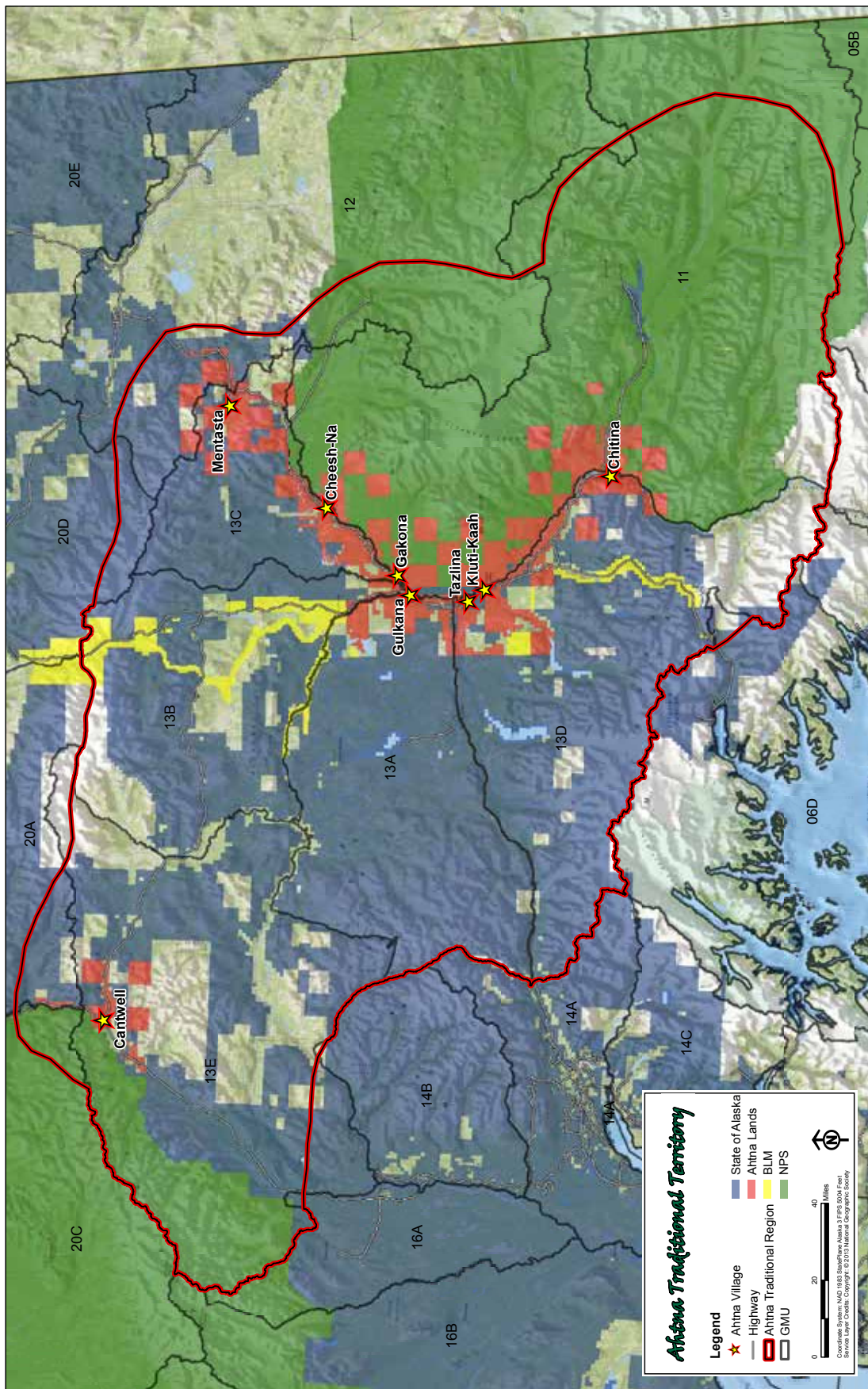
in a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Committee Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. 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 Committee, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, or 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

Date Signed

Date Filed





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office
 43655 Kalifornsky Beach Road
 Soldotna, Alaska 99669

November 16, 2016

To: Chair, Federal Subsistence Board
From: Jeffry Anderson, Field Supervisor
Subject: Cook Inlet Area Federal Subsistence Fisheries Report for 2016

JEFFRY
 ANDERSON

Digitally signed by JEFFRY
 ANDERSON
 Date: 2016.11.16 09:23:46 -09'00'

Subsistence Permits – A total of 227 subsistence fishing permits were issued during 2016 (Table 1). Most were issued for the Kenai River. No permits were issued for the winter ice fishery on Tustumena Lake.

Table 1.–The number and type of federal subsistence fishing permits issued during 2016.

Subsistence Permit	Community			Total
	Cooper Landing	Hope	Ninilchik	
Kenai River	95	26	48	169
Kasilof River	N/A	N/A	45	45
Tustumena Lake Ice Fishery	N/A	N/A	0	0
Designated Fisher	7	1	5	13
All Permits	102	27	98	227

Subsistence Harvest – The subsistence harvest of Sockeye Salmon in dip net and rod and reel fisheries reported through October 12 is 1,280 fish from the Kenai River and 7 fish from the Kasilof River. Harvest of other species reported to date includes one Chinook Salmon in the Kenai River rod and reel fishery. Harvest for rod and reel and dip net fisheries will continue to be reported through January of 2017.

Harvest of 94 Sockeye Salmon was reported for the Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery. Other species captured in the fishery included one Chinook Salmon and one Lake Trout.

Harvest of 723 Sockeye Salmon was reported for the Kenai River experimental community gillnet fishery. Other species harvested include 12 Coho Salmon, 6 Pink Salmon, and one Chinook Salmon. Other species captured include two Dolly Varden and one whitefish.

Management Summary – Consultation began with local ADF&G biologists in early spring after the State issued Emergency Order 2-KS-1-03-16 on February 18 to close the Kenai River Chinook Salmon sport fishery through June 30 and to close areas of the Kenai River upstream of Slikok Creek regulatory markers to sport fishing for Chinook Salmon for the entire season (through July 31). Runs came in stronger than expected and sport fisheries were eventually liberalized to allow harvest downstream of Skilak Lake after July 15. Consultation and coordination continued throughout the duration of the Chinook Salmon return in 2016. No Federal special actions were issued in 2016. Post-season evaluation is ongoing.

Testimony was provided at the Federal Subsistence Board work session in July. A report was provided to the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council in Anchorage in October. Weekly inseason updates were provided to the Office of Subsistence Management from June 3 to August 19.

Fall 2017 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

August - November 2017

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 20	Aug. 21 Window Opens	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Aug. 24 NS — Wainwright	Aug. 25	Aug. 26
Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2
Sept. 3	Sept. 4 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	Sept. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 8	Sept. 9
Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15	Sept. 16
Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19 K/A - Cold Bay	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23
Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 30
Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7
Oct. 8	Oct. 9 COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY	Oct. 10 WI - Galena	Oct. 11 YKD — Bethel	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14
Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19 AFN - Anchorage	Oct. 20	Oct. 21
Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24 SP — Nome	Oct. 25 NW - Shungnak	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28
Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31 SE - Juneau	Nov. 1 BB — Dillingham	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4
Nov. 5	Nov. 6 SC — Seldovia/Soldotna	Nov. 7	Nov. 8 EI — Tanana	Nov. 9	Nov. 10 Window Closes VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY	Nov. 11

Winter 2018 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

February-March 2018

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb. 4</i>	<i>Feb. 5</i> <i>Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 6</i>	<i>Feb. 7</i>	<i>Feb. 8</i>	<i>Feb. 9</i>	<i>Feb. 10</i>
<i>Feb. 11</i>	<i>Feb. 12</i>	<i>Feb. 13</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>	<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>
<i>Feb. 18</i>	<i>Feb. 19</i> PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY	<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>Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 17</i>

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

Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (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.** The Council has authority to perform the following duties:
 - 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 decisionmaking process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the Region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region.

- (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.
 - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
 - e. Appoint one member to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission and two members to the Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with Section 808 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (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.
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 \$160,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.15 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:
 - Approve or call all of the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings,
 - Prepare and approve all meeting agendas,
 - Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings,
 - Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and
 - 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:

Thirteen 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 nine of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the Region and four of the members (30 percent) represent commercial and sport interests within the Region. The portion of membership representing commercial and sport interests must include, where possible, at least one representative from the sport community and one representative from the commercial community.

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

Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

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

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

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter in which the member has a direct financial interest in a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's 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. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. 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

NOV 20 2015

Date Signed

DEC 03 2015

Date Filed

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