



NORTH SLOPE
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

February 22 - 23, 2021



REGION 10
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Appointed Term Expires	Member Name and Community
1	1998 2023	Gordon R. Brower Utqiagvik Chair
2	2019	<i>VACANT</i>
3	2016 2022	Wanda T. Kippi Atqasuk Secretary
4	2015 2022	Steve A. Oomittuk Point Hope Vice Chair
5	2020	<i>VACANT</i>
6	2018 2020	<i>VACANT</i>
7	2018 2020	<i>VACANT</i>
8	2021	<i>VACANT</i>
9	2006 2021	William C. Hopson Utqiagvik
10	2019 2021	Peter E. Williams Anaktuvuk Pass

NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

By teleconference
February 22-23, 2021
convening at 9:00 am daily

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: 1-866-864-5314, then when prompted enter the passcode: 3091862

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. 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*)1
- 4. Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 5. Review and Adopt Agenda*** (*Chair*)2
- 6. Election of Officers***
 - Chair (*DFO*)
 - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
 - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** (*Chair*)4
- 8. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)
- 10. Old Business** (*Chair*) [if any]

11. New Business (Chair)

Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals*14

Note: The Council will receive wildlife updates prior to discussion on potential proposals

Council Charter Review*22

Review and approve FY2020 Annual Report*

Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program Information Update (OSM)

12. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations

North Slope Borough Wildlife Dept.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Wildlife Updates

Board of Game ACR-4 Open a musk ox hunt in 26A

Bureau of Land Management – NPR-A Arctic Field Office

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

USFWS Utqiagvik Field Office

Office of Subsistence Management

13. Future Meeting Dates*

Confirm Fall 2021 meeting date and location19

Select Winter 2022 meeting date and location20

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (Chair)

To call into the meeting, dial the toll free number: 1-866-864-5314, then when prompted enter the passcode: 3091862

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for special accommodation needs to Eva Patton, 907-786-3358, eva_patton@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 12, 2021.

NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Via Teleconference
Anchorage, Alaska
November 4-5, 2020

Invocation

Gordon Brower gave an invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 4 at 9:16 am. The meeting was held by teleconference only due to COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Council members Gordon Brower, William Hopson, Steve Oomittuk, Wanda Kippi, Edward Rexford, Sr., and Peter Earl Williams were present participating by teleconference. Martha Itta was not present and was excused. The Council has three vacant seats. A quorum was established with six of seven seated Council members present and participating by phone.

Attendees:

Via teleconference:

- *Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage:* Eva Patton, Karen Hyer, Hannah Voorhees, Greg Risdahl, Orville Lind
- *National Park Service, Anchorage:* Joshua Ream, Kim Yohung
- *Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve:* Marcy Okada, Kyle Jolly, Will Lacey
- *US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks:* Vince Mathews; *Anchorage:* Carol Damberg
- *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Fairbanks:* Steve Berendzen, *Kaktovik:* Will Wiese
- *Bureau of Land Management, Arctic District Office, Fairbanks:* Shelly Jones, Debbie Nigro, Ted Inman, Sarah LaMarr, Donna Wickson; *Utqiagvik:* Roy Nageak
- *Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anchorage:* Glenn Chen
- *Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Palmer:* Mark Burch; *Utqiagvik:* Carmen Daggett; *Fairbanks:* Brendan Scanlon and Beth Mikow
- *North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, Utqiagvik:* Brian Person, Todd Sformo
- *Native Village of Point Hope:* Jack Schaeffer
- *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Juneau:* Ed Farley

Review and Adopt Agenda

Motion #1 by Steve Oomittuk, seconded by Earl Williams to adopt the agenda with modifications to change the order of a few reports and add NOAA marine ecosystem report and Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) reports to the agenda. The motion #1 passed by unanimous vote.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion #2 by Mr. Oomittuk, seconded by Mr. Rexford, Sr. to approve the April 1, 2020 meeting minutes with the following modifications: A correction by Ms. Kippi to her comment to note she was referring to her village of Atqasuk – not Nuiqsut. A correction by Peter Earl Williams on his name as listed under Council reports. The Motion #2 passed by unanimous vote.

Council Member and Chair Reports

Gordon Brower of Utqiagvik reported that he listens to a lot of subsistence hunters and is a whaling captain with his own crew. He's grateful that all are alive and well after their boat flipped over this spring and the whole crew was in the water. But thankfully everyone was alright and they were able to harvest a whale. This summer the caribou was really good. Gordon reported that his son got COVID-19 and they sent him to quarantine at the cabin for 14 days where he got a fat caribou and did some fishing while he recovered. He noted that there is a big lake about 18 miles out of Utqiagvik where subsistence hunters are doing well. There is an outflow on this lake with a spring that doesn't freeze that he has come across many times in the spring while hauling fish and wonders if geothermal activity may be keeping this area open while other sections are frozen solid. Gordon highlights these lake fish are prize fish and loves to eat them. He did not go fall fishing this year though because last year the warm weather affected his catch—the fish thawed out and got stinky. Neighboring villages are starting fishing, but there are still concerns about moldy fish from the Colville. Some Broad Whitefish have abrasions and scrapes but it does not seem to affect Cisco.

Gordon reported there is currently an abundance of caribou in the area with many hunters are reporting lots of good caribou hunting on outskirts of Utqiagvik. His nephew caught caribou and shared with him. Gordon highlighted a lot of our food is shared among our communities, especially among the elders who cannot hunt anymore. He noted that sharing this year will be different due to the COVID-19 virus with food distribution being organized outside rather than in the inside the usual community gathering places.

Wanda Kippi of Atqasuk reported that it is a busy time of year for subsistence right now although she had some slow times during caribou hunting. It was very eerie and quiet around her cabin for a while with no animals coming around – even the birds. There was a bear hanging around and then a muskox around her cabin too. Her son was able to catch both of them and that was quite the excitement during the month she was out at her cabin. Wanda reported the caribou come around after she went back home to Atqasuk just before it started freezing up end of October. And she didn't get to go fishing because it didn't freeze up until a few days after she got home. Then there was caribou going through the area and some foxes and ptarmigan. Back in the spring it was good - they had successful geese hunting and the fishing was good for Grayling and Burbot. Wanda noted that they also caught sucker fish in the net and pike too.

Edward (Eddie) Rexford, Sr. of Kaktovik reported that the community has been successful catching all types of fish, even salmon. There are salmon spawning in rivers up here now, all across the north, even on Barter Island. Eddie would like to do some research to see what kinds of new species are here. The community was successful in harvesting caribou and there are still a lot caribou around even for this time

of year. They also had a successful whaling season and got all three whales allocated to Kaktovik. The community also got their moose quota. He is glad agencies were accommodating to the communities' request for regulation changes and expanding the moose season so they are not restricted to just a month. Eddie reported that overall there has been no shortage of subsistence activities this year.

Peter Earl Williams of Anaktuvuk Pass (goes by his middle name Earl) reported that the caribou (Tutu) finally come in and everybody's out and hunting successfully. It's cold now and windy from south and it snowed the last few days. People have been out hunting moose too and a few people got lucky to get one of the moose that have been coming around the area. Earl wishes everyone to be successful in their hunting across the North Slope and hopes everyone gets their quota in Anaktuvuk Pass because they need a lot of caribou for the whole community.

William Hopson of Utqiagvik reported on his concerns about the potential for invasive species to impact important subsistence fish such as the Grayling and whitefish that communities rely on. He is also very concerned about oil spills and contaminants affecting subsistence foods.

Steve Oomittuk of Point Hope reported that it's been a good year. There were a lot of caribou near Point Hope, similar to last year. Caribou are still around right now and people are catching them. He noted that in the last ten years the caribou came through in a ball, whereas in the old days they would come and hang around. This year they are still running into caribou now and it's been a pretty good season. There is a lot of snow this year and everyone can get around on snow machines. The last couple years there has been lots of rain, which is hard on the caribou because they can't get to the grass and lichens.

Point Hope is catching a lot of trout, some pretty good sized ones compared to last year - last year there were a lot of small ones. They used to only get Chum Salmon but now people catching Pink Salmon and while they used to catch King Salmon way out in the ocean, now they are getting them in nets right on the edge. Fishing has been really good really good overall. They usually fish for Char upriver until November to stock up for winter. It used to be the elders and young would stay up at the camps but now people all come home at night. Steve hears the commercial fishing might be moving up here and NW passage is bringing more ship traffic and he is concerned the Council has no control over the ocean, only over the land. Subsistence is very broad and a lot of our Point Hope subsistence is from the ocean. Point Hope got 12 whales this spring. They put the whale tail in the ice cellar until it ferments and bring it out in the fall when the community celebrates the birth of the sea ice which is normally in October. Here it is November 4 and the ice is not frozen yet and last year they didn't have the tail until end of November, two days before Thanksgiving.

Point Hope is very concerned about the effects of climate change on the ice and animals. They are concerned about the effects on the caribou, especially in January and February when it rains because the icing causes problems for the caribou to eat and travel this time of the year. The community is still very concerned about the low caribou population. There is also concern about the Ambler Road construction and effects on the caribou. They are worried that the caribou may change their migration because of the road.

Service Awards

Five Year Service Award presented to Council member Steve Oomittuk of Point Hope.

Old Business

805(c) Report – Update

The Council received a written report on the on the Federal Subsistence Board Action on 2020-22 wildlife proposals affecting the North Slope region as directed under 805(c) of ANILCA. Eva Patton, Council Coordinator provided a brief overview of this report.

New Business

Fisheries Closure Reviews

Hannah Voorhees, OSM Anthropologist presented two crossover fisheries closure reviews that come before this Council for consideration because of North Slope communities having customary and traditional use determination for fish in the proposal area.

Motion #3 by Mr. Oomittuk, seconded by Ms. Kippi to defer to the Western Interior Region on crossover proposal FCR21-04: Closure to Federally qualified subsistence users in the Yukon drainage, Jim River – all fish. The Council defers to the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council because this stream is in their region and they would be most familiar with subsistence fishing communities in this area to make an informed recommendation. The motion # 3 passed by unanimous vote.

Motion #4 by Mr. Oomittuk, seconded by Ms. Kippi to defer to the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council on Crossover proposal FCR21-07: Closure to Federally qualified subsistence users in the Yukon drainage, Nome Creek – Arctic Grayling. The Council defers to the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council because this stream is in their region and they would be most familiar with subsistence fishing communities in this area to make an informed recommendation. The motion #4 passed unanimously.

2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist, and Karen Hyer, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management, presented the Council with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP). The Council discussed the FRMP program at length including development of subsistence fisheries research priorities in the region and recommendations for better engaging local communities and tribes in the research. The Council discussed the increasing prevalence of salmon in the region and concerns that Chum Salmon may be displacing their traditional subsistence foods such as whitefish and Char.

Motion # 5 by Mr. Oomittuk, seconded by Ms. Kippi to adopt the following research priority information needs (PINs) as refined by the Council:

- Using Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Harvest Monitoring, document new fish species and changes in abundance, size, timing, and distribution of existing fish species. Study impacts of new or expanding species on other fish that are important to subsistence.
- Document and investigate the possible causes of mold, disease, and discoloration on Broad Whitefish in the Colville River. Investigators are encouraged to draw on both Stock Status and Trends research and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
- Effects of climate change, including late freeze-up on subsistence access, practices, and fish preservation, and the impact of these changes on continuity of traditions and food security for communities on the North Slope. Studies including Ikpikpuk River are of particular interest.
- Monitoring and documentation of changing subsistence fish harvest and consumption, as well as subsistence user concerns, in the community of Nuiqsut.
- Baseline fish habitat and water quality monitoring (especially temperature, dissolved oxygen, and silt) on the rivers and tributaries important to subsistence fishing for communities of the North Slope. Investigators are encouraged to include overwintering areas.

The motion #5 passed by unanimous vote.

Identify FY2020 annual report topics

The Council discussed the following topics of interest during their meeting.

- Ongoing issues and challenges with climate change impacts to subsistence.
- Subsistence ecosystem way of life encompassing interaction between Federal lands and waters and marine environment and possible ways for subsistence program to engage in more integrated way.
- Review of Federal Subsistence Board makeup and decision making process – deference to RACs

National Park Service Subsistence Eligibility Permits/Individual Customary and Traditional Use Determinations

Marcy Okada, Subsistence Program Manager for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, presented an overview of the National Park Service request for delegated authority to make individual Customary and Traditional Use determinations on National Park Service lands.

Motion #6 by Mr. Oomittuk, seconded by Ms. Kippi for the Federal Subsistence Board to retain oversight of the Individual Customary and Traditional Use (C&T) determination process as it currently is with proposals going through the relevant Regional Advisory Councils and full and transparent public process. The Council is willing to reconsider this request at a later date after a full analysis is provided in order for the Council to gain a better understanding of what the effects would be for the National Park Service to independently make individual C&T determinations. The motion #6 passed unanimously.

Agency Reports:

- Jack Schaefer presented the Native Village of Point Hope report
- Steve Berendzen presented the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge report
- Marcy Okada presented the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve report
- Kyle Jolly presented the National Park Service caribou report
- Shelly Jones presented the Bureau of Land Management Arctic Field office and NPR-A report
- Brian Person and Todd Sformo provided information for the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department
- Carmen Daggett presented the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Department report
- Brendan Scanlon, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fisheries, presented Colville River Arctic Grayling FRMP Project report. Beth Mikow presented the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Division report and update on the Mead River, 2017-2019 FRMP project
- Ed Farley, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration presented a report on Beaufort and Chukchi Sea marine ecosystem research
- Eva Patton, Council Coordinator, presented the Office of Subsistence Management report

Future Meeting Dates:

The Council selected February 22-23 for the winter 2021 meeting to be held in Utqiagvik if COVID-19 restrictions allow meeting in person at that time.

The Council selected November 4-5 for the fall 2021 meeting to be held in Utqiagvik unless lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions allow for meeting in a non-hub rural community.

Eva Patton, Designated Federal Officer
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Gordon Brower, Chair
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its winter 2021 meeting, 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 Eva Patton at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3358, email eva_patton@yahoo.com.

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Phone: (907) 787-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898

Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

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

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to submit its FY-2020 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) under the provisions of Section 805(a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meetings held via teleconference on November 4-5, 2020, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. The Council will approve this annual report at its winter 2021 meeting. The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns dealing with implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA, the Federal Subsistence Management Program engagement with subsistence communities, and the continuation of subsistence uses in the North Slope Region when faced with environmental change. Several of these topics have been brought forth in previous annual reports and are re-addressed here since there are new Council members seeking this information and new Board members, and federal subsistence staff to address these questions as well.

1. Environmental change impacts to healthy subsistence resources and management strategies to address subsistence food security

The Council feels it is imperative to again address climate change in this annual report to the Board. We have had extensive discussions about the importance of caribou, sheep, moose, fish, and other subsistence resources to communities across the North Slope Region and expressed concern about climate change and cumulative industrial development impacts on these critical resources. The Council is very concerned about these ongoing and increasing impacts to communities' subsistence resources and subsistence way of life. Many fish and wildlife populations across the North Slope Region are experiencing a decline or exhibiting signs of stress such as increased incidence of fish mold, seabird die-offs, and sick seals. The Council is very concerned that these ongoing changes to the lands and waters across the North Slope as well as in the marine environment will continue causing decline to critical subsistence fish and wildlife populations and interfere with conducting subsistence safely. The Council will continue

to engage with the Federal Subsistence program to recognize the need for food security in these uncertain times and ensure that subsistence priority is indeed prioritized in order to meet these needs.

2. Challenges of multi-layered (multiagency) management – effective means for addressing subsistence information and concerns.

The Council works diligently to address the subsistence issues and concerns of North Slope Region communities. Yet, the Council is challenged in the limited scope of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, addressing only fish and wildlife management on Federal public lands. Subsistence foods and the subsistence way of life are holistic and integral to the community and culture of the region. Many Council members are engaged in subsistence management and advisory bodies on many levels in order to encompass all critical subsistence issues. Council members must participate in or monitor countless meetings affecting subsistence use: separate meetings for migratory birds, marine mammals, whaling, industrial development scoping meetings under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NPR-A drill permitting meetings, pipeline and roads development meetings, state Advisory Committee meetings and Alaska Board of Game meetings for management on State lands, BOEM and NMFS meetings for marine fisheries and monitoring not under the jurisdiction of USFWS, climate change research and monitoring, and so on.

While the Council recognizes the limitations of the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board due to the current structure of the Federal and State laws that govern natural resource management, the Council asks for greater understanding and awareness of the integrated nature of subsistence in the lives of people in the North Slope region. There are several aspects that the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be more engaged in to better support the concerns of the Council and community:

- 1) Better understanding of local culture and communication norms and support to the Council and public in this regard.
- 2) Greater consideration and inclusion of local and traditional knowledge in subsistence management. Council members are appointed based on their expert knowledge of the region and long-term engagement with subsistence; include the information shared by the Council, Tribes, and local public carefully in management decision making.
- 3) Greater understanding and support for community and regional sharing and trade of subsistence foods and materials. Subsistence management approaches that support and uphold these traditional sharing practices essential to the wellbeing of our communities.
- 4) Understanding and awareness of the interaction of all subsistence foods and activities. For example, when important subsistence foods such as walrus or whale are not harvested, there is a greater need for other foods such as caribou and fish to sustain communities for the year. They are interrelated – impacts to one affect the need and

subsequent management of another. The Federal Subsistence Management Program must understand the interrelated nature of subsistence harvests.

- 5) Understanding and awareness of the interaction of industrial development with subsistence activities. While the Federal Subsistence Management Program does not have direct jurisdiction over development activities on the North Slope, impacts to subsistence foods on Federal public lands is a direct concern of the program in that barriers to migratory routes, disturbances that deflect or stress animals, or contaminants that may impact subsistence foods all have direct bearing on access, harvest, and safe consumption of important subsistence foods that the Federal program does manage. Additionally, the Federal Subsistence Management Program could be more engaged in ensuring that Federal agencies involved in those activities are properly conducting and executing the analyses and obligations mandated in ANILCA Section 810.
- 6) Awareness and monitoring of climate change impacts to subsistence. The Council and communities have shared observations and experiences of changes to the North Slope Region lands, waters, and weather that are already impacting subsistence activities, safe access, timing, and changes to critical habitat for many important subsistence species managed by the program. The Council asks for awareness on how these changes impact subsistence (e.g. flexible management approaches that can accommodate changing timing of subsistence activities due to storm severity or ice up/break-up or seasonality of harvest due to changing timing of migrations or rut) greater support and networking to monitor climate change and address research priorities identified by the Council.

3. Federal Subsistence Board decision making and Council recommendations .

The Council is interested in learning more about the current members of the Board and their background for serving as the decision makers for the federal subsistence program. The Council wishes to gain a better understanding of how decisions are made by the Board and the criteria used when taking action on Council recommendations regarding subsistence priority and continuation of subsistence uses. The Council is specifically interested to learn what “deference” means regarding Council recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board and what has been done to expand that deference pursuant to the 2009 Secretarial Review.

The North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council appreciates the Board’s attention to these matters and the opportunity to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal public lands and waters. The Council looks forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users in the North Slope Region. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me via Eva Patton, Subsistence Council Coordinator, with the Office of Subsistence Management at eva_patton@fws.gov, or 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3358.

Sincerely,

Gordon Brower
Chair

- cc Federal Subsistence Board
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Susan Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
(VACANT), Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Lisa Maas, Acting Subsistence Policy Coordinator,
Office of Subsistence Management
(VACANT), Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
(VACANT), Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Brent Vickers, Anthropology Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Kron, Acting Council Coordination Division Supervisor,
Office of Subsistence Management
Eva Patton, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record



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.

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 (SRC) 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.

Approved by the Federal Subsistence Board on June 15, 2004.

Fall 2021 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated 1/29/2021

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.

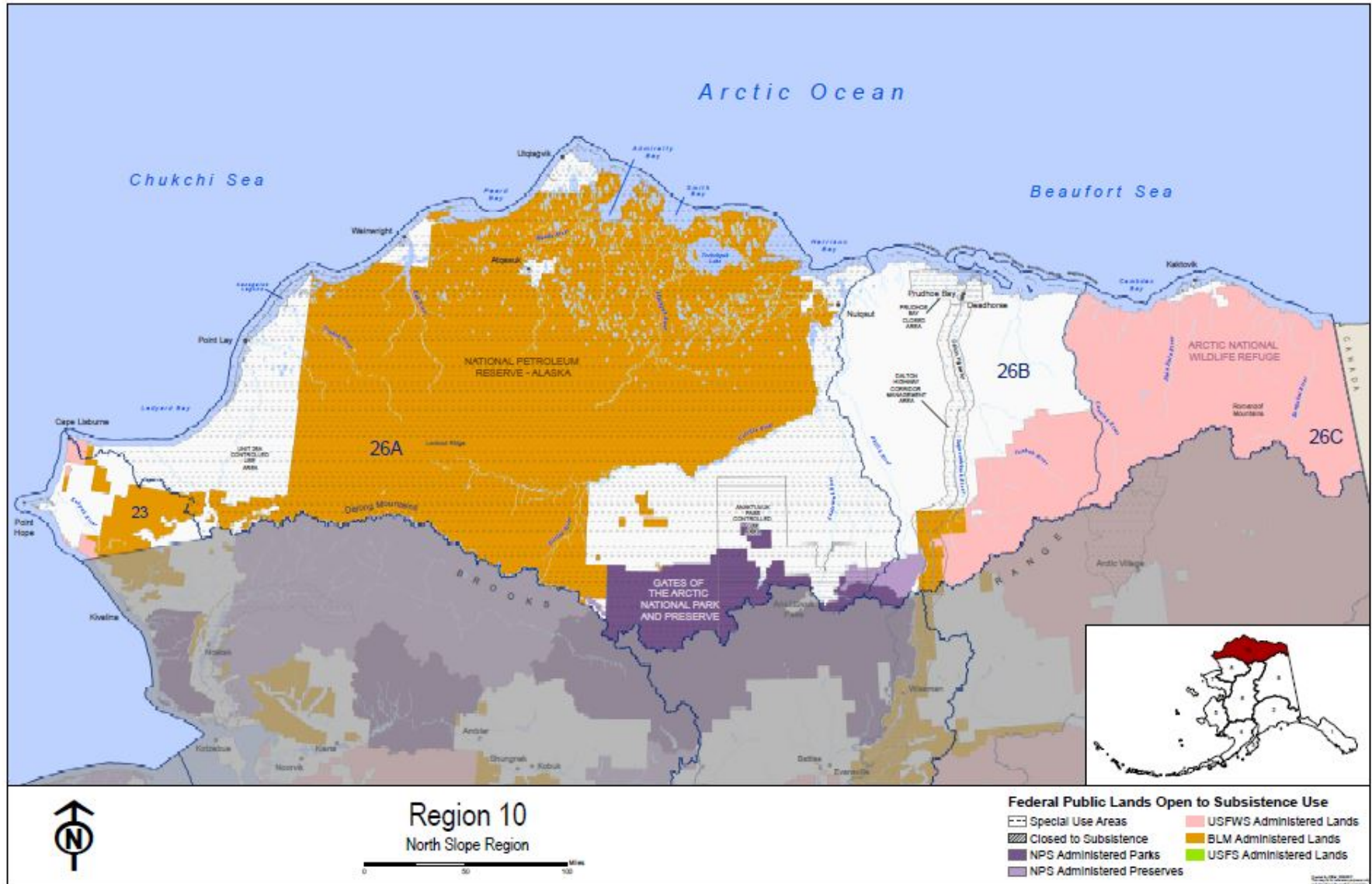
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 15	Aug. 8 Window Opens	Aug. 9	Aug. 10	Aug. 11	Aug. 12	Aug. 13
Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20
Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Sep. 1	Sep. 2	Sep. 3	Sep. 4
Sep. 5	Sep. 6 Labor Day Holiday	Sep. 7	Sep. 8	Sep. 9	Sep. 10	Sep. 11
Sep. 12	Sep. 13	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 16	Sep. 17	Sep. 18
Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Sep. 21	Sep. 22	Sep. 23	Sep. 24	Sep. 25
Sep. 26	Sep. 27	Sep. 28	Sep. 29	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2
	KA - Unalaska					
Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9
				EIRAC - Fairbanks		
			YKD - Bethel			
Oct. 10	Oct. 11 Columbus Day Holiday	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16
			WIRAC - Anchorage			
			SC - Anchorage			
Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23
		SEA - Craig				
		EIRAC - alternate dates				
Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30
		SPRAC - Nome				
		BBRAC - Dilligham				
Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5 Window Closes	Nov. 6
	NWARAC - Kotzebue			NS - Utqiagvik		

Winter 2022 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated 12/8/2020

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. 6</i>	<i>Feb. 7 Window Opens</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>
<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>Feb. 21 PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY</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 Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 26</i>



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

North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).
- 2. Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)), and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the Region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the Region.
- 4. Description of Duties.** Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:
 - a. Recommend the initiation, review, and evaluation of proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decision-making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the Region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region.

- (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.
 - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
- e. Appoint one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with section 808 of the ANILCA.
- f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
- g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
- h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
- i. Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary's Orders, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
 - (2) Policies and programs that:
 - (a) increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focus on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;
 - (b) expand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service lands in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;
 - (c) increase energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; and
 - (d) create greater collaboration with States, Tribes, and/or Territories.

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

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

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

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

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$165,000, 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, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

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

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

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.

13. **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, made be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records made 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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