

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD 805(c) REPORT

April 2-5, 2024

Anchorage, AK

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act provides that the “Secretary ... shall consider the report and recommendations of the regional advisory councils concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within their respective regions for subsistence uses.” The Secretary has delegated authority to issue regulations for the take of fish and wildlife to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board). Pursuant to this language in Section 805(c), the Board defers to the Subsistence Regional Council(s)’ recommendations. However, Section 805(c) also provides that the Board “may choose not to follow any recommendations which [it] determines is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs.” The purpose of this report is to detail how the Board’s action differed from the Council’s recommendations based on these criteria.

SOUTHEAST AREA WILDLIFE PROPOSALS

Regional Proposals

Wildlife Proposal WP24-02 – Extend Goat season in Unit 1C

DESCRIPTION: Extend the mountain goat season in Unit 1C within the drainages of the Chilkat Range south to the south bank of the Endicott River to Jul. 24 – Dec. 31.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – **Support as modified by OSM** to extend the Federal goat season in the proposal area to Jul. 15 – Dec. 31.

BOARD ACTION: **Adopt**

JUSTIFICATION: The Board adopted WP24-02 as originally written, extending the goat season in a portion of Unit 1C to provide additional opportunity to federally qualified subsistence users to help meet their subsistence needs and to provide a more meaningful priority. The Board acknowledged that the Council recommended opening the season on July 15th to provide Federal subsistence users with more opportunity to harvest goats than originally proposed, but it also listened to the State and others express conservation concerns for the goat population. The Board decided that the originally proposed season established a compromise between providing a meaningful preference for federally qualified subsistence users in the area and conserving the goat population. The Board also noted that adopting this proposal would not restrict non-federally qualified users.