



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

JULY 10 2024

In Reply Refer To
OSM.A24082

Nanci Morris Lyon, Chair
Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Chair Morris Lyon:

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) met on April 2-5, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska, to consider proposed changes to Federal subsistence management regulations for the harvest of wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska and wildlife closure reviews. This letter is to provide a report on the actions taken by the Board on proposals and closure reviews affecting Federally qualified subsistence users.

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides that the Board will accept the recommendations of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council(s) (Council(s)) regarding take unless, (1) the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, (2) the recommendation violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife management, or (3) adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. When a Council(s)' recommendation is not adopted, the Board is required by Secretarial regulations to set forth the factual basis and reasons for the decision.

The Board acted on 36 proposals and 18 closure reviews during the 2024-26 wildlife regulatory cycle. The Board agreed with the recommendations of the Councils, in whole or with modifications, on 34 of 36 proposals. The Board deferred one proposal: WP24-01 until the August 2024 Board work session. The Board accepted the recommendations of the Councils on all the wildlife closure reviews, voting to maintain status quo on 15 of them. The Board also acted on fisheries request for reconsideration RFR22-01 opposing the request.

Details of these actions and the Boards' deliberations are contained in the meeting transcriptions. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling toll free number 1-800-478-1456 and are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>.

The Board uses a consensus agenda on those proposals where there is agreement among the affected Council(s), a majority of the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning a proposed regulatory action. These proposals were deemed non-controversial and did not require a separate discussion. The consensus agenda contained two proposals affecting the Bristol Bay Region, which the Board deferred to your Council's recommendations as follows: the Board *adopted* **WP24-16**, which requested to add the rural residents of Unit 9C, including the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek, to the group of communities who are eligible to harvest caribou in Unit 9E. The Board *took no action* on **WP24-17** based on the actions taken on WP24-16.

The remaining proposals and closure review affecting the Bristol Bay Region appeared on the non-consensus agenda. However, for one of the proposals and two of the closure reviews, the Board took action consistent with the Council's recommendations. The Board voted to *adopt with the OSM modification* **WP24-15**, which established a may-be-announced season for caribou within Katmai National Preserve in Unit 9C for the residents of Igiugig and Kokhanok, delegating authority to announce the annual harvest quota, open and close the season between August 1 – September 30 and November 1 – January 31, determine the number of permits issued annually, set sex restriction, and set permit conditions to the Katmai National Park Superintendent via a Delegation of Authority letter.

The Board *maintained status quo* on **WCR24-04/06**, which reviewed the closure to caribou hunting in Unit 9C, remainder, where Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting, except by residents of Unit 9C and Egegik as well as the closure in Unit 9E, where Federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting except by residents of Unit 9E, Nelson Lagoon, and Sand Point.

Board actions differed from the Council's recommendation on five proposals on the non-consensus agenda: **WP24-12/13/14**, **WP24-18**, and **WP24-01**. The Board's actions on these proposals are explained in detail in the enclosed report.

The Board appreciates your Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the stewardship shown by the Council chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was noteworthy.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact Leigh Honig, Council Coordinator, at 907-891-9053 or leigh_honig@fws.gov

Sincerely,



Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board

Enclosure: Federal Subsistence Board 2024 805c Report to Bristol Bay Council

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record