

March 25, 2025

NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Northwest Arctic Heritage Center

Kotzebue, Alaska

March 27 – 28, 2025

convening at 9:00 am daily

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll-free number: 1 (833) 436-1163, then when prompted enter the conference ID: 334822160#

VIRTUAL MEETING LINK: [CLICK HERE TO JOIN MEETING](#)

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. The Chair will identify the opportunities to provide public comments. If attending in person, please fill out a comment form to be recognized by the Chair. Time limits may be set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep the meeting on schedule. Written comments may be emailed to subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

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** (*Coordinator*) 5
- 4. Meeting Announcements** (*Coordinator*)
- 5. Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 6. Election of Officers**
 - Chair (*Coordinator*)
 - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
 - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. Review and Adopt Agenda*** (*Chair*)TAB Agenda
- 8. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** (*Chair*) 7
- 9. Council Member Reports**
 - Council Members
 - Chair’s Report
- 10. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)

11. Council Member Training – Proposal Development (OSM, Tom Plank) 19

12. Wildlife Reports

- a. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, WACH Update (*Alex Hansen, Wildlife Biologist*)
Available Thursday morning..... HANDOUT
- b. Selawik National Wildlife Refuge (*Wil Wiese, Refuge Manager*)
- c. Western Arctic National Parklands (*Dr. Raime Fronstin, Wildlife Biologist*)

13. Action Items (Chair)

- a. Wildlife Closure Reviews (*OSM - Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist; Dr. Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist*)
 - Regional
 - i. WCR26-18 – Unit 23, Sheep harvest closure to non-federally qualified users in the Baird Mountains (*Tom Plank*)..... 33
 - ii. WCR26-45 – Unit 23, Caribou hunting closure to non-federally qualified users around Noatak (*Hannah Voorhees*) 51
 - b. Deferred Wildlife Proposal WP24-01 Statewide sale of brown bear hides* (*Dr. Hannah Voorhees*)..... 87
 - c. Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals* (*OSM-Tom Plank*)..... 31
 - d. Council Charter Review* (*Coordinator*) 127
 - e. Review and approve FY2024 Annual Report* (*Coordinator*) Tab 2
 - f. Alaska Board of Fisheries, including Statewide Finfish March 7-20, 2026.
Call for Proposals, due April 10, 2025 (*Coordinator*) 132
 - g. Future Meeting Dates* (*Chair*)
 - i. Confirm Fall 2025 meeting date and locationTAB 3
 - ii. Select Winter 2026 meeting date and locationTAB 3
 - iii. Select Fall 2026 meeting date and locationTAB 3

14. Reports (Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance) (Chair)

- a. Tribal Governments
- b. Native Organizations
- c. Alaska Department of Fish and Game-
 - i. **TIME CERTAIN** (11:00 AM Friday March 28) Arctic Beaver Observation Network Study Overview (*Helen Cold, Subsistence Resource Specialist, ADF&G, Division of Subsistence*)TAB 4

- ii. Kotzebue Sound commercial and 2024 subsistence season summary and 2025 outlook. (*Luke Henslee, Fish Biologist, Norton Sound and Kotzebue Assistant Manager*)TAB 5
- d. Bureau of Land Management
- e. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Selawik National Wildlife Refuge Report (*Wil Weise, Refuge Manager; Brittany Sweeney, Assistant Refuge Manager*)
- f. National Park Service
 - i. Western Arctic National Parklands (WEAR) Update (*Siikauraq Whiting, Superintendent*).TAB 6
 - ii. WEAR Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) Updates (*Emily Creek, Anthropologist and Subsistence Outreach Coordinator*)
 - 1. Kobuk Valley SRCTAB 7
 - 2. Cape Krusenstern SRCTAB 8
 - iii. Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve (GAAR), 2025 Winter Update (*Marcy Okada, Outreach Coordinator*)TAB 10
 - iv. GAAR Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) Update (*Marcy Okada*)TAB 10
- g. United States Geological Service
 - i. Update on Research: Thawing Tundra, Rusting Rivers, and Effects on Aquatic Ecosystems. (*Dr. Michael Carey, Research Fish Biologist*).
- h. University of Alaska, Fairbanks
 - Master’s Research Study; Availability of Western Arctic Caribou in NW Alaska as a Food Source and Changes Over Time. (*Catlin Luby, Master of Science Student, University of Alaska, Fairbanks*).
- i. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) Update; and Fisheries Regulatory Board Meeting Update: (*OSM, Dr. Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist; Kevin Foley, Fish Biologist*)
- j. FRMP Research Project Reports
 - i. Northwest Arctic Dolly Varden Population Study (*Joe Spencer, Fish Biologist and Brendan Scanlon, NW and NS Area Biologist, ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish*).TAB 9
 - ii. **TIME CERTAIN** 10:40 AM Friday, March 28) Sheefish Coastal Movement Study, in Northwest Alaska (*Kevin Fraley, Fisheries Ecologist, Wildlife Conservation Society*) HANDOUT

- k. Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program update (*Hannah Voorhees, and Kevin Foley, OSM*)
- l. Office of Subsistence Management
 - i. OSM General Update (*Brent Vickers, Supervisory Program Analyst, Anthropology Division*)

15. Other Business (Chair)

- a. Council correspondence update (*Coordinator*) 137; Tab 11
- b. Young Leader Seat update (*Coordinator*) 147

16. Council Member Closing Comments

17. Adjourn (Chair)

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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 Lisa Hutchinson, 907-310-4097, or Lisa_hutchinson@ios.doi.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on March 17, 2025.