

NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Northwest Arctic Heritage Center

Kotzebue

October 16-17, 2023

Convening at 9:00 am daily

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll-free number: 1-833-436-1163, then when prompted enter the Conference ID: 21846368#.

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. Written comments may also be emailed to subsistence@fws.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. Moment of Silence**
- 2. Call to Order** (*Chair, Thomas Baker*)
- 3. Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (*Secretary, Hannah Loon*) 5
- 4. Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 5. Review and Adopt Agenda*** (*Chair*) 1
- 6. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** (*Chair*) 6
- 7. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair's Report
- 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)
- 10. Old Business** (*Chair*)
 - a. Board Work Session Summary (*Council Coordinator, Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough*) 18
 - b. 805(c) Report – Summary (*Council Coordinator*) 19
 - c. Board FY2022 Annual Report Replies – summary (*Council Coordinator*) 21
 - d. Update on proposed move of OSM to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (*presenter TBD*)
 - e. Special Action Updates (*OSM Wildlife, Tom Plank*)

- WSA22-05: Reduce Federal subsistence caribou harvest limit to 4 caribou per permit per year in Unit 23 28
- WSA22-06: Reduce Federal subsistence caribou harvest limit to 4 caribou per year of Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) 29

11. New Business (*Chair*)

a. Wildlife Reports

i. Alaska Department of Fish and Game

- a. Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) update, Fall 2023
(*Alex Hanson, Wildlife Biologist*)..... 31
- b. WACH Subsistence Harvest Assessment Project, summary of
2019-2022 study years (*Helen Cold, Subsistence Resource Specialist,
Division of Subsistence*) SM Tab 1
- c. Unit 23 Wildlife Species Update (*Christie Osburn, Area Mgt. Biologist*) 39

ii. Western Arctic Parklands (WEAR) Wildlife Report Update (*Raime Fronstin, Wildlife Biologist*)..... 40

iii. Selawik National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Update on Guided/ Transported hunters to Selawik Refuge (*Wil Wiese, Refuge Manager*).....

b. Proposal and closure review procedures overview (*Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife*) 47

c. Wildlife Proposals and Closure Reviews* (*OSM Wildlife/ Anthropology*)

Regional Closure Reviews (Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife)

WCR24-19: – Reviews the closure to harvest of muskox to non-federally qualified users in Unit 23, south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River Drainage
(*Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife*) 48

Regional Proposals

WP24-28/29: Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, and 26A; Reduce harvest limit to four caribou per year only one of which may be a cow (*Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife*) 68

WP24-30/31: – Close to non-federally qualified users in Unit 23 from August 1—October 31 (*Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife*)..... 136

Crossover Proposals

WP 24-27: – Change Federal muskox permit system in Units 22 and 23 from a Federal registration permit to a Federal drawing permit (*Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife*) 170

Statewide

WP24-01: – Allow the sale of brown bear hides (*Dr. Brent Vickers, OSM Anthropology*) 227

WP24-07: – Clarification of Federal trapping regulations to all federally qualified subsistence users on Federal lands in Municipality of Anchorage
(*Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife*) 251

- d. Alaska Board of Game Meeting Information: (*ADF&G or Council Coordinator*)
 - Work Session: January 25, 2024, Kotzebue
 - Western Arctic/ Western Region: January 26—29, 2024, Kotzebue
- e. Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) updates and appointments*
 - Cape Krusenstern SRC and Kobuk Valley SRC (*Emily Creek*)
 - Gates of Arctic SRC* (*Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator*) 257
- f. Fisheries Program Updates (*Dr. Hannah Voorhees, OSM Anthropology*)
 - i. 2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program 258
 - ii. Fisheries Regulatory Cycle Update 266
 - iii. Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program
- g. Identify Issues for FY2023 Annual Report* (*Council Coordinator*) 281
- h. Fall 2023 Council application/nomination open season (*Council Coordinator*)
- i. Winter 2024 All-Council meeting proposed topics discussion (*Council Coordinator*)

12. Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

- Division of Commercial Fish: Commercial Fisheries Report Kotzebue Sound (*Kevin Clark, Fisheries Biologist*)
- Division of Wildlife: Moose Survival Study, Lower Kobuk (*Joelle Hepler, PI*) 283
- Division of Subsistence: Review of Arctic Area Subsistence Division Projects (*Helen Cold, Subsistence Resource Specialist*) 284

Other Organizations

- Wild Salmon Center: BLM lands protected under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and upcoming opportunity to comment on maintaining these protections (*Morgan Urquia, AK Alaska Campaign and Outreach Manager; Rachel James*) SM Tab 2 a,b

Bureau of Land Management

- BLM update for NWRAC (*Bruce Seppi, Wildlife Biologist; Jake Vialpando, Field Manager*)

Fish and Wildlife Service

- Selawik National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Selawik Refuge Program Update (*Wil Wiese, Refuge Manager*) SM Tab 3

National Park Service

- Western Arctic National Parklands – Superintendent Report (*Raymond McPadden, Superintendent*) SM Tab 4
- Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve –Update for NWRAC (*Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator*) SM Tab 5

Office of Subsistence Management (*Dr. Brent Vickers, OSM*)

13. Future Meeting Dates*

Announce winter 2024 All-Council meeting dates and location 282

Confirm fall 2024 meeting date and location..... 283

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (*Chair*)

To call into the meeting, dial the toll-free number: 1-833-436-1163, then when prompted enter the Conference ID: 21846368#.

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-Scarborough 907-310-4097, lisa_hutchinson@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on September 12, 2023.