



Federal Subsistence Board Fact Sheet



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Forest Service

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When will Moose Pass residents be eligible for Federal subsistence dipnet permits on the Kenai River?

Background: In April 2021, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted proposal RP19-01, determining that the residents of Moose Pass (Census Designated Places of Moose Pass, Crown Point, and Primrose) are considered rural and are not part of the Seward community. Under Federal subsistence regulations, rural residents are considered federally-qualified subsistence users.

Question 1: I'm a resident of Moose Pass. Can I participate in the Kenai dipnet fishery during the 2021 season?

Answer: Although residents of Moose Pass are now considered eligible to practice subsistence harvesting on Federal public lands under Federal regulations inclusive of "All rural residents," the adoption of RP19-01 does not immediately qualify residents to participate in all harvest opportunities on Federal lands in their region. For that to occur, the community will need to pursue customary and traditional use determinations for fish and wildlife species in their area. Currently the communities of Cooper Landing, Hope, and Ninilchik have been determined to have customary and traditional use of fish within the area where the Kenai dipnet fishery occurs, so only residents of those communities may participate in that Federal subsistence fishery.

Question 2: How is Customary and Traditional Use determined? What is the timeline for submitting determination proposals for Moose Pass?

Answer: The Federal Subsistence Board decides which communities and areas have customarily and traditionally used a species. When there is a determination for specific communities or areas, only residents of those communities and areas have a Federal subsistence priority for that species in that fishery management area and are eligible to fish under these regulations. If the Board has not made a customary and traditional use determination for a species in a fishery management area, then all rural residents of Alaska may use that species in that area under the regulations. Refer to the summary tables at the beginning of each fishery management area in the current Federal subsistence fisheries regulations (available at: <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries>) to identify existing customary and traditional use determinations. The summary table for the Kenai area is on page 57 of these regulations.

Because residents of Moose Pass do not currently have recognized customary and traditional use for the Kenai River, a proposal would need to be submitted for customary and traditional use of a particular species, during a fish or wildlife regulatory cycle. Once submitted, the proposal is analyzed, reviewed, presented to the Council, and then to the Board for final action.

The Federal Subsistence Board is accepting proposals through May 24, 2021, to change regulations for the subsistence harvest of wildlife on Federal public lands. During this time, the Board will accept proposals for customary and traditional use determinations for wildlife. The Board will accept proposals for customary and traditional use determinations for fish and shellfish beginning the spring of 2022. Proposals submitted in 2022, and approved by the Board during their regulatory meeting in January 2023, will not become part of regulation until the summer of 2023.

Question 3. How can I get more information on the status of Customary and Traditional Use determinations for Moose Pass residents?

Answer: Please contact Robbin La Vine, Acting Policy Coordinator at the Office of Subsistence Management, at (907) 786-3353 or (800) 478-1456 or robbin_lavine@fws.gov with questions about Customary and Traditional Use Determinations for Moose Pass, or visit the Federal Subsistence Management Program website (www.doi.gov/subsistence/) for more information about subsistence on Federal public lands and waters.

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