



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

Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

For Immediate Release:
May 25, 2017

Contact: Caron McKee
(907) 786-3880 or (800) 478-1456
caron_mckee@fws.gov

Federal Subsistence Board recommends submerged public lands within Tongass National Forest for inclusion in Subsistence Management Regulations

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) decided in a May 25, 2017 teleconference, which was open to the public, to recommend to the Secretaries of the Departments of Interior and Agriculture that the lands listed in a proposed rule of June 8, 2016 (81 FR 36836) be included in the Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska (36 CFR 242 and 50 CFR 100) for the purpose of implementing the subsistence provisions in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

The Secretaries published the proposed rule June 8, 2016, on the Tongass National Forest Submerged Lands, with a public comment period open from June 8 until August 8, 2016. The proposed rule was initiated as a result of the U.S. District Court for Alaska's October 17, 2011 order in *Peratrovich et al. v. United States and the State of Alaska*, for the United States "to promptly initiate regulatory proceedings for the purpose of implementing the subsistence provisions in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) with respect to submerged public lands within Tongass National Forest" and directed entry of judgment. Following the Court's decision, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA-FS) started a review of hundreds of potential pre-statehood (January 3, 1959) withdrawals in the marine waters of the Tongass National Forest, submitting initial lists of submerged public lands to the Board in April and October of 2015.

This rulemaking will add those listings to the subsistence regulations to ensure compliance with the Court's order. Additional listings will be published as BLM and USDA-FS continue their reviews of pre-statehood withdrawals.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov.

###