



WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Materials

*March 2-3, 2020
Fairbanks*



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On the cover...

Coho Salmon juveniles swimming in a lake.



USFWS photo

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WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Binkley Room, Pikes Waterfront Lodge
Fairbanks, Alaska

March 2-3, 2020 | convening at 9:00 a.m. daily

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: **1-866-820-9854**, then when prompted enter the passcode: **4801802**.

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.

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** (*Secretary*)..... 3
- 4. Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 5. Review and Adopt Agenda*** (*Chair*) 1
- 6. Election of Officers**
 - Chair (*Designated Federal Officer*)
 - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
 - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** (*Chair*) 4
- 8. Reports**
 - a. Council Member Reports
 - b. Chair’s Report
- 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items** (available each morning)
- 10. New Business** (*Chair*)
 - a. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (*Pippa Kenner and Frank Harris, OSM*)

- b. Fisheries and Partners Program Update
- c. Call for Federal Fish and Shellfish Proposals* 12
- d. Review and Approve FY2019 Annual Report* 15
- e. Alaska Board of Game Proposals Deliberation*

11. Agency Reports

(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)

Tribal Governments

Native Organizations

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) Update (*Diana Stram, NPFMC*)

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- a. Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge Update
- b. Innoko/Nowitna/Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge Update
- c. Yukon Kuskokwim Delta National Wildlife Refuge Update

National Park Service

- a. Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve Update (*Marcy Okada, NPS*)

Bureau of Land Management

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

- a. Research Projects in the Western Interior Region (*Brooke McDavid, ADF&G*) 18

Office of Subsistence Management

12. Future Meeting Dates*

- Confirm Fall 2020 Meeting Date and Location 30
- Select Winter 2021 Meeting Date and Location 31

13. Closing Comments

14. Adjourn (*Chair*)

To **teleconference** into the meeting, call the toll free number: 1-866-820-9854, then when prompted enter the passcode: 4801802.

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 Karen Deatherage, 907-474-2270, karen_deatherage@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 18, 2020.

REGION 6
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Appointed <i>Term Expires</i>	Member Name and Community
1	2019	<i>VACANT</i>
2	2004 2019	<i>VACANT</i>
3	1993 2019	<i>VACANT</i>
4	1993 2020	<i>VACANT</i>
5	1993 2020	Jack L. Reakoff Wiseman Chair
6	2017 2020	Tommy Kriska Koyukuk
7	2008 2020	Timothy P. Gervais Ruby
8	2021	<i>VACANT</i>
9	2006 2021	Jenny K. Pelkola Galena Secretary
10	2018 2021	Goodwin G. Semaken Kaltag

**WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes**

McGrath Traditional Council Community Service Center
McGrath, Alaska
October 8-9, 2019

Invocation:

Member Raymond Collins delivered the invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Council members Jack Reakoff, Jenny Pelkola, Timothy Gervais, Pollock Simon Sr., Donald Honea Jr. and Raymond Collins were present in person. Tommy Kriska and Goodwin Semaken were not present and were excused. Shirley Clark was not present and was unexcused. A quorum was established with 6 out of 9 seated Council members present (Council has one vacant seat).

Attendees:

In person:

Karen Deatherage, Fairbanks, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM)
Frank Harris, Anchorage, OSM
Lisa Maas, Anchorage, OSM
Pippa Kenner, Anchorage, OSM
Steve Fadden, Anchorage, OSM
Glenn Chen, Anchorage, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Vince Mathews, Fairbanks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Fred Bue, Fairbanks, USFWS
Bruce Seppi, Anchorage, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Walker Gusse, Fairbanks, BLM
Matt Cameron, Fairbanks, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve (GAAR)
Lisa Stuby, Fairbanks, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

Kevin Woodworth, McGrath, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRIFC)
Johnathan Samuelson, McGrath, KRIFC
Suzanne Little, Anchorage, Pew Charitable Trusts
Gina McKindy, McGrath Native Village Council
Betty Magness, McGrath Native Village Council
Sally Collins, McGrath
Damian Dennis, McGrath
Connor Dennis, McGrath
Geraldine Semone, McGrath

Via teleconference:

Orville Lind, Anchorage, OSM
George Pappas, Anchorage, OSM
Chris McKee, Anchorage OSM
Carol Damburg, Anchorage, USFWS
Gerald Marschman, Fairbanks, USFWS
Tina Moran, Fairbanks, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

Chris Harwood, Fairbanks, Kanuti NWR
Jeremy Havener, Galena, Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko NWR
Bob Ribarchik, Galena, Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko NWR
Ken Chase, Anvik, Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko NWR
Aaron Moses, Bethel, Yukon Delta NWR
Ray Born, Bethel, Yukon Delta NWR
Marcy Okada, Fairbanks, GAAR
Alissa Rodgers, Bethel, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Dan Sharp, Anchorage, BLM
Bonnie Million, Anchorage, BLM

Mark Burch, Palmer, ADF&G
Todd Rinaldi, Palmer, ADF&G
Holly Carroll, Anchorage, ADF&G
Deena Jallen, Anchorage, ADF&G
Brooke McDavid, Fairbanks, ADF&G
Christine Gleason, Fairbanks, ADF&G
Steve Wackowski, Anchorage, U.S. Department of the Interior
Brian McKenna, Fairbanks, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)
Erie Roe, Fairbanks, TCC
Wayne Jenkins, Anchorage, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)
Catherine Moncrieff, Anchorage, YRDFA

Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion #1 made by Mr. Simon, seconded by Ms. Pelkola to adopt the agenda as read with the following changes:

- Add 10:30 time for USFWS Award for Jack Reakoff
- Add Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Commission to Tribal/Organization Reports
- Add Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan and Ambler Road Draft Environmental Impact Statement under Bureau of Land Management Agency Reports.

Motion #1 passed on a unanimous vote.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion #2 by Mr. Honea, seconded by Ms. Pelkola, to approve the winter 2019 meeting minutes with the following modification: Remove “snowmachine” from Chair’s report on Page 8.

Motion #2 passed on a unanimous vote.

Council Member and Chair Reports:

Jenny Pelkola of Galena reported that moose hunting and King Salmon fishing went well for most community members. The berry crop was not good due to a hot and dry summer but those conditions helped with fish drying. Ms. Pelkola heard from several community members that non-local moose hunters had been disrespectful and caused concern in Galena. Ms. Pelkola received a letter from the Loudon Tribal Council regarding predator control, and will read the letter on behalf of the Tribe under Tribal comments later during the meeting.

Raymond Collins of McGrath reported a late but good moose season in the area. Mr. Collins did note that there were not many yearlings or small moose observed, and this may result in a dip in the breeding population in the future. There was less escapement in the upper Kuskokwim River, perhaps due to earlier fishing down river. Restrictions were put in place however, and King Salmon escapement went from 2,000 last year to 6,000 this year in the Salmon River Fork of the Pitka River. Berries were spotty due to dry conditions.

Pollock Simon, Sr., of Allakaket, reported that Chum Salmon came up the river but not many Chinook Salmon. High snow and water made it difficult to keep the nets in the water for Chinook Salmon. Deep snow depths also caused poor moose survival and low populations. Subsistence users had difficulties finding moose as many were staying in the hills. There was not much fat on those that were harvested. Mr. Simon concluded in his report that hunters were being harassed by people for licenses and permits, including questions about where people were going to hunt.

Timothy Gervais of Ruby reported that there were concerns regarding contamination from fire-fighting foams at Air Force bases in Galena and McGrath, as the chemicals used do not break down readily. Mr. Gervais is working to contact toxicology representatives from USFWS regarding concerns with toxin buildup in fish and wildlife. Mr. Gervais stressed the remarkable impacts of high water temperatures this past summer, where long stretches with no rain pushed temperatures above 70 degrees Fahrenheit on the Kuskokwim River. He stated that 64-68F degree water temperatures become detrimental to salmon as it lowers oxygen capacity and increases heart rates and metabolism, which uses up stored energy. Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) biologists on the Koyukuk River in mid-July found dying Chum Salmon from Hughes to Huslia. Over 800 dead fish were observed. Therefore, thousands could have died from the high water temperature event. There was a significant lack of spawning performance at Henshaw Creek. The Henshaw weir escapement showed 33-35,000 salmon when the season average is 100,000. In Chignik the water temperature was 6 degrees higher than normal. Mr. Gervais said there was good moose hunting and King Salmon fishing around Ruby. Mr. Gervais noted appreciation for the email Mr. Reakoff sent to the Council regarding Salmon Shark predation on Chinook Salmon. He will be trying to learn more about Salmon Shark populations and their impacts on salmon. Mr. Gervais discussed the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) meeting he attended in April. He was impressed with the input from the Regional Council Chairs and pleased that all but one of the Council's proposal recommendations were accepted by the Board. Mr. Gervais mentioned that the Association of Village Council Presidents withdrew their support for the Donlin Mine this past fall. The Council is on record opposing this mine due to the potential impacts on subsistence resources in the region.

Donald Honea Jr., of Ruby reported that fishing was also good in Ruby and that he believes it is due to all the years of work at Council meetings and groups like the Kuskokwim and Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commissions. Mr. Honea commended Holly Carroll of ADF&G for the handling of opening and closings along the Yukon River and appreciated the pre-season meetings. He reported that hunting was good and about 15-20 caribou were seen, which is a good thing. Mr. Honea mentioned the retirement of Mr. Collins and shared his concern over the lack of representation from the Kuskokwim region without him on the Council.

Jack Reakoff of Wiseman delivered the Chair's report. Mr. Reakoff reported on the Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee request to lengthen the State moose season in the Koyukuk region to the first week of October due to moose moving later in the season. The GAAR Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) had a meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass where many residents and hunters requested harvest limit of two versus one bear in Units 24B and 25A. Mr. Reakoff described a conference call where he and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Councils chairs discussed concerns over the low summer Chum Salmon run at the beginning of the season. Mr. Reakoff stated that the summer Chum Salmon run improved over time, but many fish died due to warm water, including Sockeye Salmon. Mr. Reakoff believes that climate change is killing salmon. Mr. Reakoff reported a high snow year with winter rain forming crust that resulted in mortality of yearling and two-year old moose. Sheep on the southside of the Brook's Range also suffered due to deep snow. Mr. Reakoff hopes the NPS will conduct a sheep survey on the southside of the range before increased harvests and seasons are considered. Mr. Reakoff described the lack of law enforcement for moose hunting on the Dalton Highway. Mr. Reakoff concluded with his concerns over the extraordinary decline of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, down from a historical high of 200,000 animals to 13,500. Mr. Reakoff believes the herd will never recover if the population drops below a certain level.

Awards

Mr. Reakoff received the USFWS Region 7 Excellence in Partnership Award. Mr. Collins received a service award for 26 years on the Council. Mr. Reakoff and Mr. Simon Sr., received a service award for 25 years on the Council. Mr. Honea Jr., received a service award for 15 years and Mr. Gervais received a service award for 10 years on the Council.

Public and Tribal Comments on Non-Agenda Items:

Ms. Pelkola distributed and read a letter from the Louden Tribal Council to the Council requesting predator control in the Galena area.

Old Business:

- Lisa Maas, OSM, provided updates on Wildlife Closure Reviews
- Karen Deatherage, OSM, presented the 805c Report from the Board.

New Business:

Wildlife Proposals:

Regional Proposals:

WP20-36/37: Revise hunt areas, to-be-announced seasons and permit requirements for moose in Unit 21D.

Motion #3 by Mr. Gervais, seconded by Ms. Pelkola to support WP20-37 with modification to define the winter hunt area. The Council proposes to define the December hunt area for Unit 21D *as that area southeast of Kaiyuh Slough and Nine-Mile Camp to Bonanza Creek Drainage to the Kaiyuh Mountains, and south to the Unit 21D boundary.* The Council discussed the extremely low bull:cow ratios near Galena of 10 bulls per 100 cows, and wanted to ensure that this area was not included in the December hunt. The modified hunt area would allow for harvests in a high-density moose area with good bull:cow ratios while applying conservation measures where needed. The Council also requested that the modification to WP20-37 be submitted to the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) to modify the Council's BOG Proposal 59, which would align the Federal and State regulations. The Council believes both State and Federal regulations will help conserve the moose population in the low-density areas of Unit 21D, while providing for subsistence opportunities in areas of high moose density. The Council's intention is also to provide moose harvest opportunities earlier in the winter within the described area of Unit 21D under both State and Federal Regulations. It is not the desire of the Council to add a disparate Federal hunt. Therefore, if the BOG fails to adopt Proposal 59 as amended, then the Council will withdraw the December hunt portion of WP20-37 from Board consideration.

Motion #3 as amended passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion #4 by Mr. Gervais, seconded by Ms. Pelkola, to support WP20-36. The Council opposed WP20-36 because of its action taken on WP20-37. However, the Chair noted that he does not support eliminating the Federal-only hunts in Unit 21 as proposed in WP20-36, noting that while moose populations may not support an additional season right now, those seasons should be kept in regulation to provide subsistence harvest opportunity whenever the moose population increases.

Motion #4 failed on a unanimous vote.

Crossover Proposals:

WP20-27: Allow use of snowmachines to assist in the take of caribou in Unit 17.

Motion #5 by Mr. Gervais, seconded by Mr. Honea, to support WP20-27. The Council did not believe that this means and methods issue would result in additional take of the herd, but that limiting seasons and harvest would be more effective. One Council member, however, was concerned with additional take of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, which has declined from a historical high of 200,000 animals to just 13,500 in recent years, including a 50% decline during the past 5 years. All Council members agreed that the use of snowmachines to take caribou is a customary and traditional practice, and should be permitted.

Motion #5 passed on a unanimous vote.

WP20-43/44/45/46: Eliminate bull closure and prohibition on calf harvest for caribou in Unit 23.

Motion #6 by Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Gervais, to support WP20-43/44/45/46. The Council believes this proposal would allow subsistence hunters to target younger, non-breeding bulls versus the older breeding bulls necessary for successful breeding. The bull:cow ratio is currently very good and above management objectives. The June cow:calf ratio is excellent, indicating good calf production. The Council feels confident that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is stabilizing and that these additional opportunities would not negatively affect the herd's population growth.

Motion #6 for WP20-46 passed on a unanimous vote. The Council took no action on WP20-43/44/45.

Statewide Proposals:

WP20-08: Require traps or snares to be marked with name or State identification number for all furbearers in all units.

Motion #7 by Mr. Honea, seconded by Mr. Gervais, to support WP20-08. The Council believes conflicts may exist in urban areas, but not in rural Alaska. The Council considers this proposal a hardship for rural communities, and ineffective in resolving the proponent's issue. In rural Alaska, it is clear who is trapping from the community, and most trappers have multiple sets, making marking each one burdensome. Further, the BOG has found no evidence that marking traps with an identification deters illegal trapping activities. Finally, users would simply trap under State regulations to avoid compliance with Federal subsistence regulations.

Motion #7 for WP20-08 failed on a unanimous vote.

WP20-26: Allow use of snowmachines for positioning wolf and wolverine in Units 9B, 9C, 17B, and 17C.

Motion #8 by Mr. Simon, seconded by Ms. Pelkola, to support WP20-26. Subsistence hunters have customary and traditional use of the resources in Units 9B, 9C, 17B, and 17C. Although travel conditions are becoming more difficult due to climate change, using snowmachines allows users to access resources in an economically viable way. This proposal would only affect a very small portion of BLM lands.

Motion #8 for WP20-26 passed on a unanimous vote.

Special Actions:

WSA19-07: Temporary Special Action regarding the Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH)

Motion #9 by Mr. Honea, seconded by Mr. Simon, to send a letter with recommendations on WSA19-07 to the Bristol Bay and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Chairs, as well as a copy to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Council supports the action requested in WSA19-07, but further believes it is imperative that the Federal and State winter hunts be closed to protect this critically declining herd. At the meeting, Federal and State managers shared increasing biological concerns about

the MCH, which has dropped from historic highs of 200,000 animals to an estimated 13,500 caribou in 2019, decreasing by 50% since 2016. There also appears to be a lack of reliable harvest information, which could be grossly underreported and negatively affecting the adult cohort of this herd. State biologists reported that pregnancy rates and cow:calf ratios are high, survivorship has been very good over the past few years, and there is no appearance of nutritional deficiencies in the herd. They stated there appears to be a lack of adult bulls. The Council feels confident that overharvest is the cause for the precipitous decline of the MCH and that an immediate management response is warranted.

The Council would like concurrence from the Bristol Bay and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils for the following actions: 1) Request that the Board modify WSA19-07 to close the winter hunt for the MCH; 2) Submit an Emergency Order to the Alaska Board of Game to close the winter hunt for the MCH; 3) Implore Federal and State managers to implement measures that will accurately quantify the harvest of caribou from the MCH; 4) Work with the Tribes to ask local subsistence users to “stand down” on MCH harvest, wherever and whenever possible.

Motion #9 to submit recommendations for WSA19-07 passed on a unanimous vote.

2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program:

Mr. Collins recommended setting escapement goals for the Salmon River weir. Mr. Honea requested that customary trade be quantified for fish in the middle Yukon River. Several Council members remarked on the continued importance of the Henshaw Creek weir, Fall Chum Salmon populations and the Yukon River Coho Salmon radio-telemetry project.

Identify Issues for FY2019 Annual Report:

- The USFWS needs to coordinate with State and other Federal agencies to provide a uniform definition of mean/ordinary high water mark. The lack of a standardized definition creates confusion over interpretation and results in user and law enforcement conflicts.
- There is a disconnect between the USFWS and State of Alaska harvest recording system for the MCH. Wounding loss and under-reporting information needs to be captured to prevent overharvest and the continued decline of the herd.

Agency Reports:

- Radio-telemetry for Kuskokwim River Sheefish presented by Lisa Stuby, ADF&G.
- 2019 Yukon River Salmon Season presented by Fred Bue, USFWS and Deena Jallen, ADF&G.
- YRFDA Update presented by Wayne Jenkins.
- KRIFC Update presented by Jonathan Samualson and Kevin Woodward.
- Kanuti NWR Update presented by Tina Moran, Chris Harwood and Vince Mathews.
- Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko NWR Update presented by Bob Ribarchik, and Jeremy Havener.

- Yukon Kuskokwim Delta NWR Update presented by Ray Born and Aaron Moses.
- GAAR and GAAR SRC Update presented by Matt Cameron and Marcy Okada.
- BLM Central Yukon Resource Monitoring Plan presented by Tim LaMarr.
- Ambler Road Draft Environmental Impact Statement presented by Tim LaMarr, BLM.
 - Motion #10 by Mr. Honea, seconded by Ms. Pelkola, to submit a comment letter to the BLM regarding commercial uses of the proposed Ambler Mining District Road. The letter will be submitted via e-Planning by the comment deadline on October 29, 2019. Motion #10 passed on a unanimous vote.
- Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Monitoring Plan (BSWI) Resource Monitoring Plan Update presented by Bonnie Million, BLM.
 - Motion #11 by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Gervais, to submit a letter to the BLM regarding inclusion of the Area of Critical Environmental Concern for the Big River in the preferred Alternative C of BSWI, with a copy to Tribal councils in Nikolai and McGrath, as well as to the Bering Sea Western Interior Inter-Tribal Commission. Motion #11 passed on a unanimous vote.
- Bering Sea Western Interior Inter-Tribal Commission Update presented by Suzanne Little, Pew Charitable Trusts.
 - Motion #11 by Mr. Gervais, seconded by Mr. Collins, to submit a letter to the BLM regarding support of the Bering Sea Western Interior Inter-Tribal Commission and their recommended actions for BSWI. Motion #11 passed on a unanimous vote.
- OSM Update presented by Frank Harris.

Future Meeting Dates:

February 11-12, 2020 in Fairbanks, Alaska

October 14-15, 2020 in Aniak, Alaska

Karen Deatherage, DFO
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Jack Reakoff, Chair
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its February 11-12, 2020 meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

More detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Karen Deatherage at 907-474-2270, email karen_deatherage@fws.gov.



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

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



Forest Service

Contact: Regulatory Affairs Division Chief
(907) 786-3888 or (800) 478-1456
subsistence@fws.gov

How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

Alaska residents and subsistence users are an integral part of the Federal regulatory process. Any person or group can submit proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations, comment on proposals, or testify at meetings. By becoming involved in the process, subsistence users assist with effective management of subsistence activities and ensure consideration of traditional and local knowledge in subsistence management decisions. Subsistence users also provide valuable wildlife harvest information.

A call for proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing regulations is issued in January of even-numbered years and odd-numbered years for wildlife. The period during which proposals are accepted is no less than 30 calendar days. Proposals must be submitted in writing within this time frame.

You may propose changes to Federal subsistence season dates, harvest limits, methods and means of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations.

What your proposal should contain:

There is no form to submit your proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations. Include the following information in your proposal submission (you may submit as many as you like):

- Your name and contact information (address, phone, fax, or E-mail address).
- Your organization (if applicable).
- What regulations you wish to change. Include management unit number and species. Quote the current regulation if known. If you are proposing a new regulation, please state, “new regulation.”
- Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations.
- Explain why this regulation change should be made.
- You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) in evaluating the proposed change.

You may submit your proposals by:

1. By mail or hand delivery to:
Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121
Anchorage, AK 99503
2. At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting (A schedule will be published in the Federal Register and be announced statewide, bi-annually, prior to the meeting cycles)
3. On the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>

Submit a separate proposal for each proposed change; however, do not submit the same proposal by different accepted methods listed above. To cite which regulation(s) you want to change, you may reference [50 CFR 100](#) or [36 CFR 242](#) or the proposed regulations published in the Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. All proposals and comments, including personal information, are posted on the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

For the proposal processing timeline and additional information contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456/ (907) 786-3888 or go to <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/proposal/submit.cfm>.

How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:

1. Once a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is received by the Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) validates the proposal, assigns a proposal number and lead analyst.
2. The proposals are compiled into a book for statewide distribution and posted online at the Program website. The proposals are also sent out the applicable Councils and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) for review. The period during which comments are accepted is no less than 45 calendar days. Comments must be submitted within this time frame.
3. The lead analyst works with appropriate agencies and proponents to develop an analysis on the proposal.
4. The analysis is sent to the Councils, ADF&G and the ISC for comments and recommendations to the Board. The public is welcome and encouraged to provide comments directly to the Councils and the Board at their meetings. The final analysis contains all of the comments and recommendations received by interested/affected parties. This packet of information is then presented to the Board for action.
5. The decision to adopt, adopt with modification, defer or reject the proposal is then made by the Board. The public is provided the opportunity to provide comment directly to the Board prior to the Board's final decision.
6. The final rule is published in the Federal Register and a public regulations booklet is created and distributed statewide and on the Program's website.

A step-by-step guide to submitting your proposal on www.regulations.gov:

1. Connect to www.regulations.gov – there is no password or username required.
2. In the white space provided in the large blue box, type in the document number listed in the news release or available on the program webpage, (for example: FWS-R7-SM2014-0062) and select the light blue “Search” button to the right.

3. Search results will populate and may have more than one result. Make sure the Proposed Rule you select is by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and **not** by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).
4. Select the proposed rule and in the upper right select the blue box that says, “Comment Now!”
5. Enter your comments in the “Comment” box.
6. Upload your files by selecting “Choose files” (this is optional).
7. Enter your first and last name in the spaces provided.
8. Select the appropriate checkbox stating whether or not you are providing the information directly or submitting on behalf of a third party.
9. Fill out the contact information in the drop down section as requested.
10. Select, “Continue.” You will be given an opportunity to review your submission.
11. If everything appears correct, click the box at the bottom that states, “I read and understand the statement above,” and select the box, “Submit Comment.” A receipt will be provided to you. Keep this as proof of submission.
12. If everything does not appear as you would like it to, select, “Edit” to make any necessary changes and then go through the previous step again to “Submit Comment.”

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

Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3989
Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

RAC/WI9052.KD

Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council submits this FY2019 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) under the provisions of Section 805 (a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting in McGrath, Alaska, on October 8-9, 2019, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for this report. It approved this report at its winter 2020 meeting held in Fairbanks. The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns aligned with the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Western Interior Region.

1. Mean High Water Mark Definition

At its March 26-27, 2019 meeting held in Fairbanks, the Council submitted a Federal subsistence wildlife proposal to the Board requesting a definition for the mean high water mark. The Council discussed incidents where hunters were confused about how the high water mark was determined. One Council member cited an instance where law enforcement confiscated a moose during the subsistence winter hunt due to a misinterpreted boundary. The Council's proposal was rejected because "the Board does not have regulatory authority to define mean high water mark." The Board further explained that Federal land managers were responsible for area descriptors of public lands.

At its meeting held October 8-9, 2019, the Council was informed of Federal regulation at 33 CFR 328, which reads, "*The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider*

the characteristics of the surrounding area.” The Council believes that this definition is ambiguous and cumbersome and that several of these characteristics would be difficult for subsistence users to identify. This is particularly true during the winter months when hunting areas along the rivers can have several feet of snow.

Recommendation:

The Council is requesting that Federal managers develop a definition for the mean or ordinary high water mark that reduces confusion and provides a physical attribute, such as willows, for easier identification. Simplifying the definition would also reduce conflicts with law enforcement officials and minimize the confiscation of important subsistence resources for local hunters because of interpretation errors.

2. Mulchatna Caribou Herd Harvest Management

The Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) recently submitted Temporary Wildlife Special Action WSA19-07, requesting that the Board reduce the harvest limit from two caribou by State registration permit to one caribou by State registration permit throughout the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

The Council discussed the Mulchatna Caribou Herd on the record during its fall 2019 public meeting held October 8-9 in McGrath. At this meeting, Federal and State managers shared increasing biological concerns about the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, which dropped from historic highs of 200,000 animals to an estimated 13,500 caribou in 2019, a decrease of 50% since 2016. The Council was alarmed to hear the discrepancies between the Federal and State harvest records for this critically imperiled herd. The State's records were vastly lower than Federal harvest numbers and appear to only capture sport hunting harvest. Federal managers from the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta NWR reported higher harvest numbers, particularly by hunters from the Bethel area. It was evident during the discussion that there is a lack of reliable harvest information available and that harvest could be grossly underreported, negatively affecting the adult cohort of this herd. Overall, the biological information for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd presented to the Council was wholly incomplete.

Recommendation:

The Council has been sharing concerns about the Mulchatna Caribou Herd's declining population for many years and believes that management is going in the wrong direction. Any harvestable surplus now and in the future needs to include a component for under or non-reported harvest mortality, particularly given the level of hunting competition for caribou in this region. Incidental harvest mortalities are generally high in aggregate ungulate species like caribou, and this needs to be captured in a comprehensive hunting mortality report. The Council requests that Federal and State managers implement measures immediately that will accurately quantify the harvest of caribou from the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

Thank you for the opportunity for this Council to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal public lands and waters. We look forward to continuing discussions about the issues and

concerns of subsistence users of the Western Interior Region. If you have questions about this report, please contact me via Karen Deatherage, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management, at karen_deatherage@fws.gov, or 1-800-478-1456 or 907-474-2270.

Sincerely,

Jack Reakoff
Chair

cc Federal Subsistence Board
Thomas Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Suzanne Worker, Acting Subsistence Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Greg Risdahl, Fisheries Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Chris McKee, Wildlife Division Supervisor, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Kron, Acting Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Subsistence Management
Karen Deatherage, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

Update on Research Projects in the Western Interior Region

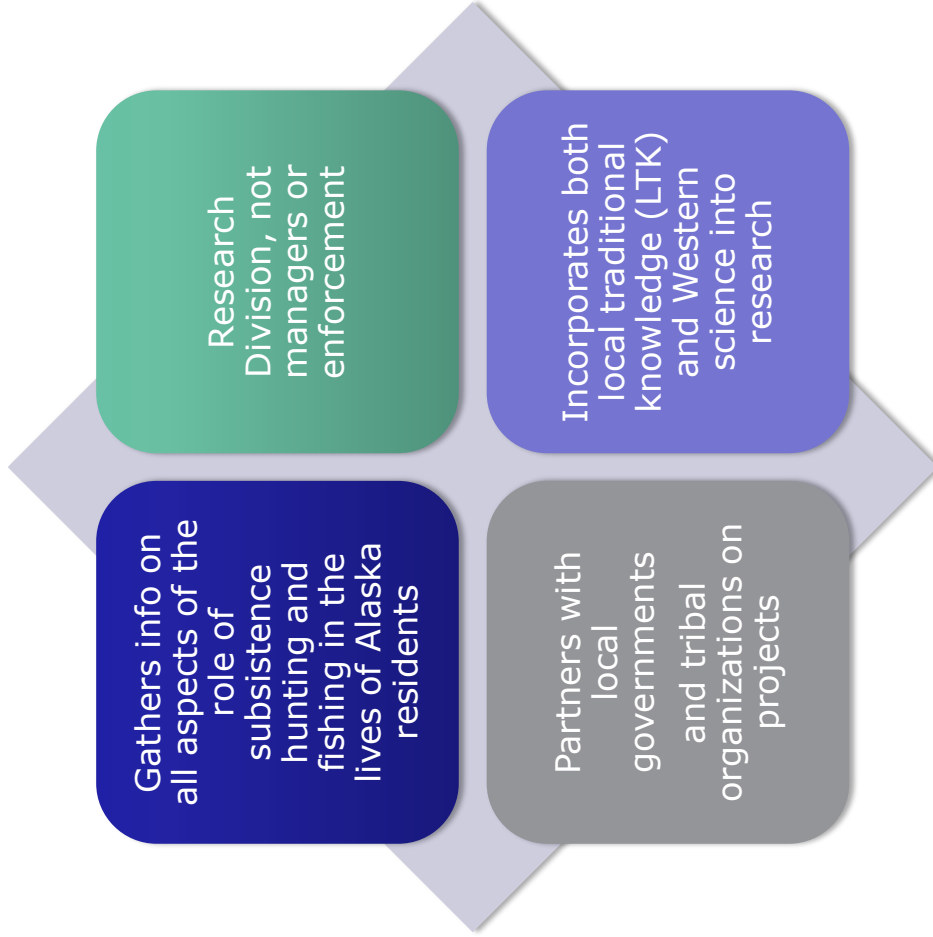
WIRAC Meeting
February 2020

Brooke McDavid
Division of Subsistence
Alaska Dept. Fish and Game
Fairbanks, AK



DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

ADF&G Division of Subsistence



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Projects in the Western Interior Region

1. Kaltag Comprehensive Subsistence Study
2. Yukon River Salmon Networks
3. Traditional Knowledge and Radiotelemetry of Burbot
4. Allakaket and Alatna Large Land Mammal Surveys
5. Patterns and Trends in Salmon Fishing on the Yukon River
6. Traditional Knowledge of the Chinook Salmon Life Cycle in the Yukon River



1. Kaltag Comprehensive Subsistence Study

Objectives:

- Document the harvest and use of fish, wildlife, and plant resources by Kaltag residents during 2018
- Quantify subsistence harvests of all resources over a 1-year time period and map areas used for subsistence
- Gather local knowledge and concerns about resource health, management, and the environment



Status:

- Fieldwork complete - March 2019
- Data analysis in progress
- Community Data Review – Spring 2020
- Final report - Summer 2020



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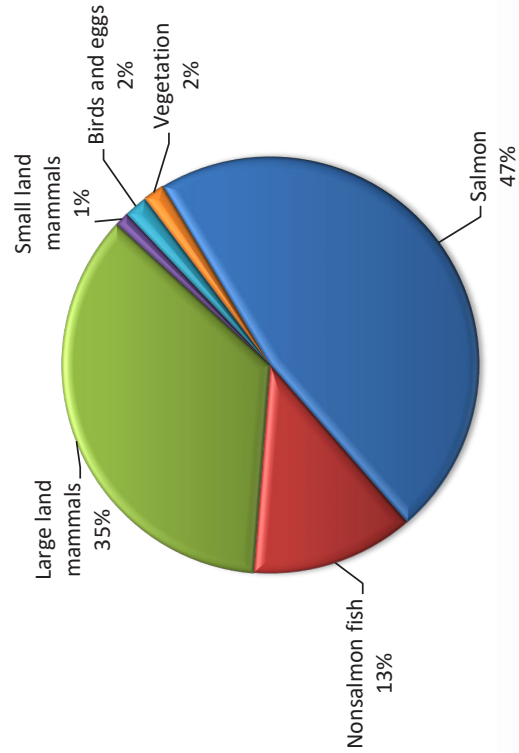
4

1. Kaltag Comprehensive Subsistence Study

preliminary results

Table n-m.—Estimated harvests and uses of fish, game, and vegetation resources, Kaltag, 2018.

Resource	Percentage of households				Harvest weight (lb)			Harvest amount ^a			confidence limit (±) harvest	
	Use %	Attempt %	Harvest %	Receive %	Give %	Total	Mean per household	Per capita	Total	Unit		Mean per household
All resources	100.0	95.8	93.8	91.7	75.0	47,904.7	798.4	322.0	47,904.7	Lb.	798.4	14.2
Salmon	93.8	64.6	62.5	41.7	47.9	22,624.3	377.1	152.1	22,624.3	Lb.	377.1	20.8
Nonsalmon fish	75.0	58.3	56.3	31.3	35.4	6,059.5	101.0	40.7	6,059.5	Lb.	101.0	30.5
Large land mammals	93.8	58.3	39.6	62.5	43.8	17,032.5	283.9	114.5	17,032.5	Lb.	283.9	19.7
Small land mammals	39.6	27.1	22.9	18.8	12.5	525.0	8.8	3.5	525.0	Lb.	8.8	39.2
Marine mammals	31.3	0.0	0.0	29.2	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Lb.	0.0	0.0
Birds and eggs	52.1	33.3	33.3	25.0	22.9	869.1	14.5	5.8	869.1	Lb.	14.5	31.8
Marine invertebrates	2.1	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Lb.	0.0	0.0
Vegetation	93.8	91.7	64.6	29.2	35.4	794.2	13.2	5.3	794.2	Lb.	13.2	15.2



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2. Yukon River Salmon Networks

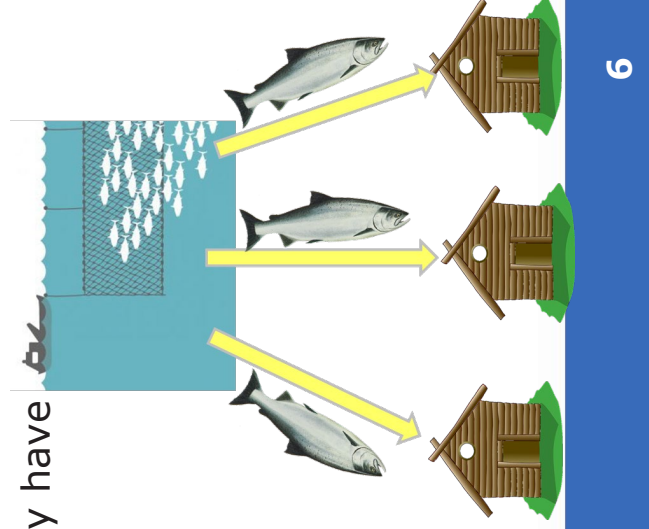
Communities: Pilot Station, **Nulato**, & Beaver

Objectives:

- Document how sharing, barter, and customary trade help households access the salmon they need
- Quantify salmon exchanges
- Explore how salmon sharing and other exchanges may have changed with decreased Chinook salmon abundance

Status:

- Fieldwork complete - Spring 2019
- Data analysis underway
- Community data review - Winter 2020/21
- Final report - Summer 2021



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3. Traditional Knowledge and Radiotelemetry of Burbot

Communities: Pilot Station, **Galena**, & Fort Yukon

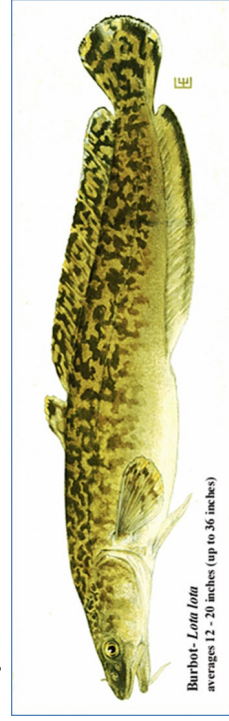
Project Partner: ADF&G Division of Sport Fish

Objectives:

- Document local knowledge of burbot habitats and life cycle, as well as harvest practices and harvest timing
- Quantify annual burbot harvests
- Map fishing locations and important burbot habitat

Status:

- Community surveys complete – Winter 2017/18
- Radio-tracking still underway this winter
- Final report - Summer 2020



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4. Effects of Wolf Control on Large Land Mammal Harvest and Use

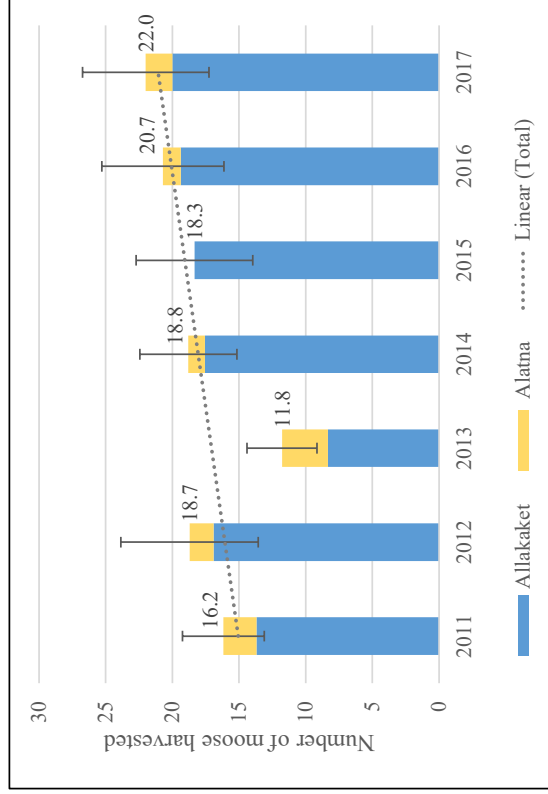
Communities: Allakaket and Alatna

Project Partner: ADF&G Division of Wildlife

Objective: Evaluate the effects of wolf control on moose and other large land mammal harvests and also on hunting effort

Status:

- Fieldwork complete (2011-2017)
- Data analysis underway
- Community Data Review – Spring 2020
- Final report – Summer 2020



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5. Patterns and Trends in Salmon Fishing on the Yukon River

Study scale: Yukon drainage, fishing district, & community level analysis

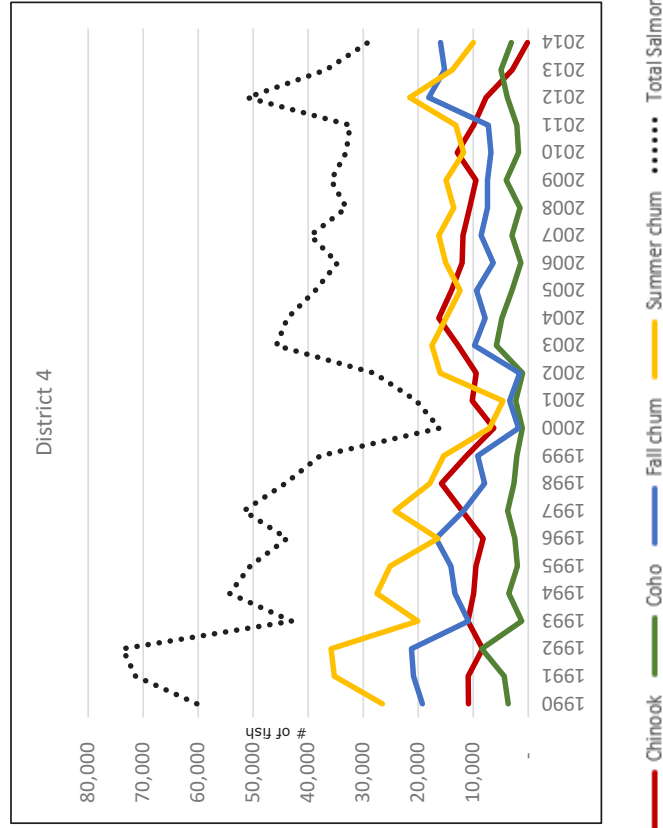
Communities: Alakanuk, Marshall, **Nulato**, **Galena**, Beaver, & Eagle

Objectives:

- Explore how salmon fishing patterns and salmon harvests have changed over 25 years (1990-2014) in Yukon River Districts 1-5

Status:

- Fieldwork complete 2015-2016
- Community reviews complete 2018
- Awaiting final publication
- Handout summary available



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6. Traditional Knowledge of the Chinook Salmon Life Cycle

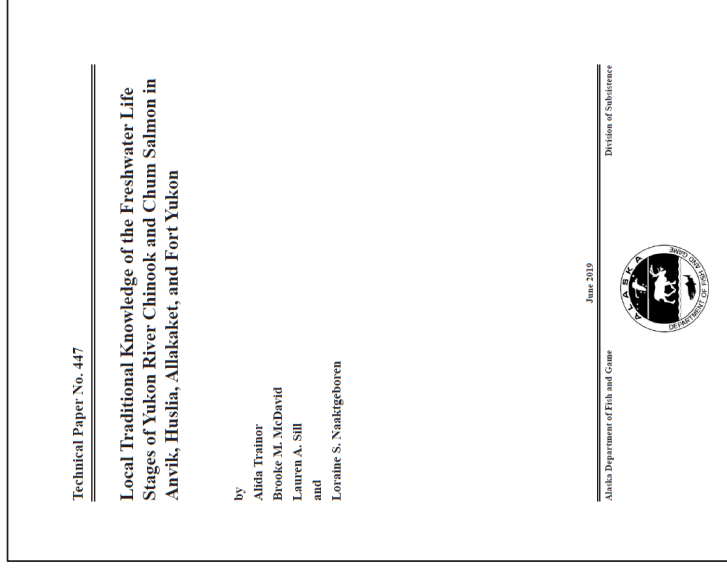
Communities: Anvik, **Huslia**, **Allakaket**, & Fort Yukon

Objectives:

- Document local knowledge about salmon life cycles, including factors that affect migration, spawning, and juvenile survival
- Map habitat utilized for the various freshwater stages of salmon life cycle and compare to data in the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC)
- Map observations of habitat change that may be affecting salmon

Status:

- Fieldwork complete (2014)
- Community Data Review – Winter 2018/2019
- Final report published, available online: www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP%20447.pdf



DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

6. Traditional Knowledge of the Chinook Salmon Life Cycle

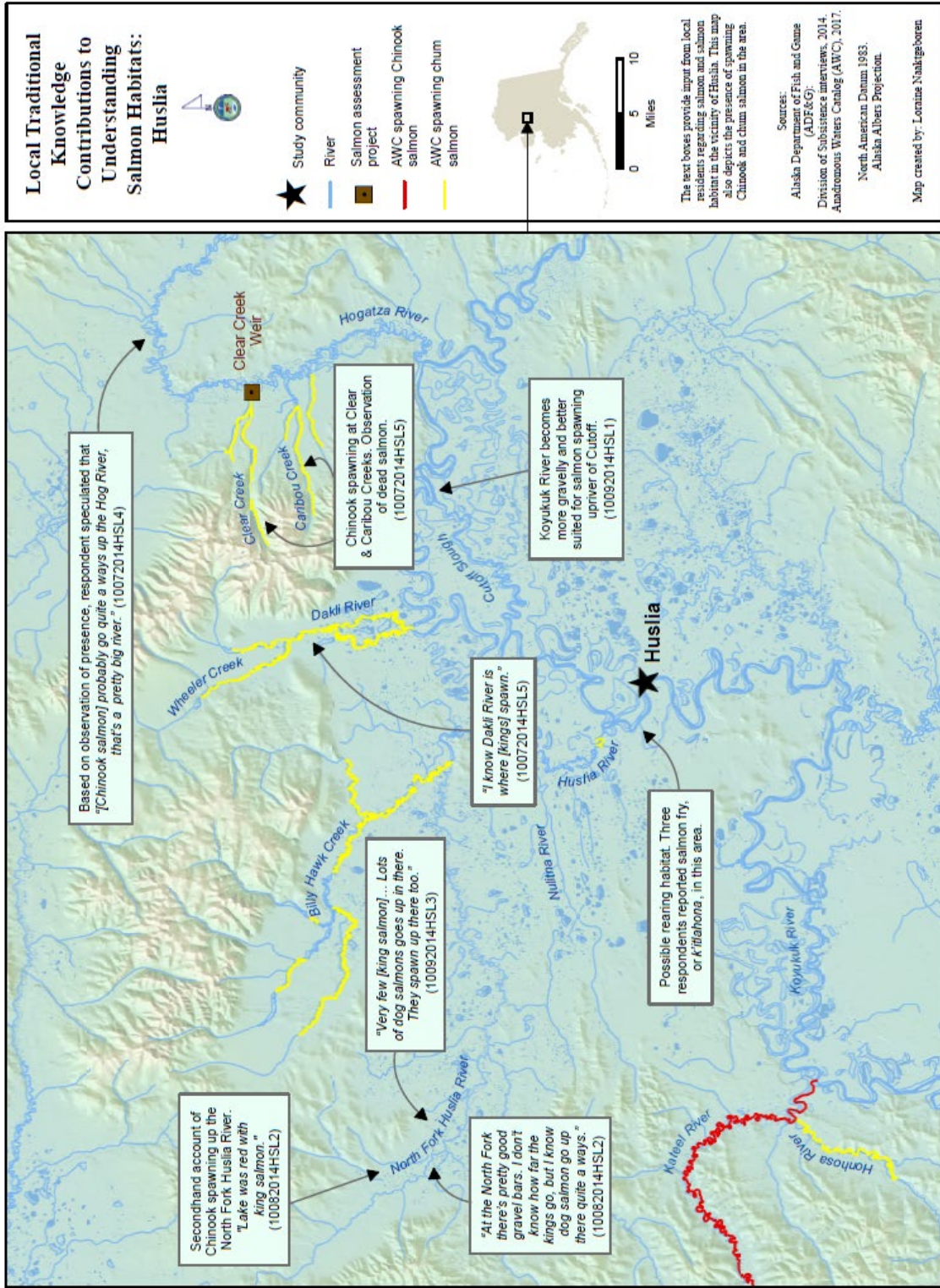
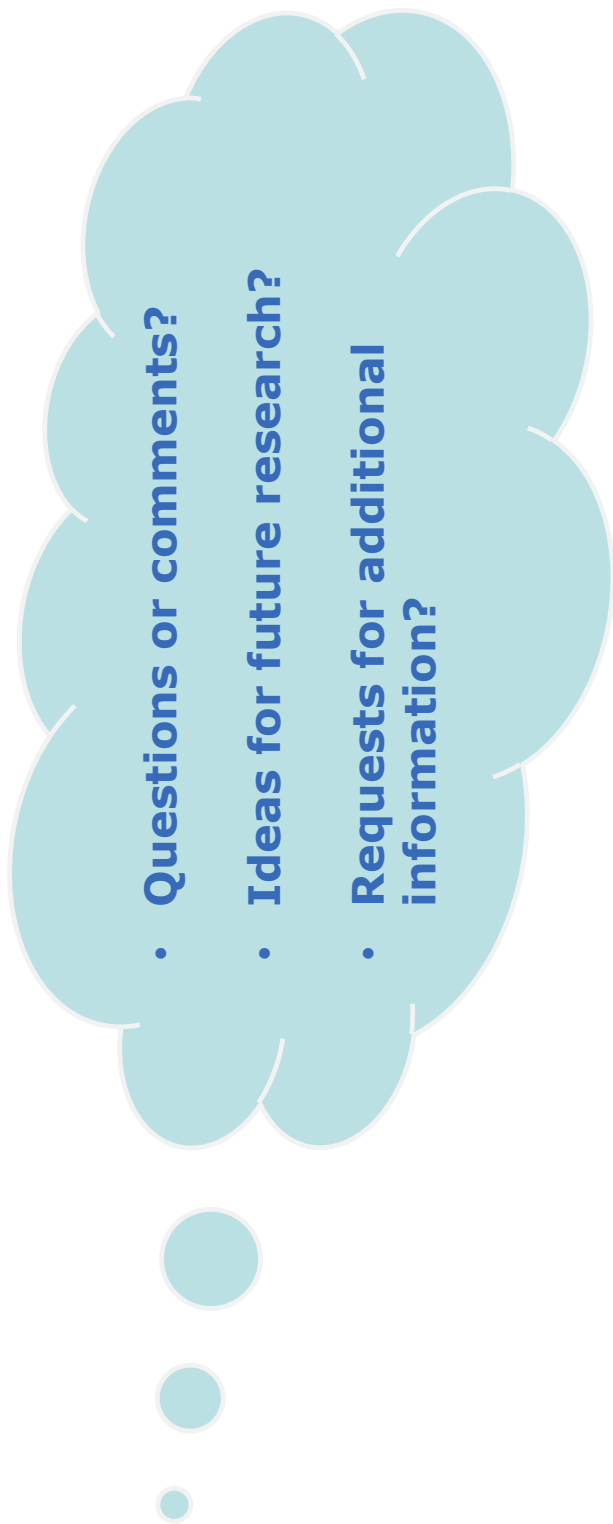


Figure 2 – Map illustrating the local knowledge contributions to understanding salmon habitat in the vicinity of Huslia, 2014



- Questions or comments?

- Ideas for future research?

- Requests for additional information?

Thank you!

Brooke McDavid

Subsistence Resource Specialist
ADF&G Fairbanks
(office): 328-6120
(cell): 388-9205
brooke.mcdavid@alaska.gov



DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

Fall 2020 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Last updated on 11/12/19

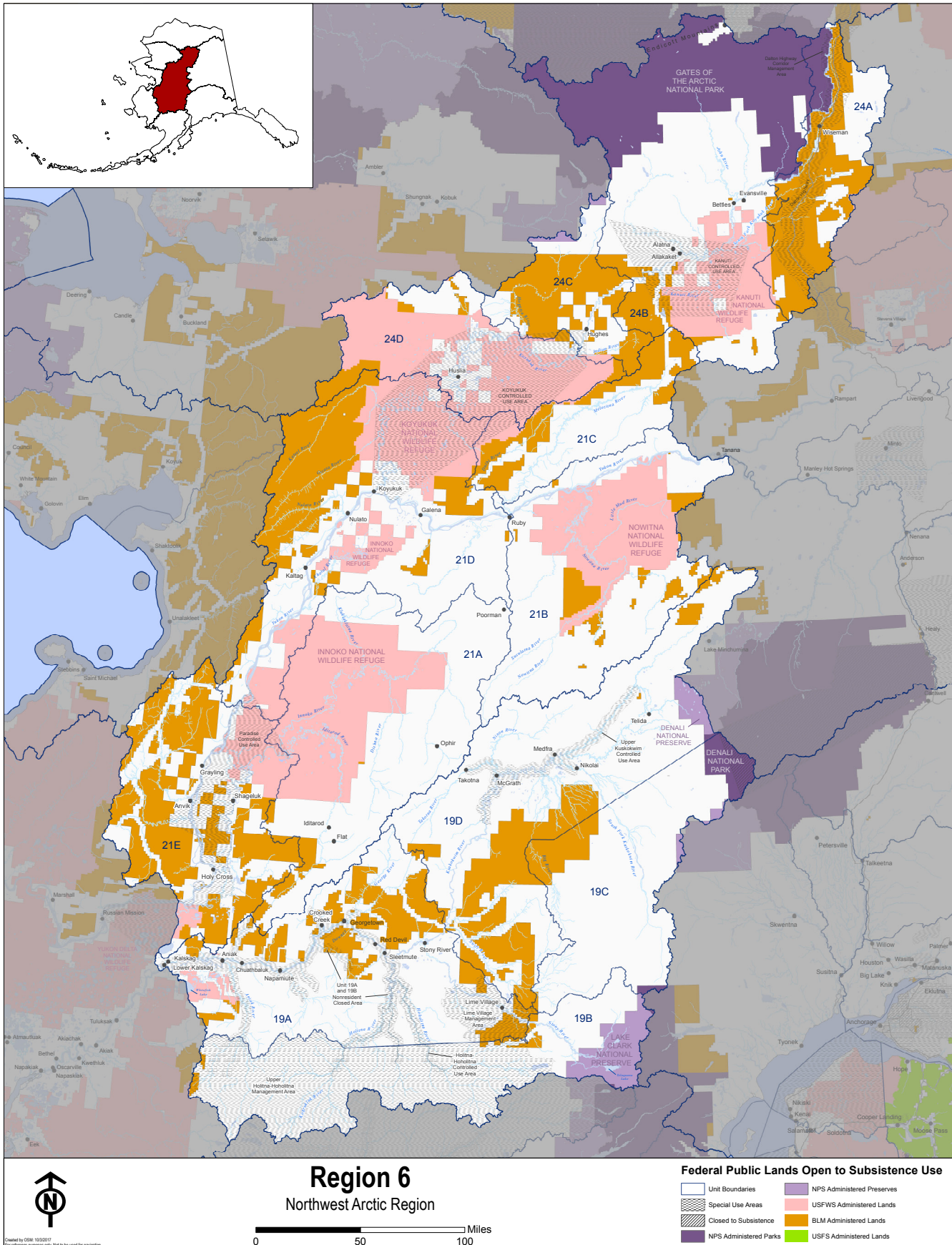
Due to travel budget limitations placed by Department of the Interior on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Subsistence Management, the dates and locations of these meetings will be subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 16	Aug. 17 <i>Window opens</i>	Aug. 18 NS — Point Hope	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22
Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29
K/A — Unalaska (in conjunction with “Life Forum Conference”)						
Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sep. 1	Sep. 2	Sep. 3	Sep. 4	Sep. 5
Sep. 6	Sep. 7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	Sep. 8	Sep. 9	Sep. 10	Sep. 11	Sep. 12
				K/A — Cold Bay/Sand Point		
Sep. 13	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 16	Sep. 17	Sep. 18	Sep. 19
Sep. 20	Sep. 21	Sep. 22	Sep. 23	Sep. 24	Sep. 25	Sep. 26
		YKD — St. Mary’s				
Sep. 27	Sep. 28	Sep. 29	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3
Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10
			SC — Anchorage			
Oct. 11	Oct. 12 COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17
			WI — Aniak			
			EI — Fairbanks			
Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24
		SE — Sitka			AFN — Anchorage	
Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31
			SP — Nome			
			BB — Dillingham			
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6 <i>Window closes</i>	Nov. 7
		NW — Kotzebue				

Winter 2021 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Due to travel budget limitations placed by Department of the Interior on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Subsistence Management, the dates and locations of these meetings will be subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Jan. 31</i>	<i>Feb. 1</i> <i>Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 2</i>	<i>Feb. 3</i>	<i>Feb. 4</i>	<i>Feb. 5</i>	<i>Feb. 6</i>
<i>Feb. 7</i>	<i>Feb. 8</i>	<i>Feb. 9</i>	<i>Feb. 10</i>	<i>Feb. 11</i>	<i>Feb. 12</i>	<i>Feb. 13</i>
<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i> PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY	<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i>	<i>Feb. 19</i>	<i>Feb. 20</i>
<i>Feb. 21</i>	<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Feb. 23</i>	<i>Feb. 24</i>	<i>Feb. 25</i>	<i>Feb. 26</i>	<i>Feb. 27</i>
<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Mar. 1</i>	<i>Mar. 2</i>	<i>Mar. 3</i>	<i>Mar. 4</i>	<i>Mar. 5</i>	<i>Mar. 6</i>
<i>Mar. 7</i>	<i>Mar. 8</i>	<i>Mar. 9</i>	<i>Mar. 10</i>	<i>Mar. 11</i>	<i>Mar. 12</i> <i>Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 13</i>



**Department of the Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).
- 2. Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)), and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the Region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the Region.
- 4. Description of Duties.** Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:
 - a. Recommend the initiation, review, and evaluation of proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decision-making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the Region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.

- (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
- e. Appoint one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with section 808 of ANILCA.
- f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
- g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
- h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
- i. Provide recommendations for implementation of Secretary's Order 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretary's Order 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Secretary's Orders, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;
 - (2) Policies and programs that:
 - (a) increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, with a focus on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation;
 - (b) expand access for hunting and fishing on Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service lands in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands;
 - (c) increase energy, transmission, infrastructure, or other relevant projects while avoiding or minimizing potential negative impacts on wildlife; and
 - (d) create greater collaboration with States, Tribes, and/or Territories.
- j. Provide recommendations for implementation of the regulatory reform initiatives and policies specified in section 2 of Executive Order 13777: Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs; Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review, as amended; and section 6 of Executive Order

13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review. Recommendations shall include, but are not limited to:

Identifying regulations for repeal, replacement, or modification considering, at a minimum, those regulations that:

- (1) eliminate jobs, or inhibit job creation;
- (2) are outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective;
- (3) impose costs that exceed benefits;
- (4) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with regulatory reform initiative and policies;
- (5) rely, in part or in whole, on data or methods that are not publicly available or insufficiently transparent to meet the standard for reproducibility; or
- (6) derive from or implement Executive Orders or other Presidential and Secretarial directives that have been subsequently rescinded or substantially modified.

Alternate members may be appointed to the Council to fill vacancies if they occur out of cycle. An alternate member must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending the meeting as a representative. At the conclusion of each meeting or shortly thereafter, provide a detailed recommendation meeting report, including meeting minutes, to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$180,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.15 Federal staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director – Subsistence, Region 11, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:
 - (a) Approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings;

- (b) Prepare and approve all meeting agendas;
 - (c) Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings;
 - (d) Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest; and
 - (e) Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will be inactive 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

Ten members who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are residents of the Region represented by the Council.

To ensure that each Council represents a diversity of interests, the Federal Subsistence Board in their nomination recommendations to the Secretary will strive to ensure that seven of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the Region and three of the members (30 percent) represent commercial and sport interests within the Region. The portion of membership representing commercial and sport interests must include, where possible, at least one representative from the sport community and one representative from the commercial community.

The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members based on the recommendations from the Federal Subsistence Board and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

For geographic membership balance, it is a Council goal to seat three members who reside in the Northern Koyukuk area (Unit 24), three members who reside in the Middle Yukon (Unit 21A-D), three members who reside in the Upper Kuskokwim area (Unit 19), and one member who resides in the Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross area (GASH-Unit 21E).

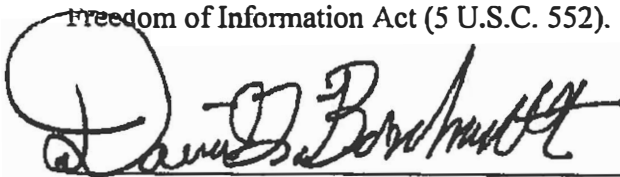
Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Alternate members may be appointed to the Council to fill vacancies if they occur out of cycle. An alternate member must be approved and appointed by the Secretary before attending the meeting as a representative. The term for an appointed alternate member will be the same as the term of the member whose vacancy is being filled.

Council members will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for a 1-year term.

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under section 5703 of title 5 of the United States Code.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any Council or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFOs approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information and conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records must be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).



Secretary of the Interior

DEC 12 2019

Date Signed

DEC 13 2019

Date Filed

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