

SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes

Harrigan Centennial Hall
330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, Alaska
March 18-20, 2025

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at approximately 9:00 a.m. Council members Frank Wright, Calvin Casipit, Michael Douville, Ted Sandhofer, Harvey Kitka, John Smith, III, Lewis Hiatt, and Don Hernandez were present in person. Member Patricia Phillips was delayed due to weather, participating by phone on March 18, 2025, and joining the Council in person on March 19, 2025, for the remainder of the meeting. Larry Bemis, James Slater, Albert Howard, and Louie Wagner, Jr. were not present and were excused. With 9 out of 13 seated Council members present, the quorum was established.

Attendees:

*Asterisk * identifies if present via teleconference/Teams.*

- U.S. Forest Service (USFS): ***Eric Garner, Brie Darr, Greg Risdahl*, DeAnna Perry, Rob Cross, Jake Musslewhite, Ashley Bolwerk, Kim Ramos, Susan Oehlers*, Jean Daniels*, Michael Fiorillo****
- Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory: ***Nicole Grewe, Ryan Bellmore, Ph.D., Marie Gutgesell***
- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM): ***Crystal Leonetti*, Chris McKee*, Brent Vickers, Ph.D.*, Lisa Grediagin, Jason Roberts, Ph.D., Orville Lind*, Robbin La Vine*, Katerina Wessels*, Kristen Morrow*, Justin Koller*, Pippa Kenner*, Brian Ubelaker*, Thomas Plank*, Corey Graham*, Janel Day*, Leigh Honig*, Brooke McDavid*, Gisela Chapa*, Lisa Hutchinson*, Nissa Pilcher*, Hannah Vorhees, Ph.D.*,*, Derek Hildreth****
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): ***Glenn Chen*, Rosalie Debenham****
- National Park Service (NPS): ***Eva Patton*, Amber Cohen*, Victoria Florey*, Dillon Patterson****
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): ***Jill Klein****
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM): ***Chris McKee****
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G): ***Mark Burch*, Emily Doll, Molly Brown, Tessa Hasbrouck*, Anthony Crupi*, Mark Williamson****
- Metlakatla Indian Community: ***Ian Hudson****
- Hoonah Indian Association: ***Ian Johnson*, Jackson Combs****
- Organized Village of Kasaan: ***Mike Jones, George Nix***
- Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes: ***Karlee Tyance Hassell, Sasha Anderstrom****
- Alaska Federation of Natives: ***Geoffrey Toy****

- Members of the Public: *Paulette Moreno, Heather Bauscher, Naomi Jones, Thomas Smith, Devon Calvin, James Johnson Neilson, Jr., Daviel Rosa*, Jill Weitz*, Jeff Feldpausch*, Blayke Nix*, Anna Laffrey*, Marvin Willard**,

Election of Officers:

Member Hernandez was re-elected the Council's Chair.

Member Casipit was elected the Council's Vice Chair.

Member Frank Wright, Jr. was re-elected the Council's Secretary.

Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion by Member Kitka, seconded by Member Sandhofer, to adopt the agenda as a guide with the following adjustments:

- Move update on WP24-01 Statewide Sale of Brown Bear Hides to 12d, under Action items
- Add 'Food from the Forest' report from the Pacific Northwest Research Station under 13d, Forest Service Reports after the General Report
- Add 'Southeast Fisheries Report' also under 13d, Forest Service Reports right after Food from the Forest presentation
- Add the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) Action Summary as 12(b) – just before Wildlife Closure Reviews

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Smith, to approve the fall 2024 meeting minutes with the following modifications:

- In Member Phillips's report, replace the word 'trawl' with the word 'troll.'

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Council Member and Chair Reports:

Frank Wright, Jr. of Hoonah reported that there will be 240 cruise ships coming to Hoonah this season. He explained some of the recycling efforts going on in his community. He reported that crabbing was sad this year. He is extremely concerned with the efforts needed to find a legal sized crab and with the absence of female crabs being caught in pots. He reported that it was getting hard to get Dungeness crabs and the cause of these crab issues is unknown, but it may be sea otter predation. Deer are getting harder to find. The local Tribe is working with NPS and USFS to build a greenhouse to provide vegetables and may be looking at incorporating a hydroponic component to realize four harvests a year. A rescue/safety boat has been purchased for the community. He reported his community saw little snow this year and in years past. The weather has been changing and snow doesn't stay on the ground like it did previously. Family members wanted to work on restoration efforts locally but were not hired back because of the lack of funding. Tree cutting, in a community that is expanding, is unfortunate because of the impacts this has to streams and ultimately, to the salmon runs.

Cal Casipit of Gustavus reported that winter in his community was very wet and windy and this made it challenging for deer hunters. The deer population on Pleasant Island is very low and wolves on that island are now targeting sea otters for consumption. He recently found out that Pleasant Island had been moved out of Unit 4 to Unit 1C by the Alaska Board of Game, and he would like more information on that, as it seems the island is still considered to be in Unit 4 under Federal regulations. He wanted to know if camera traps are located on Pleasant Island to capture deer population estimates.

Michael Douville of Craig reported that the Craig Tribal Association has concerns about the rural designation of Ketchikan. He commented that there has been a 50% decline in deer population in the area since 2016 and there is a more-than-healthy wolf population, which, he believes, is the main contributor for that decline. He is concerned about how that issue, as well as causes for the declining fish populations in Federal waters (such as the over-exploitation of steelhead trout), can be addressed. He believes that the addition of more federally qualified subsistence users (by designating Ketchikan residents 'rural'), may have significant impacts on subsistence resources in Unit 2.

Ted Sandhofer of Petersburg reported that there was an overwhelming surprise in the community for the Board's decision to designate Ketchikan as a rural community. His community also experienced a warm and wet winter, and this has served moose and deer well in central Southeast where there seems to be pretty good populations. The lack of snow is a worry; however, for fish health in the coming summer. There is turmoil associated with the uncertainty of local USFS jobs. Employees and their families contribute to the economic growth and prosperity of the community and their engagement as residents have positive impacts as well, especially in the smaller communities. It is hard for a community to absorb the loss of good paying, year-round jobs for its citizens. He is looking forward to seeing a youth voice on the Council and hearing their perspective. He gave a shout out to the USFS subsistence staff for their work on the Subsistence Dashboard online reporting tool. He reflected on the emotional drain of the last meeting (due to the controversial rural determination agenda item), and he is looking forward to a more regular meeting with opportunities to interact with each other and discuss issues that subsistence users are facing.

Patricia Phillips of Pelican reported that there were warmer winter/fall seasons and that the lack of snow to push the deer down from the alpine made it harder for deer hunting success at lower elevations. Severe, unpredictable storm winds created challenges for harvesters traveling by small skiffs to hunting grounds and also because of the scent being blown around, which pre-warned deer. She had to put in a lot of time and effort for deer harvests this year to get what her family needed for consumption. There was low abundance of King Salmon in the inlet and there are now less migratory birds passing through and many of those birds look sick. The issue of nonresident unguided fishermen is still distressing for many in her community, and this concern is expected to continue, particularly as it may have a food security impact on the residents of Pelican.

Harvey Kitka of Sitka reported that bear populations and human/bear interactions have increased, perhaps due to the mild winter, and this has created concern about bear attacks on citizens of the community. Sockeye Salmon streams are suffering except for the Redoubt Lake system. He would like to know why the Redoubt Lake population has exploded to the point where there were approximately 300,000 that returned last year. There are questions and concerns about ADF&G overestimating the herring population by about 50%, the amount of spawn, and that ADF&G is not considering local knowledge on the issue. Prior indigenous management of salmon streams resulted in good spawning grounds and successfully produced fish. The current work by the USFS for stream restorations is important, and he believes this will help bring back populations of salmon.

John Smith, III of Juneau reported that even though he lives in a nonrural area, some of the information in his community reports comes from what he hears when working locally on repairing fishing boats. Charter and sports fishermen seem to be pretty busy. He heard reports that halibut and cod were harder to catch this past season. He ate more steelhead this year. He shared his observations of the receding Mendenhall Glacier, of other changes to terrestrial habitats, and the effects these changes have on the water for fish and waterfowl. Because of the snow/rain pattern this past season, many harvesters had to work harder to get their deer because the deer stayed up in higher elevations. More brown bears are being seen than before, and he believes all bear populations have increased based on the amount of cubs he has seen. A lot of wolves are being sighted. He noticed that herring and herring eggs on kelp are showing up in places he hasn't seen before. He does not see the killer whales come into the area (following herring) as often as he used to. Crab numbers have dropped, and this year it has been a struggle to find a good location to successfully harvest crab. He also commented on the hydroponic greenhouse in Hoonah. He shared insight on the struggles to harvest clams and cockles over the years and emphasized the need to be able to put food on the table for families in Alaska.

Lewis Hiatt of Hollis reported that he attended the East Prince of Wales (POW) Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Hollis Community Council meetings recently. Their biggest concerns were the potential impacts of the rural designation of Ketchikan on fish/wildlife populations. The population declines of Unit 2 deer and the unguided non-resident sport fishermen issue were also mentioned specifically at these meetings.

Don Hernandez of Point Baker reported an unsuccessful deer hunting season in his area and that people are seeing fewer deer on the north end of the Prince of Wales Island (POW), which seems to be an ongoing situation. He has a temporary part-time job with ADF&G running a string of boards collecting wolf hair for genetic analysis, and he reported noticing a fair amount of wolf activity this past fall while performing the hair board work. He observed that the wolves are traveling the roads and covering a lot of territory. A major concern of local residents is the continued growth of unguided sport fishing groups. There is a big operation in his community and on any given day in summer, these groups may triple the population of the community. That operation expanded this year and now there are more beds, more boats, and an unlimited growth potential that makes the business a lot of money but doesn't do anything for the community except deplete local resources. The community isn't happy with that but as an unincorporated community without zoning restrictions/ordinances, people can do whatever they want.

Neighbors are reporting that some outfitters are providing deer hunting opportunities in the fall, and he anticipates that locals will not be happy seeing a boatload of nonresidents unloading in a location where locals usually hunt. They do not know what mechanisms, if any, there are to slow this negative impact to residents who are trying to get deer for their families. There are also bear hunts in the spring, bringing more competition to the area, and all this seems to be a natural progression from the nonresident unguided sport fishing issue.

Chair Report: Chair Hernandez reported he was disappointed that he wasn't able to attend the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) meeting in person because of weather. The Board did not agree with the Council's opposition recommendation on rescinding the non-rural determination of Ketchikan. He wished he could have been present to be on-hand in person but feels it probably wouldn't have made much of a difference on the Board's vote on the issue. Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) showed up in Anchorage with a lot of people testifying in support. He said the Council should congratulate KIC, who worked hard to get that determination to benefit their Tribal citizens. He reminded everyone that the Council supported KIC in getting a subsistence priority for resources, but the Council felt that the community of Ketchikan, as a whole, wasn't 'rural'. The Board disagreed, and this is a lesson learned – public testimony can make a difference. Other proposals included the Makhnati closure, which was on the consensus agenda and approved without specific discussion. The Taku River fishery proposal was deferred as the process through the Pacific Salmon Commission is still in progress. The Eulachon closure on the Unuk River proposal was deferred as the Ketchikan rural designation changes the whole dynamic of that proposal.

Southeast/Yakutat Alaska Board of Fisheries Post-Meeting Report:

Member Casipit reflected on his attendance and representation at the February 2025 Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting on behalf of the Council. He provided details regarding the three proposals submitted to BOF by the Council and a brief overview of some of the BOF's actions taken on the 23 proposals of particular interest to the Council.¹ He suggested that the Council resubmit its King Salmon proposal in the next BOF cycle.

Training:

Proposal Development:

Jason Roberts, Ph.D., OSM Anthropologist, presented a broad overview of the Federal proposal process and the steps to submitting proposed changes to Federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations. The Council and public were reminded that they can contact OSM or USFS staff for assistance and guidance in writing proposals².

¹ Summary of the Alaska Board of Fisheries actions can be found at https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2024-2025/se/soa_2-18-25.pdf; the Council's public comment letter on certain proposals can be found as PC471 at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/2024-2025/se/PC401-500.pdf>

² <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-10/how-change-fed-subsis-regulations-10162024final.pdf>

Action Items:

Tongass National Forest Revision:

Eric Garner, Acting Deputy Regional Forester, Rob Cross, Tongass Subsistence Program Manager, and Ashley Bolwerk, South Zone Subsistence Biologist, USFS, provided information to the Council regarding the current process to revise the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan (Forest Plan). Staff led the Council in an activity for council members to think about what they believe is important to include in the Forest Plan Revision. Through this exercise, the Council helped identify important subsistence-related components, desired conditions, and/or changes to include in the revised Forest Plan.

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Casipit, to form a working group to provide further details for standards and guidelines for the Forest Plan. Members to be a part of the working group were: Sandhofer, Casipit, Smith, Hernandez, Douville, and Kitka.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion by Member Casipit, seconded by Member Sandhofer, to support the bulleted list created from the Council's initial input along with the additional information shared by the working group. The Council, from thorough discussion, offered amendments and clarifying statements on the record. The motion included the instruction to forward the Council's feedback on the Forest Plan in a letter to Tongass National Forest leadership.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

The Board Action Summary

Dr. Roberts provided an overview of the actions taken by the Board at their February 2025 regulatory meeting on Southeast Region issues:

Non-consensus Agenda:

- **FP25-01**—The Taku River proposal to implement Federal subsistence regulations was **deferred** by the Board by a unanimous vote until the Transboundary River Panel process is completed and approved by the Pacific Salmon Commission.
- **FP25-02**—The Unuk River proposal was **deferred** by a unanimous vote to allow the Council the opportunity to modify the proposal, if they see fit, and provide time for an updated OSM analysis. At this meeting, the Council was informed that their feedback was welcome to inform the updated/revised analysis which will be provided for the fall 2025 meeting. The Council was informed that it will be asked for a revised recommendation on this proposal.
- **NDP25-01**—The Ketchikan Non-Rural Determination proposal to rescind Ketchikan's Non-Rural status **passed** by a 7 to 3 vote, making Ketchikan rural; thereby, adding approximately 13,000 more people eligible to harvest in Units 1-5 as federally qualified rural residents.

Consensus Agenda:

- **FCR25-03** – Closure affecting Makhnati Island Herring, the Board approved retaining the status quo on that closure, through adoption of the consensus Agenda.

Wildlife Closure Reviews

Jake Musslewhite, South Zone Subsistence Biologist, and Ashley Bolwerk both with USFS provided a summary of the analyses for the wildlife closures for Unit 2 Deer (WCR26-01) and Unit 5 Moose (WCR26-02) to inform the Council's potential proposal development and asked for the Council's input. The Council will act upon these wildlife closure reviews at its fall 2025 meeting. Lisa Grediagin, OSM Wildlife Division Supervisor, fielded questions about a potential ANILCA §804 analysis. Dr. Roberts also asked for feedback on the effectiveness of the newly implemented effectiveness of Unit 4 Deer closures.

Southeast Alaska Wildlife Report

Ms. Bolwerk presented a synopsis of wildlife harvests for a variety of species throughout Southeast Alaska in 2024. She provided details for many different geographic areas and answered questions.

Call for Federal Wildlife Regulatory Proposals

Chair Hernandez led the call for Federal wildlife regulatory proposals with a request for the Council to comment and express concerns on the record. Discussions by the Council centered around Unit 2 deer.

Closure of Unit 2 for deer harvest by non-federally qualified users

Motion by Member Casipit, seconded by Member Phillips, to submit a proposal and a special action to close Federal public lands to deer hunting by non-federally qualified users in Unit 2 (*special action would be for the 2025/26 regulatory year*).

The Council believes this closure is necessary for the conservation of a healthy deer population in Unit 2 and to continue the subsistence uses of deer by Unit 2 residents. POW residents are not meeting their subsistence needs for deer, which is one of the most harvested and utilized subsistence resources by POW communities. Increasing competition with non-federally qualified users over a dwindling resource is also a growing concern.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Request for ANILCA §804 Prioritization for Subsistence Use Analysis – Unit 2 Deer

Motion by Member Casipit, seconded by Member Sandhofer, to submit a proposal and a special action, requesting that a §804 user prioritization analysis for deer in Unit 2 be conducted (*special action would be for the 2025/26 regulatory year*).

The Council believes a §804 analysis is required to prioritize the subsistence users most dependent upon the Unit 2 deer population. The Council is extremely concerned about the impacts to the deer population

and subsistence users on Unit 2 now that Ketchikan is a rural, federally qualified community. POW residents are not meeting their subsistence needs for deer, which is one of the most harvested and utilized subsistence resources by Unit 2 communities.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Elimination of Unit 2 doe harvest

- 1) Motion by Member Casipit, seconded by Member Smith, to submit a proposal and a special action for doe hunting in Unit 2 to be eliminated (*special action would be for the 2025/26 regulatory year*).

The Council is extremely concerned about highly unsustainable doe harvest when thousands of Ketchikan residents may harvest deer from Unit 2 under Federal regulations, significantly increasing doe harvest. Conservation concerns over the viability of the Unit 2 deer populations necessitate eliminating the doe harvest completely. The Council views this request as a proactive measure to conserve the Unit 2 deer population before the situation becomes even more dire as one bad winter and excessive doe harvest could devastate the population and greatly prolong recovery. The proposal would be submitted to address this issue in codified regulations and the Council considers the companion special action request necessary to get through the 2025/26 deer season without further exacerbating conservation concerns.

The motion passed on a 6-3 vote.

- 2) Motion by Member Phillips, seconded by Member Casipit, to reconsider the doe hunt elimination regulatory proposal/special action motion.

The Council received information that there is a Federal doe hunt proposal being submitted from another entity for consideration during this regulatory cycle. The Council discussed the importance of the doe hunt culturally and traditionally for some subsistence users and that for some, this hunt is necessary for food security. The Council wanted to split the previous motion to separate the request for a regulatory proposal from the request for a special action to address this matter.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

- 3) Motion by Member Casipit, seconded by Member Sandhofer, to submit a special action to eliminate the doe hunt in Unit 2 for the 2025/26 hunting season only if the final rule establishing Ketchikan as a rural community publishes before the end of the Unit 2 deer hunting season.

The Council was informed that there is a similar regulatory proposal being submitted by a State of Alaska Advisory Committee and it was not necessary for the Council to submit a similar proposal on the same issue. However, the special action would be a proactive measure to conserve the Unit 2 deer population

before the conservation concern is exacerbated by thousands of additional federally qualified subsistence users from Ketchikan being able to harvest five deer on POW, one of which may be a doe.

The motion passed on a 7-2 vote.

Unit 2 Wolf Management

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Casipit, to write a letter to the Board encouraging them to direct the Unit 2 in-season manager to strongly consider traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) along with local knowledge in the management of wolves in Unit 2. Subsistence uses of this resource are not being allowed to continue. Further, the letter should request that the in-season manager, through delegation of authority measures, should set a 45-day trapping season as a minimum harvest season for Unit 2 wolves.

The Council believes that there is a harvestable surplus of wolves and it is necessary to increase the previous 31-day trapping season to a minimum of 45-day trapping season for the continuation of subsistence uses (the need for wolf pelts for bartering, handicrafts, or regalia, is not being met). The Council recognized that people have trapped wolves for generations and the customary and traditional practices as well as local observations associated with wolf trapping should be considered alongside scientific data with respect to wolf management in Unit 2.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

WP24-01 Statewide Sale of Brown Bear Hides Update:

Motion by Member Casipit, seconded by Member Phillips, to support this proposal as modified by OSM in the revised analysis (Feb. 2025 conclusion).

The Council was satisfied with the information presented in the updated analysis on this proposal. There is no conservation concern for brown bears in Southeast Alaska and there is substantial evidence in the analysis to support the selling and use of these hides for handicraft items. The Council understands the importance of salvaging and utilizing raw materials culturally. This regulation protects the animals from overharvest and the Council's support of the OSM February 2025 conclusion on this proposal would not unnecessarily restrict other users.

The motion passed on an 8-1 vote.

Call for Alaska Board of Game Regulatory Proposals

DeAnna Perry, USFS Council Coordinator, informed the Council that the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) is currently accepting wildlife proposals through May 1, 2025. The Council did not vote to submit any BOG proposals during the current cycle.

Council Charter Review

The Council reviewed the current Charter and voted to /support it without proposing any changes.

Review and approve FY2024 Annual Report

Motion by Member Phillips, seconded by Member Casipit, to approve FY2024 annual report with minor language edits as discussed. Topics included in the report to the Board: scheduling conflicts between Board, BOF/BOG, and North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings; the definition of ‘rural’ as it pertains to nonrural determination proposals; requests for information about Unit 4 deer monitoring; the desire to have additional data for the fish and wildlife status reports; and the need to fund a Unit 4 deer survey and a moose survey in Yakutat. In addition, the Council also informed the Board about its intent to provide input on the Tongass National Forest Plan revision process, as appropriate, in the coming years.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Future Meeting Dates

The Council confirmed their Fall 2025 meeting dates and location: October 21-23, 2025, in Wrangell. The Council selected their Winter 2026 meeting date and location: March 10-12, 2026, in Juneau. The Council selected their Fall 2026 meeting date and location: October 20-22, 2026, in Gustavus.

Reports:

- Metlakatla Indian Community – Fish and Wildlife Department: Ian Hudson, European Green Crab Report
- Hoonah Indian Association: Ian Johnson, Unit 4 Deer survey update
- ADF&G – Subsistence Division: Emily Doll, Subsistence Division Report
- National Park Service: Amber Cohen, Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve report
- U.S. Forest Service
 - Special Actions report and Subsistence Data Dashboard overview: Rob Cross
 - General USFS Report: Greg Risdahl, Regional Subsistence Program Manager
 - Food from the Forest presentation: Marie Gutgesell and Ryan Bellmore, Ph.D.
 - Southeast Fisheries Report: Jake Musslewhite

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Casipit, to send a letter to ADF&G Commissioner (or state area biologist) requesting that, due to conservation concerns, the Eek Lake Subsistence Fishery be closed until the Sockeye Salmon harvest is sustainable. Since this is a state-managed fishery outside of federal jurisdiction, the Council voted to send a letter to ADF&G and not submit a federal special action request to address this issue.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

- Office of Subsistence Management
 - Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update: Rob Cross and Dr. Jason Roberts

- Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program update: Rob Cross and Dr. Jason Roberts
- General Report: Lisa Grediagin
- Sea Bank Report: Emily Scott (Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust)

Other Business:

Correspondence Review

Ms. Perry provided a brief review of the letters that the Council voted to send at its last meeting as well as bringing their attention to letters from the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture received in response to previous letters sent by the Council.

- Comment letter on the Alaska Board of Fisheries Southeast Alaska proposals
- Letter requesting funding for member to attend the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting
- USDA-DOI Secretarial Response to Sitka Kaagwaantan Clan's Petition for Extra Territorial Jurisdiction
- USDA-DOI Secretarial Response on transboundary mining issues
- USDA-DOI Secretarial Response to State of Alaska's Nov. 13 letter on Unit 4 Deer (with Nov. 13, 2024, letter from State of Alaska)
- USDA-DOI Secretarial Response on Council member compensation request
- USDA-DOI Secretarial Response on Council's fisheries management concerns
- USDA-DOI Secretarial Response on Council's correspondence policy concerns
- USDA-DOI Secretarial Response to Kodiak-Aleutians Council's concern on meeting/tribal consultation notifications

Non-voting Young Leader Seat Update

Ms. Perry informed the Council that staff are now reviewing letters of interest from applicants wishing to occupy the non-voting young leader seat on each of the 10 Regional Advisory Councils. It is hoped that these young leaders will be onboard by the winter 2026 Council meeting.

Travel Compensation Update

Ms. Perry informed the Council that the payment of travel per diem expenses to members by paper check will no longer be an option. Council members will have a choice of receiving their travel per diem payments by a stipend card or by direct deposit into the member's bank account.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m. on March 20, 2025.

Prepared Minutes /s/ Signature on File

DeAnna Perry, Designated Federal Officer
USDA - United States Forest Service

Certified by Chair on 6/2/2025 via email

Don Hernandez, Chair
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

This version of the meeting minutes has been certified by the Chair. The final version will be formally considered by the full Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its fall 2025 meeting scheduled for October 21-23, 2025, in Wrangell, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

A more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcripts, and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Office of Subsistence Management at 1-800-478-1456 or Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry, at 907-209-7817 or email: deanna.perry@usda.gov.