

SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

The Nolan Center
Wrangell, Alaska
December 17-18, 2025

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 9:07 a.m. Council members Cal Casipit, John Smith III, Ted Sandhofer, Larry Bemis, Louie Wagner, James Slater, Michael Douville, Harvey Kitka, and Lewis Hiatt were present in person. Council members Don Hernandez, Patty Phillips, and Albert Howard attended via teleconference. With twelve out of thirteen seated Council members present, the quorum was established.

Attendees:

In person:

- *Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Anchorage: Kara Moriarty*
- *United States Forest Service (USFS), Juneau: DeAnna Perry; Anchorage: Rob Cross; Sitka: Ashley Bolwerk; Yakutat: Susan Oehlers; Wrangell: Tori Hauser, Joe Delabrué*
- *Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Homer: Glenn Chen*
- *Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Anchorage: Scott Ayers and Katerina Wessels*
- *Sitka Conservation Society and University of Alaska Southeast (UAS): Heather Bauscher*
- *Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Yakutat: Matt Anderstrom and Melenda Lekanof*
- *Ketchikan Indian Community, Ketchikan: Gloria Burns and Shenna Fortner*
- *Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Advisory Committee (AC): Chris Guggenbickler*
- *Alaska Native Sisterhood: Sandy Churchill, Grand President and Wrangell Cooperative Association Tribal Vice President*
- *Sue Stevens*

Via teleconference:

- *USFS, Anchorage: Greg Risdahl*
- *OSM, Anchorage: Orville Lind*
- *National Park Service (NPS), Glennallen: Amber Cohen*
- *Staff to Alaska Senator Stedman: Barbara Schneider*
- *Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska: Carly Tynes Hassell, William Micklin*

- **Organized Village of Kake:** Joel Jackson,): *La quenna'ay Tsiits Git'anee* , Justin McDonald
- **Sitka Tribe of Alaska:** Kyle Rosendale
- **Hoonah Indian Association:** Mary Jack
- **Marcelo Quinto,** past Grand President of Alaska native Brotherhood
- *Ava Korpieski,* Sitka High School Student
- *James Phillip*
- *Brian Metz*

Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Smith, to adopt the agenda as is. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Smith and Member Howard, to approve the winter 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Moment of silence for Bert Adams Kadashan of Yakutat

Council Member and Chair Reports:

Don Hernandez of Point Baker described more than 40 years of living and fishing in Point Baker, noting that this winter's extreme snowfall and cold temperatures are causing serious concern for deer survival, especially coming right after the rut when bucks are already weakened. He compared the situation to the severe winter of the early 1970s that devastated deer populations in central Southeast Alaska, and added that recent storm events, widespread blowdown, and lingering impacts from the hemlock sawfly outbreak have further stressed the local forest ecosystem and community. He also reported very poor commercial catches of sockeye, pink, and coho salmon in Sumner Strait, despite some healthy escapements in local streams, while hatchery Chum Salmon were the only species performing well enough to support the fleet.

Member Hernandez also shared his recent activities as Council Chair, explaining that he attended public testimony sessions and tribal consultations related to deer management and potential 804 allocations in Unit 2, but chose not to testify in an official capacity because the Council had not yet fully discussed the issues. He did, however, offer personal testimony as a Unit 2 resident and listened in on tribal concerns to stay informed. He also attended the Board meeting where decisions on temporary special action requests were made, again participating only as a concerned resident rather than as Chair.

Patricia Phillips of Pelican described a year marked by unusual weather patterns, beginning with a dry April, a mostly wet summer, and a three-week drought that temporarily blocked salmon from entering small spawning streams until heavy rains returned. Once water levels rose, sockeye and coho runs were strong, berries were abundant, and local king salmon catches improved, while halibut remained a critical subsistence resource despite one community member losing gear under suspicious circumstances.

During the fall hunt, persistent bad weather limited early opportunities, but conditions later improved and deer became more visible, with one outing yielding sightings of about 25 deer, including many bucks. She noted that Pelican residents rely heavily on subsistence harvests and SHARC cards, and that people took advantage of the ten-day subsistence-only hunt when weather allowed, making it an overall productive season for many local households.

Albert Howard of Angoon spent much of the summer in Chatham and observed that coho fishing was good for about a week before an unusual concentration of 20 power-trollers appeared near key terminal areas for Angoon, which coincided with a very weak return to Salt Lake. Community members also raised concerns about sea otter impacts, the high cost of living, and the vulnerability of Angoon during events like the recent government shutdown. The lack of an airport, barge landing, or reliable ferry service left the community without food deliveries or fuel. He emphasized that regulations often change without Angoon at the table, and residents want data showing whether their king salmon harvests truly justify localized closures.

He reported that deer populations appear strong, but increased hunting pressure from outside communities is affecting local access, and sockeye required significant effort and fuel to harvest. Residents are also worried about a new self-guided tourism business starting in Chatham, which may add further pressure to local resources. Overall, he stressed that Angoon faces unique challenges—limited transportation, high costs, regulatory impacts, and growing competition for resources—and that these factors must be considered to protect the community’s ability to meet its subsistence needs.

John Smith of Juneau reflected on a lifetime of harvesting across Southeast Alaska—from herring eggs in Sitka and Port Frederick to hooligan in Klukwan and sockeye in Excursion Inlet and Angoon—and described how family networks, trade, and cultural obligations continue to shape his subsistence practices even as work limits his time on the land and water. This year he saw unusually large herring, strong hooligan returns, productive salmon runs, abundant seaweed, and signs of herring spawning in new areas near Juneau, all of which brought a sense of renewal and celebration within his extended family and communities.

He also shared concerns about shellfish safety, noting that high PSP levels have kept him from harvesting clams for decades and that cockles and geoducks are now harder to find, with geoduck shells unusually soft. Despite these challenges, he continues to harvest what he can and brought smoked cockles to share. During recent family ceremonies in Hoonah, he observed many young deer and numerous large bucks—even within town—indicating a healthy population. He closed by offering cultural words of strength and connection, emphasizing that in Tlingit tradition there is no word for goodbye, only the promise of seeing one another again.

Ted Sandhofer of Petersburg said that they experienced an unusually cold, wet spring, with the second-wettest April and the wettest May on record, which led to a short salmonberry season, poor blueberry production, and limited success for dry-garden growers. Despite these conditions, central

Southeast saw a record moose harvest with very few illegal takes, strong deer numbers, and a successful Stikine subsistence fishery. However, recent heavy snowfall and an approaching cold snap have raised concerns about winter survival for deer, moose, and other game.

Halibut stocks continue to decline in size and availability, forcing people to travel farther to harvest them, and unguided non-resident fishers are having a noticeable impact on local subsistence users. Looking ahead, he emphasized the importance of the Council staying vigilant during the ongoing programmatic review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, noting that proposed regulatory changes could affect traditional and cultural uses across Southeast and must be carefully scrutinized to protect subsistence rights.

Louie Wagner of Metlakatla described a strong Unuk River spring run, recalling how the Eulachon arrived in such dense numbers that the river seemed “plugged with fish,” even though harvesting has become harder for him with age and long travel times. Moose hunting on the Unuk was productive for others, but he arrived late in the season; meanwhile, local coho, pink, and wild salmon runs were extremely poor, with only summer chum performing well. He also noted troubling signs in recent years, including the absence of salmon fry in spring, fewer whales, and herring only just beginning to reappear—changes he finds deeply concerning for the future of king salmon and the broader ecosystem.

He emphasized how closely he and his family observe environmental cues while fishing and hunting, spending weeks at the river when possible and learning from wildlife behavior. Deer populations appear to be recovering, aided by local efforts to control wolves, though he stressed that wolf predation on fawns remains significant. Despite some positive signs—like fresh snow that will help streams and reservoirs—he remains worried about declining salmon fry and shifting marine conditions, which make the future of local salmon runs uncertain.

Harvey Kitka of Sitka reported that this year’s hunting season was fair and that Sockeye salmon fishing at Redoubt Lake appears to be improving. He noted that the size of King (Chinook) salmon has declined in recent years, with many fish now only marginally meeting the legal size limit. He also expressed ongoing concerns about herring abundance, stating that grey whale predation may be reducing availability of herring and herring eggs for subsistence users.

Larry Bemis of Yakutat said that he is a lifelong resident of that community and commercial fisherman who has watched rapid changes threaten the community’s resources and way of life. He described a sharp increase in cruise ships and outside sport-fishing pressure, both of which strain local fisheries and lack meaningful limits or accountability. Salmon returns were mixed—Sockeye and Coho Salmon runs were strong, but king salmon, hooligan, and herring were low—and subsistence halibut fishing is becoming harder as non-guided visitors harvest heavily. He also noted that Yakutat’s crab fishery has been closed since 2000, with repeated requests for a small test fishery ignored.

Rising living costs, limited transportation, and new development driven by outside buyers are making it increasingly difficult for local residents to remain in Yakutat. Fuel, groceries, and basic goods are

extremely expensive, and the lack of a ferry system isolates the community. Moose hunting saw unusually high pressure from non-local hunters due to new air-taxi access, reducing opportunities for subsistence users. He worries that without stronger protections, Yakutat could lose its resources and cultural identity as outside influence grows. He closed by honoring community leaders Bert Adams Sr. and Raymond Sensmeier, who inspired him to serve on the Council.

Lewis Hiatt of Hollis shared that his community experienced a true winter this year and that he is still learning in his second Council meeting. On the sport-fishing side, he appreciated the move to in-season king salmon management, though the mid-season closure and sudden reopening left many unsure about how the quota was calculated. Commercially, he noted continued losses of king salmon to sport harvest, while the sockeye subsistence season was generally good despite being patchy at times.

Across Prince of Wales, he said the community is bracing for major change as cruise ships begin arriving in Klawock, with nearly 60 expected next year despite the lack of a proper dock. He also described how severe weather shortened an already short wolf season, leaving only about three weeks of huntable conditions. Overall, he expressed hope for stability—both in government operations and in local resource management—as the community navigates increasing outside pressure and environmental challenges.

Michael Douville of Craig explained that his community is facing renewed pressure from old-growth logging, with extremely short public comment periods that make it difficult for the community to respond. He is deeply concerned that continued old-growth harvest will push the deer population—already about half of what it was in the 1990s—beyond recovery. He noted that although the Council recommended managing wolves at 150–200 animals, the actual management level is closer to 200–300, which further reduces deer availability and limits subsistence opportunity. Local tribes and residents are now exploring ways to extend hunting or trapping seasons so they can better manage wolves and protect deer.

He added that sockeye returns were mixed across streams, with some systems showing abundance and others performing poorly. Overall, he emphasized that wildlife management decisions—especially around wolves and old-growth logging—are directly affecting subsistence access, and that current practices are not aligned with what the Council recommended to sustain deer populations for local users.

Jim Slater of Pelican shared that residents of his community report a productive deer season so far, with some people wondering whether the new uniform deer regulations may have reduced hunting pressure and helped local success. At the same time, community members have noticed unusually few bear sightings on the south side of Pelican, though it's unclear whether this reflects a real change or simple coincidence.

Tourism impacts remain a major concern, especially with a self-guided lodge and several large, industrial-scale lodges operating nearby. Rumors of consolidation and expansion raise fears that even larger operations could increase pressure on local fisheries. On the positive side, the local processing plant reported a strong coho season, suggesting at least some fish runs performed well this year.

Acting Chair Calvin Casipit of Gustavus reported that the Subsistence Division is nearly finished with its Icy Straits household surveys for Tenakee Springs, Gustavus, and Pelican, and that early deer data shared with the Unit 4 Deer Working Group was informative. He praised the Forest Service for providing law enforcement presence during the ten-day closure on the Hoonah Road System, which helped ensure only federally qualified users hunted and allowed for positive public outreach. In terms of resources, halibut were small early in the season but improved later, though some community members struggled to catch enough. Sockeye harvest was disrupted because the processing company did not install the small-boat dock, making access difficult and preventing him from fishing his usual spot.

Coho fishing was strong, allowing him to replace the sockeyes he couldn't harvest, and he had an excellent early-October deer hunt with abundant young deer and good browse conditions. Moose hunting in the Gustavus area reached guideline harvest levels quickly and closed early, and he met his hooligan needs through family sharing from Anchorage. Because of the government shutdown and resulting SNAP delays, he shared far more food than usual—halibut, Coho, and half of his deer harvest—to support community members who were struggling.

Length of Service Awards

Kara Moriarty, Senior Advisory to the Secretary of the Interior for Alaska Affairs, presented Member Douville with 25-years length of service award and Member Bemis with 5-year length of service award. Two other Council members, Phillips and Wright, will receive their 30-year and 20-year length of service awards at the Council's next meeting, when they will be present in person.

Report from the Office of the Secretary of Interior

Ms. Moriarty introduced the Secretarial review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program. She noted that the Program was mentioned as part of the President's executive order on unlocking Alaska's resource potential (14153), as well as another EO to review all government programs. Ms. Moriarty noted that a wide range of views have been recently expressed about the program from different groups, which is part of what led to this activity of ensuring the Program is functioning as it should be. She requested input from the Council on seven specific topics.

The Council had a lengthy discussion on the record of these topics:

- The move of OSM in 2024 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the DOI Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
- Criteria for Regional Advisory Council membership
- Membership of the Federal Subsistence Board
- Federal regulations and State regulations regarding duplication and inconsistency
- Regulations specific to Special Actions
- The Role of the State of Alaska and its Department of Fish and Game in the Federal Subsistence Management Program
- Federal Subsistence Board policies and procedures for rural determinations

Additionally, the Council identified one more topic to be brought up to the Secretaries attention: Deference to Councils' Recommendations.

Motion by Member Slater, seconded by Member Howard, to draft a letter with Council comments based on their on-record discussion of the Secretarial review topics and provide it for Council approval on the second day of the meeting. The main motion as amended passed with 11 for and one abstention.

Motion by Member Howard, seconded by Member Phillips and Member Hernandez to amend the main motion to send the Council Chair and Vice Chair to the public hearing meetings. The motion passed with one member abstaining.

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Smith, to request funds from OSM to send two individuals from the Council to the listening meeting in Anchorage (February). The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

The Council took no action on the motion]

Action Items:

Southeast Alaska Federal Subsistence Wildlife Report

Ashley Bolwerk, South Zone Subsistence Biologist, USFS, presented information on moose harvests in 2025 to prepare the Council for an upcoming wildlife proposal and answered questions.

Developing recommendations on Wildlife Proposals and Wildlife Closures

Regional Proposals and Closure Reviews

WCR26-02: Unit 5 Moose Closure Review

Motion by Member Slater, seconded by Member Sandhofer to **retain status quo** of the closure to the harvest of moose by non-federally qualified users (NFQUs) on Federal public lands in Unit 5A from Sept. 16 – Sept. 30 (East of Dangerous River) and Oct. 8 – Oct. 21 (West of the Dangerous River).

The Council heard significant Tribal and public testimony, supported by local knowledge, regarding the use and importance of moose hunting for local, federally qualified subsistence users in both Unit 5A West and Unit 5A East. This testimony emphasized the need to maintain the closures in both areas, to help federally qualified subsistence users meet their needs for moose in an area where the price of store-bought foods can be prohibitive, and hunting competition from non-local users has been increasing. An air taxi service had recently expanded into areas historically relied upon by local families, and non-local competition for moose to is expected to increase in the area as a result. Though the moose hunt is utilized in the more easily accessible Unit 5A West, testifiers noted that portions of Unit 5A East that are relatively accessible without a plane are a very important safety net for local hunters who are unable to harvest a moose within unit 5A West. Further, testifiers voiced concerns over the lack of recent populations surveys for Unit 5A moose, explaining that locals had difficulty finding enough moose to meet the harvest quota in the previous season due to a significant increase in the populations of wolves in

the area. There is also concern that the Alaska Board of Game may, in the future, expand the dates of its State moose season hunt in this area which would attract better-equipped, non-local hunters who would largely outcompete local hunters for moose in this area. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Statewide Proposals

WP26-01: Move Authority Delegated through Letters into Unit Specific Regulations

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Slater to **support WP26-01 with modifications recommended by OSM:** to replace the term “coordination with” and “seeking input and considering feedback from.”

The Council viewed WP26-01 as a housekeeping proposal that will streamline in-season management and reduce the administrative burden of agencies without reducing the in-season managers’ ability to take necessary actions. The Council felt that in events where quick action is required, this proposed change allows in-season managers to be more responsive. The Council also recognized that having delegated authority in regulation versus letters provides more opportunity for the public to comment on or request changes to management authority, making the process more efficient and transparent. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion by Member Slater, seconded by Member Smith, to **support WP26-01a (Southeast addendum) with modifications** recommended by OSM: to retain the broad authority to manage some moose, deer, and mountain goat hunts across the Southeast region by ranger district within the Tongass National Forest in Delegation of Authority letters and to clarify the Unit 5B moose regulations.

The Council felt that the proposed changes in the WP26-01a will help address conservation concerns by allowing in-season managers to react to conditions on the ground while providing an understandable and transparent way to change in-season managers’ authority that was previously delegated through letters. The Council felt that this change will be beneficial to subsistence users while not unnecessarily restricting other users. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Board of Game Proposal Discussion

Rob Cross, Tongass Subsistence Program Manager, USFS, informed the Council of the current period open to comment on Alaska Board of Game proposals for Southeast Alaska. The Council indicated their desire to make comments on some of the proposals¹. Mr. Cross and Ms. Bolwerk fielded questions while the Council identified the proposals upon which they would submit comment.

¹ Motion by Member Howard, seconded by Member Sandhofer, to commence meeting on Dec 18 at 8 am instead of 9 am to allow time for discussion by full council on Board of Game Proposals. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Smith, to direct staff to draft a formal comment letter to Board of Game within the open public comment period with comments as discussed at their meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Bemis, to send Member Casipit to attend the Board of Game meeting in Wrangell to represent the Council and provide the Council's comments on proposals in person. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Smith, to request funding from OSM to send Member Casipit to the Board of Game meeting in Wrangell. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Annual Report

Identify Issues for FY2025 Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board

The Council discussed what items they'd like to see in the FY2025 Annual Report and then identified the following items to bring to the Board's action:

- Youth engagement and student participation in subsistence activities/governance/education
- Non-resident unguided hunting and fishing impacts on subsistence resources
- Increased wildlife monitoring and biological capacity data needed
- King Salmon subsistence allocation concerns
- Habitat impacts from past logging practices
- Tribal co-management and collaborative research is requested
- Education, curriculum development and outreach by the Board is requested
- Subsistence halibut coordination between US Fish and Wildlife Service and North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Informational items (for Board's awareness – no action): importance of surveys and predator-prey information, Secretarial Review of Federal Subsistence Management Program and protection of subsistence access, and subsistence data and flexibility in allocations needed

Motion by Member Howard, seconded by Member Sandhofer, to approve the items as listed on the screen during the Council meeting for its Annual Report. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Future Meeting Dates

The Council confirmed its previously selected winter 2026 meeting dates/location and to add one additional day, if approved: March 10–13, 2026, in Juneau.

The Council selected its fall 2026 meeting dates/location: October 20-22, 2026, in Gustavus, if approved.

Fisheries Program Updates:

2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Mr. Cross provided a brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program's processes (including funding). He noted the Council's updated priority information needs list for the Southeast Region from fall 2024 and fielded questions from the Council.

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program

Jackson Combs, Hoonah Indian Association (HIA), provided a high level overview of efforts to strengthen connections and build the fisheries division within HIA's environmental department and some of the different outreach and projects they have been involved with over the last year.

Reports:

- U.S. Forest Service
 - Alaska Roadless Rule presented by Nicole Grewe, Deputy Regional Forester
 - Tongass National Forest – Plan Revision presented by Barb Miranda, Deputy Forest Supervisor
- National Park Service: Amber Cohen, Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WSTE NPP), presented the Coastal report and also that there is a vacancy for the Southeast representative on the WSTE Subsistence Resource Commission
- Yakutat Tlingit Tribe: Melinda Lekanof provided information regarding some of the Tribe's current projects and partnerships
- Office of Subsistence Management: Scott Ayers, Deputy Director – Sciences provided a general report and program updates

Other Business:

Upcoming Fish Proposal Development

Motion by Member Sandhofer, seconded by Member Smith, to form a working group to meet before the next Council meeting to discuss potential issues that the Council may want to address with a federal fish proposal and to bring those suggestions before the Council at its winter meeting. Volunteers for the work group were identified: Members Sandhofer, Smith, Howard, Bemis and Lewis.t. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Public Testimony (for complete testimony, please review transcripts for December 17-18, 2026²)

- *Ava Korpieski*: community concerns about sea otter impacts, charter-fishing pressure, invasive species, and rapid climate-driven changes to marine ecosystems
- *Gloria Burns*: Secretarial Review of Program and Ketchikan Indian Community's strong support for the current Federal Subsistence Board structure, the Program's present location, maintaining RAC and Board membership as is; tribal food security, extend scoping period from 60 to 90 days
- *Joel Jackson*: Kake's spring king-salmon closure, salmon and halibut are returning much smaller than in the past, outside hunter pressure on deer and moose populations; Secretarial Review of Program, expressed opposition to proposed changes to the Federal Subsistence Board - rural preference and federal protections are critical for Kake's food security and ability to survive as a community
- *Melenda Lekanof*: Secretarial Review of Program and important to remember subsistence is a priority for our villages in rural areas; also read Yakutat Tlingit Tribe's comment letter on some wildlife proposals; testified to WCR26-02
- *Will Micklin*: Central Council's concerns with initial Executive Order that displaced previous executive order requiring meaningful consultation with Tribes before federal action is taken; clear obligations of Title VIII of ANILCA
- *Matt Anderstrom*: Secretarial Review of Program with specific comments that the federal system exists because the state chooses to support sport and commercial interests over subsistence rights; also testified to WCR26-02
- *Melenda Lekanof*: (given during public comment on non-agenda items Dec 18 morning)
- *Chris Guggenbickler*: Wrangell ADF&G AC comments on some wildlife proposals, comments on elk
- *Sandy Churchill*: introduction, support of subsistence programs and regulations
- *Sue Stevens*: introduction, she previously co-wrote a proposal to have elk for subsistence
- *Heather Bauscher*: reported that her students attended North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and Salmon Treaty meetings; she is finalizing course curriculum guide for class; also testified about unguided boat issues discussion that came up at NPFMC meeting and that quotas for halibut were being exceeded in some units
- *Marcelo Quinto*: more testimony was needed before rural determination for Ketchikan was made
- *Mary Jack*: requesting a youth seat on the Board and community .810 hearings for Hoonah
- *La guen na'ay Tsiits Git'anee*: any weakening of the Tongass (Nat'l Forest) harms their ability to put up foods and carry forward their culture; increased pressure from commercial/sports fishermen and the importance of the continuation to prioritize local, tribal and rural users consistent with ANILCA's intent; Secretarial Review of Program – comment period too short; Safari Club International proposed changes would fundamentally undermine ANILCA

² <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/library/transcripts/1-southeast-alaska>

- *Gloria Burns:* concerns about delay in the conversation around ANILCA .804 for Unit 2 because this keeps more pressure on everyone; our people deserve access to the land that they have taken care of and have a responsibility to our non-human relatives
- *Brian Metz:* would like to see the hunts in Yakutat area more accessible for people with disabilities

Closing Comments:

The Council bid farewell to Member Slater as his term has expired and Member Kitka announced his resignation after serving on the Council for over 22 years.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m. on December 18, 2025.

Prepared Minutes /s/ Signature on File

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

Certified by Chair on 3/17/2026 by email

Don Hernandez, Chair
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

This version of the meeting minutes was certified by the Chair on March 17, 2026. The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council approved this version at its winter meeting on March 10, 2026.

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.