Federal Subsistence Management Program

An Overview

Office of Subsistence Management
What is the FSMP?

The Federal Subsistence Management Program (FSMP) administers the subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands by rural Alaskan residents.
The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) was passed. Title VIII prioritized subsistence uses of Federal public lands by rural Alaskans over other consumptive uses (i.e. recreational).

The Alaska Supreme Court ruled that the rural residency preference required by ANILCA violated the Alaska Constitution.

The Federal government assumed management of subsistence hunting, trapping and fishing on Federal public lands.

The State regulates harvest for all Alaska residents and nonresidents.

Dual management of fish and wildlife harvest on Federal public lands in Alaska.

The FSMP regulates harvest on Federal public lands by “Federally qualified subsistence users.”

The State of Alaska managed the subsistence priority.

The Federal Subsistence Management Program was created.
The FSMP does not administer the subsistence harvest of all species. The table below identifies the Federal programs with authority over various subsistence species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Federal Program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land mammals (i.e. moose, caribou, bears); Non-migratory game birds (i.e. grouse); Freshwater fish, including salmon; Shellfish (i.e. crabs, clams)</td>
<td>Federal Subsistence Management (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</td>
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<td>Polar bear, Walrus, Sea otter</td>
<td>Marine Mammals Management (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</td>
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<td>Migratory Birds (i.e. waterfowl)</td>
<td>Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</td>
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<td>Marine fish (i.e. halibut), Seal, Sea lion, Whale</td>
<td>National Marine Fisheries Service (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)</td>
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Who’s Who in the FSMP?

8 Member Federal Subsistence Board (Board)

The Board makes the final decisions on regulatory proposals affecting the harvest of fish and wildlife (e.g. restrictions/closures; C&T determinations; nonrural areas).
10 Regional Advisory Councils (Councils)

The Councils provide a forum for regional subsistence issues, facilitate public involvement and make recommendations to the Board on regulatory proposals. Councils include members with both subsistence and commercial/sport interests.
1 Office of Subsistence Management (OSM)

OSM supports the Board and Councils. OSM staff analyze regulatory proposals; coordinate Board and Council meetings and Tribal consultations; and publish fish and wildlife harvest regulations.

Many Federally Qualified Subsistence Users

Per ANILCA Title VIII, only rural Alaskan residents are considered “Federally qualified subsistence users.”
Federal Regulatory Process

Call for proposals
Proposals to change fish or wildlife regulations may be submitted Jan.-Mar. of even and odd years, respectively. Anyone (individual or organization) may submit a proposal to change a Federal harvest regulation.

Analysis of proposals
OSM staff analyze proposals for their potential effects on the wildlife/fish resource and subsistence use.

Review of Proposals
Analyses undergo multiple rounds of review, including by affected land managers, leadership within OSM, and the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC), which advises the Federal Subsistence Board (Board).

Publication in the CFR
If approved by the Board, proposals become Federal regulation and are published in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Federal Subsistence Board
The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) meets in January for Fisheries proposals and in April for Wildlife proposals to make the final decision.

Regional Advisory Councils
The Regional Advisory Councils (Councils) meet in Sept.-Nov. to provide recommendations on every proposal affecting their region.

Public and Tribal Comments
Written public comments are accepted for all proposals and included in analyses. The public may also comment on proposals at Council and Board meetings. Consultations with Tribes and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations are also conducted and their comments are expressed at meetings.
Additional Information

- FSMP Website: [https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/](https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/). Find information on regulatory proposals and upcoming meetings.
- Regulation booklets: Available at Federal offices (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management) and on-line (FSMP website).
Dual harvest management

State regulations
• Apply to everyone (all AK residents and non-residents)
• Apply on all lands (except National Parks)
• Alaska Board of Game
• Fish and Game ACs
• ADF&G
• 3-year regulatory cycle
• Emergency Orders

Federal regulations
• Only apply to Federally qualified subsistence users
• Only apply on Federal public lands
• Federal Subsistence Board
• Regional Advisory Councils
• OSM
• 2-year regulatory cycle
• Special action requests
• Federal closures supersede State regs on Federal public lands