REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEMBER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

PRESENTED BY:
KATYA WESSELS
COUNCIL COORDINATION DIVISION SUPERVISOR
WHAT ARE THE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS?

- Established under Title VIII of ANILCA:
  - To advise the Federal Subsistence Board
  - To provide a public forum for the expression of matters related to subsistence
- Charted under the Federal Advisory Committee Act
- Composition of each Council:
  - Ten to thirteen members
  - Diverse representation of viewpoints (resource users) on the Councils is required under FACA
  - Goal to insure that 70% of each Council represents subsistence users and 30% commercial sport users
COUNCIL MEMBERS

• Any Alaska resident can apply to serve on a Council.

• Members are appointed for their knowledge and experience regarding all uses.

• Members collectively represent the people of the entire region rather than a particular resource user group, organization, or community.

• All Council members are to uphold the Federal subsistence priority described in Title VIII
COUNCIL MEMBERS

• Council members must be a resident of the region the Council represents
• Council members typically serve 3-year terms
• Council members must be willing to travel at least two times a year, for 3-5 days at a time to attend Regional Advisory Council meetings
• Council members are volunteers; however, all approved travel and lodging is prepaid, and Council members receive per diem for meals and other expenses
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL DUTIES

- Submit an annual report to the Board
- Develop regulatory proposals
- Provide a public forum
- Encourage public participation
- Appoint members to NPS Subsistence Resource Commissions
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL DUTIES

CONTINUED

- Councils make recommendations on:
  - Regulatory proposals
  - Closure reviews
  - Special actions
  - Management plans
  - Fisheries monitoring plans
  - Determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
  - Determinations of rural status
  - Allocation of subsistence resource when restrictions are needed
ANNUAL REGULATORY PROCESS

Council winter meetings:
Development of proposals
Finalizing annual report

Proposal validation
Public comment period
Analysis writing and review

1st ISC/State review
Tribal consultations

Council fall meetings:
Development of recommendations to the Board
Drafting annual report

2nd ISC/State review

Federal Subsistence Board review and action

Publication of Final Rule and regulation book

Publication of Proposed Rule/call for proposals
FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING

• Consensus agenda is used when Council, Interagency Staff Committee, and ADF&G agree on a recommended action

• Council recommendations and additional information presented during deliberations by Council chairman

• Time provided for Council chairmen to discuss other issues
DEFERENCE TO THE COUNCILS ON PROPOSALS

- Section 805(c) indicates that the Board may choose not to follow a Council recommendation, if it is:
  1. Not supported by substantial evidence
  2. Violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife management
  3. Is detrimental to satisfaction of subsistence needs
- Council recommendations on crossover proposals do not always agree
COUNCIL MEMBER CONDUCT

✓ Be responsive to your Council Coordinator
  ▪ Let Coordinator know best way to contact you
  ▪ Be responsive to communications

✓ Act as liaison to your communities
  ▪ Help get the word to your community
  ▪ Bring information/concerns to meetings
COUNCIL MEMBER CONDUCT
CONTINUED

✓ Be respectful, courteous and fair both at public meetings and at all other times
✓ Unruly members can be removed from meeting
  ▪ Continued violations are grounds for removal from the Council
✓ Attend all Council meetings
  ▪ Be on time and remain for entire meeting
  ▪ Two unexcused absences are grounds for removal from Council