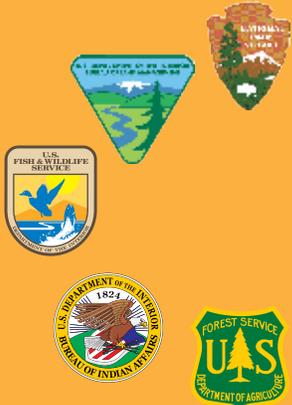




YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 25-26, 2015
Bethel, Alaska



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On the cover...

A sleepy red fox awakes to a bright, sunny day.



USFWS

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 25-26
11:00 a.m. Feb. 25, 9:00 a.m. Feb. 26
Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
Bethel, Alaska

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

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. Roll Call and Establish Quorum (Secretary)..... 3**
- 2. Invocation**
- 3. Call to Order (Chair)**
- 4. Welcome and Introductions (Chair)**
- 5. Review and Adopt Agenda* (Chair) 1**
- 6. Election of Officers***
 - Chair (DFO)
 - Vice-Chair (New Chair)
 - Secretary (New Chair)
- 7. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes* (Chair) 4**
- 8. Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 9. Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items (available each morning)**
- 10. Old Business (Chair)**
 - a. Rural Determination Process Review – Secretarial Proposed Rule* (Anthropology) Supplemental

b. Customary & Traditional Use Determinations – Southeast Council Proposal (<i>Anthropology</i>)	Supplemental
c. Refuges Proposed Rule on Hunting*	Supplemental
11. New Business (Chair)	
a. Call for Federal Hunting and Trapping Regulatory Proposals*(<i>OSM Wildlife</i>)	12
b. Funding Notification – Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.....	Supplemental
c. Review and Approve FY2014 Annual Report* (<i>Council Coordinator</i>)	13
d. Charter Revisions* (<i>Council Coordinator</i>).....	15
e. Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – Emperor Goose Resolution	Supplemental
12. Agency Reports	
(Time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance)	
Tribal Governments	
Native Organizations	
USFWS	
Yukon Delta NWR	
Togiak NWR	19
NPS	
BLM	
ADF&G	
OSM	
NPFMC	
Bycatch Presentation	Supplemental
13. Future Meeting Dates*	
Confirm date and location of fall 2015 meeting	24
Winter 2016 All-Council Meeting Update (<i>Meeting Committee</i>)	
14. Closing Comments	
15. Adjourn (Chair)	

To teleconference into the meeting, call the toll free number: 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

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 Carl Johnson, 907-786-3676, carl_johnson@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 13, 2015.

REGION 5
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Apptd Term Expires	Member Name and Community
1	2004 2016	William F. Brown Eek
2	1997 2016	James A. Charles Tuntutuliak
3	2014 2016	John W. Andrew Kwethluk
4	2014 2016	Michael P. Peters Marshall
5	1996 2017	Lester Wilde, Sr. Hooper Bay Chair
6	2014 2017	Dale T. Smith Mekoryuk
7	2014 2017	Anthony F. Ulak Scammon Bay
8	2014 2017	Annie C. Cleveland Quinhagak
9	2014 2017	Dorothy G. Johnson Mountain Village
10	2013 2015	Raymond J. Oney Alakanuk Secretary
11	2003 2015	Greg J. Roczicka Bethel Vice-Chair
12	2003 2015	Robert E. Aloysius Kalskag
13	2012 2015	David Bill, Sr. Toksook Bay

Meeting Minutes
YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL

Oct. 14-15, 2014

Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center, Bethel

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Lester Wilde Sr.

Roll Call and Establish Quorum

Council members present: Harry Wilde Sr., Raymond J. Oney, William F. Brown, John W. Andrew, Robert E. Aloysius, Anthony F. Ulak, Greg J. Rocsicka (present at beginning of meeting, excused for remainder), Lester Wilde Sr., James A. Charles, David Bill, Sr., Michael Peters Excused: Mary M. Gregory, Paul J. Manumik, Sr.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Wilde welcomed guests and staff members.

The following personnel and members of the public were in attendance:

Agency Staff Present:

Deb Cooper	NPS
Patricia Petrivelli	BIA
Dan Sharp	BLM (via teleconference)
Jeff Brooks	OSM (via teleconference)
Melinda Burke	OSM
Carl Johnson	OSM (via teleconference)
Don Rivard	OSM
Pippa Kenner	OSM (via teleconference)
Tom Kron	OSM
Trent Leibich	OSM (via teleconference)
Fred Bue	USFWS
Holly Gaboriault	USFWS
Neil LaLonde	USFWS
Spencer Rearden	USFWS
Sabrina Garcia	ADF&G (via teleconference)

Jeff Estensen	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Dave Runfola	ADF&G (via teleconference)
Jennifer Yuhas	ADF&G (via teleconference)

NGOs/Public

Charlie Charlie	Interpreter
Donnie Fleagle	URS
Wayne Jenkins	YRDFA
Bev Hoffman	Bethel
Alex Nick	Bethel
Martin Nicholai	Kwethluck Inc.
Pat Sampson	Interpreter
Henry Tikiun	Public

Tribal Organizations

Roberta Chavez	ONC
Stan Sheppard	Mt. Village Working Group

Review of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

Items added to the agenda:

Corrections and recommendation: the Council noted that an Invocation should always be on the agenda for this group. Also, the Council would like to have each agenda item numbered in order of discussion. Length of service awards were also added.

Council unanimously approved agenda as modified.

Council approved prior meeting minutes with some corrections: Pg. 6 under Yukon River CFC Nominations should read "Ray", not "Greg". Pg. 7 should state John "Nicholas" from "Kasigluk", not Kwethluk. "Schouviller", not "Schouvillen".

Council member Reports

Greg Roczicka (Bethel): Traveling to BOF for a Tier II fish issue, therefore will not be present for voting on the fisheries proposals, but want to leave recommendations on Proposal 5/6: Opposed. Dipnets as a tool in the Federal fishery: In support of that proposal. NPS request regarding the Park Preserve lands: Opposed to the action. This may be a straightforward mandate on parklands, but not on preserves. To provide for subsistence needs and stating some practices

have been illegal is ignoring some traditional practices (such as denning and reducing numbers of predators). Once the park service does this, it could go to USFWS; not a matter of law, it is choice. This is an interpretation of policy and does not serve the best interest of subsistence users in the long term.

Mr. Charles (Tuntutuliak): Tuntutuliak is satisfied with the work OSM did last summer in the area.

Mr. Brown (Eek): I want to thank you first, last year during the meeting when we were discussing fishing on the Kuskokwim, I thank you for discussing the Chinook salmon. We did a very good job of addressing the issue of king salmon. Thinking about this coming season, if we would like to do any regulation regarding king salmon fishing I would like this to continue for this summer; I like the way it was handled. Dipnets did not work well for my portion of the river: water is not clear near the mouth of the Kuskokwim and the current is very strong.

John Andrew (Kwethluk): The use of dipnets was a failure in our area; I bought two dipnets--it was a waste of money. Appreciate the conservation efforts made by everyone; my community has asked me to oppose this next year. Supplemented with harvesting silvers in August and share with my relatives, but what I was able to harvest was not enough.

Robert E. Aloysius (Kalskag): The Chinook crisis must be acknowledged by everyone. No Chinook in 4" mesh is impossible to enforce. Dipnets were a waste of time, money, and gas in my area. People are disheartened about the Kalskag/Lower Kalskag being in the YKD region. We have nothing in common with the people along the coast and in the lower portions of the river; we are interior people. The process should be started to revert Kalskag and Lower Kalskag back to the Western Interior RAC. If the federal and state agencies are sincere about bringing back the king salmon, they need to find a way for local people to enforce the law; they do not have the personnel on the ground to do the job. The numbers coming up from the Pollock fishery are false—they are made to appease the state governments. These frustrations are voiced to me day in and day out.

David Bill, Sr. (Tooksook Bay): Trawlers catching everything they can from the ocean—they are wrong. I am also on the Bering Sea elders group, and we would like to get some assistance from the Council to work together on these issues.

Raymond Oney (Alakanuk): Same concerns about the dipnets on the Yukon. There were success stories heard, that you hear—as a user, I do not own a dipnet. The only time I can fish is when I can use a gillnet. I see the dipnet as a sport fishing type of gear, and is not advocating for subsistence; does not providing for the needs of the people. There are many users in the same situation as me and my family.

Mr. Peters (Marshall): Similar experience as expressed by the other Councilmembers. It was tough—dipnets are not working in my area and community. There were some elders who got no fish for the winter. Would like to see them go back to set net. It is affecting all of us subsistence users. Do away with this regulation and go back to set net. Every village's tribal representation should be recognized: G2G draft copy of what happened at meetings and discussions that were

held. Sometimes there is a lack of follow-up with questions brought to the table during our meeting and in meetings with our tribes.

Federal Fisheries Proposal

FP15-01:

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Support FP15-01

JUSTIFICATION:

The Council agrees with the clarification and definition provided by this proposed action. There will be no negative effect on subsistence users.

FP15-02:

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Oppose FP15-02

JUSTIFICATION:

The Council agrees with the OSM justification to oppose this proposal. Conservation of Chinook salmon is vital and the proposed action would likely increase the level of harvest, and reduce the likelihood of meeting spawning and escapement needs.

FP15-03:

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Oppose FP15-04

JUSTIFICATION:

This is the only method of harvesting subsistence salmon for many users in the region to provide food for families for the winter. Eliminating this tool would be detrimental to some federally qualified users.

Proposal FP15-04

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: Oppose FP15-04

JUSTIFICATION:

Sometimes Regional Advisory Councils differ in opinions regarding issues before them; this Council does not want to interfere with the status quo on this proposal which originated from one of the other Councils.

Proposal FP15-05

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: **Oppose FP15-05**

JUSTIFICATION:

The Council agrees with the OSM conclusion and justifications to oppose FP 15-05. Fishing restrictions are put into place based on population estimates and run strengths. To allow unrestricted fishing as laid out in the proposal, it would be detrimental to the conservation of Chinook salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim Basin

Proposal FP15-06 & FP15-07

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION: **Support FP15-06 Take no action on FP15-07**

JUSTIFICATION:

Some areas of the river were more successful than others at using a dipnet this year. This proposal adds another tool in the toolbox, with adding dipnet as a legal gear type for those who wish to use it.

Recommended Changes to the Nominations Process for RACs

Council Suggestions:

Review process should be at the grassroots level where people know each other and the history of the people and area.

Youth involvement in our Council processes should be explored; it is important for the youth to learn the processes and importance of these meetings. It would be great if there was some funding in the RAC budget for a member to visit a school in their region or several schools to explain what a RAC does and how they would qualify to apply for membership. We need to give more access to people in our villages. It is much easier in the winter for Councilmembers to visit

villages locally. Cheaper to travel by snow machine than to purchase airplane tickets. We need to be accessible to ensure everyone understands what the RAC is and how to become a member.

The Council was in favor of having alternate members from each area. That alternate will always have a voice, involvement, and can step in during a scheduling conflict or health issue.

The Council is very much in favor of the proposed All-Council meeting in winter 2016. It is very useful and productive for the Councils to get together to learn about each other and the other regions. In regard to the All-Chair meeting prior to the FSB, if there are restrictions on discussing the “meat” of the FSB meeting, it does not seem to be a good use of time.

Misc. Presentations and Discussions

Melinda Burke (acting Council Coordinator) provided an overview of the 805 (c) report and summarized Federal Subsistence Board actions on wildlife proposals at the April 2014 meeting.

Donald Rivard (OSM) provided an overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and priority information needs and solicited feedback and input from the Council.

Tom Kron (OSM) provided a list of personnel updates within the Office of Subsistence Management.

Pippa Kenner (OSM) provided an update on the review of the Customary and Traditional Use Determinations and the Rural Determination Process. The Council emphasized the desire for direct travel to and communication with the villages and tribes on any changes that are proposed to the processes.

Palma Ingles (OSM) provided an overview of the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program and solicited feedback and input from the Council regarding this program. The Council recommended a similar program for, or including, wildlife, where more research is needed. Also, the program involvement in local schools would be great, especially when cultural activities and camps are happening on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

Alex Nick (Bethel) provided an overview of boundary changes proposed by the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee and the potential effects of Kalskag and Lower Kalskag designation in RAC units. Also, there are some complaints regarding private aircraft landings and take-offs from the Russian Mission area during moose hunting.

Mr. Stan Slaw- Sheppard (Mountain Village): Represent Mt. Village working group. Discussions have taken place regarding dipnets and the hardships being experienced by the local people. Participation in the dipnet fishery was not very successful.

Tim Andrew (AVCP): Convention just concluded. Many issues that need to be addressed by various government entities were brought up. The development of an Inter-tribal fish commission for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers is being discussed. Foundation: we have

failing Chinook salmon populations, and villages have long-standing stakes in the proper management of these resources. Neither state nor Federal management systems can manage resources without cooperation from the villages. These Intertribal Fisheries Commissions are based on best available science (Western and TEK). It was suggested that the Council meet in a village in the future, and that more Government-to-Government consultations are needed in the region prior to regulatory changes and permit issuing. Kevin Bartley was introduced as an employee of AVCP and will work on the development of the Fisheries Commissions and also serve as a liaison.

Kevin Bartley (AVCP): will be working on the Intertribal Fish Commission and be a conduit between Bering Sea Elders Group and AVCP. He introduced his report "Understanding and Improving Collaborative Management of Fish and Wildlife in Western Alaska," which has now been finalized.

Henry Tikiun (Atmautluak): Doesn't like the permitting process. Our way of life is regulated and it is tiresome in this critical time.

Martin Nicolai (Kwethluk, Inc.) provided some comment on moose numbers and the fisheries disaster.

Stanislaus Sheppard discussed North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings and the desire to have Regional Advisory Council representation present at those meetings. He also mentioned concern with moose counts and expressed that fishing restrictions should be consistent along the entire river, not just lower or upper parts.

Nicholai Alexie (Kwethluk, Inc.) discussed written laws and concerns regarding a weir in Kwethluk. There are also concerns regarding lack of communication between the local tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Meetings and consultations must take place prior to decisions and changes being implemented in the river.

Fred Bue (USFWS provided) an overview of the 2014 Yukon River season.

Pat Sampson (Kethel/Kipnuk) expressed concern about planes harassing migratory birds in the springtime. The fish companies should be informed of rules (Migratory Bird laws) pilots operate under when working under contract in Alaska.

Neil Lalonde (YKD Refuge Manager) provided an update regarding moose surveys Spencer Reardon also provided some follow up and answered questions regarding moose.

David Runfola (ADF&G) presented a summary of ongoing research by the Subsistence Division in the region.

Don Huhle (Army Corps of Engineers) and Donnie Fleagle (URS) provided updates on the Donlin Gold EIS project.

Wayne Jenkins and Catherine Moncrieff (YRDFA) provided information on projects funded by the FRMP.

Roberta Chaves (ONC fish bio) provided an update on projects this summer. She will be departing soon for the lower-48.

Future Meeting Dates

Fall 2015 meeting: October 7-8, with the community TBD. The Council wishes to meet in a village and will hold discussions with community leaders to arrange for an invitation to the Council.

Motion to adjourn: 4:50 PM

Melinda Burke, Designated Federal Officer
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Lester Wilde, Sr. Chair

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its next public meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated into the minutes of that meeting.

We are currently excepting proposals for:
Federal Subsistence Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Ending Date: March 25, 2015

How to Prepare Your Proposal

When preparing your proposal, it is important that you include the following information:

- Name
- Organization
- Contact information (Address, Phone, Fax or Email)

Your proposal must include the following information:

1. What regulations do 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.”
2. How should the new regulation read? Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations.
3. Why should this regulation change be made?

You should also provide any additional information that you believe will help the Board in evaluating the proposed change.

How to Submit a Proposal

By mail or hand delivery:

Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Theo Matuskowitz
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS-121
Anchorage, AK 99503

**In person at any Federal Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council meeting:**

www.doi.gov/subsistence/calendars/index.cfm

On the Web:

Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal:
www.regulations.gov and search for FWS-R7-
SM-2014-0062, which is the docket number for
this rulemaking.

Questions? Call (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888

All proposals and comments, including personal information provided, are posted on the Web at
www.regulations.gov.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Background

ANILCA established the Annual Reports as the way to bring regional subsistence uses and needs to the Secretaries' attention. The Secretaries delegated this responsibility to the Board. Section 805(c) deference includes matters brought forward in the Annual Report.

The Annual Report provides the Councils an opportunity to address the directors of each of the four Department of Interior agencies and the Department of Agriculture Forest Service in their capacity as members of the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board is required to discuss and reply to each issue in every Annual Report and to take action when within the Board's authority. In many cases, if the issue is outside of the Board's authority, the Board will provide information to the Council on how to contact personnel at the correct agency. As agency directors, the Board members have authority to implement most of the actions which would effect the changes recommended by the Councils, even those not covered in Section 805(c). The Councils are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Report Content

Both Title VIII Section 805 and 50 CFR §100.11 (Subpart B of the regulations) describe what may be contained in an Annual Report from the councils to the Board. This description includes issues that are not generally addressed by the normal regulatory process:

- an identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region;
- an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations from the public lands within the region;
- a recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs related to the public lands; and
- recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.

Please avoid filler or fluff language that does not specifically raise an issue of concern or information to the Board.

Report Clarity

In order for the Board to adequately respond to each Council's annual report, it is important for the annual report itself to state issues clearly.

- If addressing an existing Board policy, Councils should please state whether there is something unclear about the policy, if there is uncertainty about the reason for the policy, or if the Council needs information on how the policy is applied.
- Council members should discuss in detail at Council meetings the issues for the annual report and assist the Council Coordinator in understanding and stating the issues clearly.

- Council Coordinators and OSM staff should assist the Council members during the meeting in ensuring that the issue is stated clearly.

Thus, if the Councils can be clear about their issues of concern and ensure that the Council Coordinator is relaying them sufficiently, then the Board and OSM staff will endeavor to provide as concise and responsive of a reply as is possible.

Report Format

While no particular format is necessary for the Annual Reports, the report must clearly state the following for each item the Council wants the Board to address:

1. Numbering of the issues,
2. A description of each issue,
3. Whether the Council seeks Board action on the matter and, if so, what action the Council recommends, and
4. As much evidence or explanation as necessary to support the Council's request or statements relating to the item of interest.

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

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is reestablished by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)) Title VIII, and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is established in accordance with the provisions of 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.** The Council possesses the authority to perform the following duties:
 - a. Recommend the initiation of, review, and evaluate 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. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
 - f. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
 - g. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
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 \$160,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.15 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 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:
 - Approve or call all of the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings,
 - Prepare and approve all meeting agendas,
 - Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings,
 - Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and
 - 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 terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it 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:

Thirteen 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 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.

Members will be appointed for 4-year terms. If no successor is appointed on or prior to the expiration of a member's term, then the incumbent member may continue to serve until the new appointment is made or 120 days past the expiration of term, whichever is sooner. A vacancy on the Council will be filled by an appointed alternate, if available, or in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Council members will elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a 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 may participate in any specific party matter in which the member has a direct financial interest in a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department.
- 14. Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or 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. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. 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 26, Item 2, or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Secretary of the Interior

Date Signed

Date Filed

United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 270
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone 907-842-1063
Fax 907-842-5402



INFORMATION BULLETIN - December 2014

The Roles of Alder and Salmon in Driving Aquatic Productivity Contact: Pat Walsh
In 2010, Togiak Refuge, the University of Illinois, the University of Washington, and ADF&G began a 4-year project to determine the relative role of salmon and alder in controlling productivity in lakes. Both salmon and alder contribute nutrients to lakes: Salmon contribute via decomposition of carcasses after spawning, and alder does so through nitrifying the soil, and by mobilizing soil nutrients which would otherwise be biologically inaccessible. This project will measure the contribution of nutrients from both sources by analyzing water samples from thirteen Refuge lakes collected over a four year period. The information that will come from this project will help salmon managers better understand the ecological consequences of harvest. Since 2010, we have installed water quality and quantity monitoring equipment at 13 lakes on Togiak Refuge. We monitored stream discharge in summer and fall at 26 streams entering the study lakes in order to estimate lake water budgets. We performed aerial sockeye salmon surveys at all study lakes and estimated run size in each. We completed the final round of sampling in summer 2013 and have begun analysis. A progress report is available.

Cooperative Salmon Escapement Monitoring Projects. Contact: Mark Lisac
In 2014 the Federal Subsistence Board cancelled the funding for the salmon escapement monitoring projects (weirs) on the Kanektok (KRW) and Middle Fork Goodnews (MFGRW) Rivers. ADFG and Coastal Villages Seafood provided the bulk of the funding to operate both projects although counting for the coho salmon spawning season was cancelled due to the lack of Federal funding. Funding for 2015 is still up in the air.

On the Middle Fork Goodnews River, ADF&G has monitored Chinook, chum and sockeye salmon escapement since 1980. Escapement goals and management of the commercial fishery are based on salmon escapement at the weir. Togiak Refuge has worked with ADF&G since 1992 to include the coho salmon and Dolly Varden runs in the project operation. ADF&G funds the project operation. Togiak Refuge provided staff support; one intern from the Careers Discovery Internship Program (CDIP) for the MFGRW. The MFGRW was operated from 25 June to 1 September.

On the Kanektok River, ADF&G, Native Village of Kwinhagak, Coastal Villages and Togiak Refuge have worked cooperatively to monitor salmon and Dolly Varden runs since 2001. This project is currently funded by Coastal Villages Region Fund and ADF&G. Escapement goal ranges have not been established for the Kanektok River because the weir has not been operational for enough years. This weir began operation 27 June and operated until 15 August.

Preliminary escapement counts for the MFGRW and KRW thru mid-August 2014 are:

	Chinook	Sockeye	Chum	Coho	Pink	Dolly V.
MFGRW	750	41,496	11,506	na	9,287	6,369
KRW	3,594	256,969	18,586	na	25,718	46,040

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dfnewsrelease/496937848.pdf>

Arctic Char Population Inventory Contact: Mark Lisac

Togiak Refuge has developed a multi-year study to inventory Arctic char populations throughout the Refuge. This species is confirmed to occur in 27 lakes and are likely to be found in many more. In 2014 we visited eleven lakes and documented Arctic char in 9. We collected size and genetic information from 254 fish and provided the UAF museum with voucher specimens. If you have any first hand knowledge of small or unique Arctic char populations and would be willing to share that information please contact Mark Lisac at the Refuge office.

Mulchatna Caribou Contact: Andy Aderman

Togiak Refuge assisted ADF&G with telemetry monitoring flights, radiocollar deployment, satellite data acquisition, data entry and database management. A photocensus conducted July 1-2, 2014 estimated 26,000 caribou. A composition survey on October 14-15, 2014 estimated 30 calves and 35 bulls per 100 cows. The calf to cow ratio was also higher than all but two years since 1998. The bull to cow ratio was the highest recorded since 2000, and has been increasing steadily over the past 5 years (Neil Barten, ADF&G, personal communication).

Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Contact: Andy Aderman

In 2014, 14 of 18 (77.8%) radio-collared adults produced a calf while 3 of 4 (75%) radio-collared two-year olds were observed with a calf. A photocensus on June 30 found a minimum of 1,018 caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula. A similar effort on July 17 tallied 1,014 caribou. The July 2013 photocensus found a minimum of 926 caribou. For the 2014 fall hunt, 200 permits were made available and hunters reported harvesting 15 caribou (13 bulls and 2 cows). Permits issued for the fall hunt (Aug 1-Sep 30) are also valid for the winter hunt (Dec 1–Mar 31). An additional 200 permits were made available in November for the winter hunt. A composition survey on October 16, 2014 estimated 52.5 calves and 43.8 bulls per 100 cows. Ratios over the previous 5 years averaged 41.8 calves and 38.5 bulls per 100 cows.

Moose Contact: Andy Aderman

In 2014, 26 of 36 (72.2%) radio-collared adult cows produced 38 calves suggesting a production rate of 105.6 calves per 100 adult cows. Twinning rate was 46.2%. Two of 3 (66.7%) radio-collared two-year old cows each produced a single calf. Reported fall 2014 harvest in Unit 17A was 36 bulls by residents and 4 bulls by non-residents (Neil Barten, ADF&G, personal

communication). Reported fall 2014 harvest in Unit 18-Goodnews River drainage and south was 14 bulls (Phillip Perry, ADF&G, personal communication). Population surveys in the Unit 17A and 18 portions of Togiak Refuge are planned for the 2014-2015 winter.

The relationships of wolf and brown bear predation with moose population density and growth at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and BLM Goodnews Block, Alaska Contact: Pat Walsh

In summer 2014, Togiak Refuge, the USFWS Conservation Genetics Lab, ADF&G, and BLM initiated a study to understand the effects of wolf and brown bear predation in regulating the population dynamics of moose on Togiak Refuge, BLM Goodnews Block, and adjacent areas. The study relies on radio telemetry and stable isotope analysis. Our approach will be to relate the predation impact by wolves and bears on moose at varying levels of moose population density. We will use existing population estimates for brown bears, and through the use of radio telemetry, we will estimate the number and composition of wolf packs on the Refuge. We will model wolf and bear predation on moose based on the quantity of wolves and bears and diet composition of both species determined through analysis of carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes occurring in bear and wolf hair. Hair will be collected from wolves when captured during radio collaring operations, and will be collected from brown bears using break-away hair snares. We plan to capture and radio wolves in March 2015. During July-August 2014, we deployed approximately 200 snares, and collected approximately 100 hair samples.

Walrus Contact: Michael Swaim

The number of Pacific walrus at haulout sites on Togiak Refuge was monitored annually since 1985. Beginning in 2012, beaches at Cape Peirce and Hagemeister Island were monitored using Reconyx wildlife cameras that collected photos once per hour. Cameras were deployed at haulout sites on Cape Newenham in 2014.

Seabirds Contact: Michael Swaim

The abundance and reproductive success of black-legged kittiwakes, common murre, and pelagic cormorants was monitored annually at Cape Peirce from 1990-2014, and intermittently at Cape Newenham from 1990-2009. During this period, the estimated number of kittiwakes and murre at Cape Peirce decreased, while the number of pelagic cormorants remained relatively constant. From 1991-2009, the number of kittiwakes counted at Cape Newenham averaged 2,132 birds (range 1,676-2,424), the mean number of murre was 5,815 (range 4,964-6,790), and the mean number of cormorants was 15 birds (range = 5-30). The long-term productivity of kittiwakes, murre, and cormorants at Cape Peirce averaged 24%, 42%, and 53% respectively between 1990 and 2014.

Water Temperature Monitoring Contact: Michael Swaim

Stream temperature was monitored at 18 sites on 14 rivers in Togiak Refuge between 2001 and 2013. Temperature was recorded on an hourly basis using Onset TidbiT dataloggers and the data were successfully recovered from the field ~75% of the time. Over 1.8 million hourly temperature records have been collected, quality-graded, and entered into a relational database. Maximum daily mean temperature readings varied from 11.5—19.6° C between sites, with the Kukaktlim Lake outlet site being the warmest and the Weary River the coldest.

Quantifying River Discharge Contact: Mark Lisac

Togiak Refuge and the USFWS Water Resources Branch have worked cooperatively since 1999 to acquire baseline hydrologic data of the flow regime (magnitude, duration, timing, frequency, and rate of change) and water quality. A network of stream discharge gages collected stream flow data from 1999-2005 at 20 locations. A subset of five of these stations continued to collect data through fall 2009, after which three of the five stations were removed. We will continue indefinitely to monitor discharge in the Togiak and Kulukak Rivers. Each gage is instrumented with pressure sensors that measure water level every 15 minutes. Discharge measurements are made in the field 3 to 6 times a year. In 2014 satellite transmitters were added to the stream gages that allow remote monitoring of the equipment.

Education and Outreach Contact: Terry Fuller

Togiak Refuge has an active education and outreach program including the Migratory Bird Calendar; National Wildlife Refuge Week; career fairs; production of Bristol Bay Field Notes (a new episode airs every Friday morning at 8:50 am on KDLG); and numerous teacher requested classroom presentations in 12 villages in the Southwest Region, Lower Kuskokwim, Dillingham City school districts and the Dillingham 7th Day Adventist School. Field trips with area students for the 2013-2014 school year included bird walks, animal tracks and ID, archery, salmon life cycles, aquatic resources and bear safety. The refuge website is also a valuable education tool and is available at <http://togiak.fws.gov>. Togiak Refuge has a very active Facebook page which disseminates information on a daily basis to a rapidly growing global audience. The Refuge held an open house on Saturday, September 27th at the Refuge Headquarters celebrating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act; about 150 people participated. Also, the refuge partners with others to conduct three environmental education camps described below:

Cape Peirce Marine Science and Yup'ik Culture Camp Contact: Terry Fuller

July 2014 saw a return of the junior high Science camp to the Cape Peirce site, after a three year hiatus due to poor weather and funding cuts. Students at this camp were able to observe seabirds, marine mammals and learn how field studies are conducted, as well as learning about food webs and ecological relationships. Students and agency staff also learned about traditional Yup'ik uses of animals and plants and about Native survival skills. This camp is designed to help students gain a better understanding of the biological diversity of a marine ecosystem. It also strengthens their sense of stewardship for local natural resources. Other topics at this camp included tide pools, wilderness survival skills, archery, bear safety, Leave No Trace camping practices and careers with USFWS. Traditional councils and school districts from throughout western Bristol Bay are cooperators with this camp.

Southwest Alaska Science Academy Contact: Terry Fuller

This past July (2014), Togiak Refuge helped with the 13th year of a summer camp aimed at teaching middle and high school students about fisheries science and the importance of salmon to our ecosystem. Students were selected from the Bristol Bay region. During the camp students worked in the field alongside fisheries professionals. Cooperators with the refuge on this project included the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute, University of Alaska, University of Washington School of Fisheries, the Dillingham City and Southwest Region school districts, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This year Togiak Staff were able to share with camp students about the following: identifying the

different species of Pacific salmon at various stages in their development, the salmon life cycle, jobs associated with the fishing industry, salmon in art (fish taxidermy), wilderness survival skills and archery.

Summer Outdoor Skills and River Ecology Float Camp Contact: Terry Fuller

The 2014 Float Camp took place on the Ongivinuk River. At this camp, students learned about river ecosystems and how to enjoy them safely and responsibly while taking part in a float trip conducted on a refuge river. Students observed and learned about the many fish, wildlife and plant species found on the Ongivinuk. Rafting skills, water safety, different angling practices (Catch and Release), Leave No Trace camping practices and bear safety were topics during the trip. Students also participated in other outdoor activities such as animal tracking (plaster casting tracks) and wilderness survival skills. This camp helps students understand the biological diversity of riparian ecosystems and the importance of salmon as a nutrient source, while developing a deeper sense of stewardship for local natural resources. Traditional councils and school districts from throughout western Bristol Bay are cooperators with this camp.

River Ranger Program Contact: Allen Miller

The Refuge River Ranger Program was conceived during the public use management planning process and was first implemented in 1991. The program serves many purposes. River Rangers are the main contact source for sport fishermen and local residents. Information distributed to the public includes Service policies, regulations, resource management practices, State sport fish regulations, bear safety, wilderness ethics, Leave-No-Trace camping, and information about private lands to prevent trespass. Rangers document public use occurring on the river along with the location and timing of activities, conflicts between users, and sport fish catch/harvest per unit effort. Rangers also assist Refuge and ADF&G staff at the Kanektok River weir, and assist Refuge staff with biological studies. In addition, Rangers patrol campsites for litter, monitor compliance of sport fishing guides, and offer assistance as needed. Quinhagak Resident Charlie Roberts was hired for summer 2014 to work as a River Ranger on the Kanektok River with Refuge Information Technician (RIT) John Mark. Togiak Resident Keemuel Kenrud was hired as an intern through the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation and was assigned to the Togiak River to work with RIT Pete Abraham.

Staff Changes

In March, Wildlife Biologist Michael Winfree left to pursue a Master of Science degree at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. In June, Pilot Mike Hink resigned his position. In August, Deputy Refuge Manager Tevis Underwood accepted the same position at Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. In August, Pilot Andy Flack transferred to the Togiak Refuge from Kanuti Refuge. In December, Supervisory Park Ranger/Visitor Services Program Manager Allen Miller accepted a new position as the Togiak Deputy Refuge Manager. During 2014, Togiak Refuge hosted Directorate Fellow Rachel Ruden, Career Development Intern Isaac Jackson, and Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation Interns Mahlet Herrmann and Keemuel Kenrud.

Fall 2015 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

August–November 2015

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 16	Aug. 17 WINDOW OPENS	Aug. 18	Aug. 19	Aug. 20	Aug. 21	Aug. 22
Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29
Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5
Sept. 6	Sept. 7 HOLIDAY	Sept. 8	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12
Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15	Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19
Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26
					K/A—Adak	
Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 30 <i>End of Fiscal Year</i>	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3
Oct. 4	Oct. 5	NWA—Buckland (tent.)		Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10
			YKD—TBA			
Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17
		SE—Petersburg				
			SP—Nome			
Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 24
		SC - Seldovia				
Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31
		BB - Dillingham		EI - Fairbanks		
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7
		WI - Kaltag				
		NS—Kaktovik (tent.)			WINDOW CLOSSES	

Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Correspondence Policy

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) recognizes the value of the Regional Advisory Councils' role in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Board realizes that the Councils must interact with fish and wildlife resource agencies, organizations, and the public as part of their official duties, and that this interaction may include correspondence. Since the beginning of the Federal Subsistence Program, Regional Advisory Councils have prepared correspondence to entities other than the Board. Informally, Councils were asked to provide drafts of correspondence to the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) for review prior to mailing. Recently, the Board was asked to clarify its position regarding Council correspondence. This policy is intended to formalize guidance from the Board to the Regional Advisory Councils in preparing correspondence.

The Board is mindful of its obligation to provide the Regional Advisory Councils with clear operating guidelines and policies, and has approved the correspondence policy set out below. The intent of the Regional Advisory Council correspondence policy is to ensure that Councils are able to correspond appropriately with other entities. In addition, the correspondence policy will assist Councils in directing their concerns to others most effectively and forestall any breach of department policy.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII required the creation of Alaska's Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to serve as advisors to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to provide meaningful local participation in the management of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. Within the framework of Title VIII and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Congress assigned specific powers and duties to the Regional Advisory Councils. These are also reflected in the Councils' charters. (*Reference: ANILCA Title VIII §805, §808, and §810; Implementing regulations for Title VIII, 50 CFR 100 .11 and 36 CFR 242 .11; Implementing regulations for FACA, 41 CFR Part 102-3.70 and 3.75*)

The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture created the Federal Subsistence Board and delegated to it the responsibility for managing fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. The Board was also given the duty of establishing rules and procedures for the operation of the Regional Advisory Councils. The Office of Subsistence Management was established within the Federal Subsistence Management Program's lead agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to administer the Program. (*Reference: 36 CFR Part 242 and 50 CFR Part 100 Subparts C and D*)

Policy

1. The subject matter of Council correspondence shall be limited to matters over which the Council has authority under §805(a)(3), §808, §810 of Title VIII, Subpart B §__.11(c) of regulation, and as described in the Council charters.
2. Councils may, and are encouraged to, correspond directly with the Board. The Councils are advisors to the Board.
3. Councils are urged to also make use of the annual report process to bring matters to the

Board's attention.

4. As a general rule, Councils discuss and agree upon proposed correspondence during a public meeting. Occasionally, a Council chair may be requested to write a letter when it is not feasible to wait until a public Council meeting. In such cases, the content of the letter shall be limited to the known position of the Council as discussed in previous Council meetings.
5. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8 of this policy, Councils will transmit all correspondence to the Assistant Regional Director (ARD) of OSM for review prior to mailing. This includes, but is not limited to, letters of support, resolutions, letters offering comment or recommendations, and any other correspondence to any government agency or any tribal or private organization or individual.
 - a. Recognizing that such correspondence is the result of an official Council action and may be urgent, the ARD will respond in a timely manner.
 - b. Modifications identified as necessary by the ARD will be discussed with the Council chair. Councils will make the modifications before sending out the correspondence.
6. Councils may submit written comments requested by Federal land management agencies under ANILCA §810 or requested by regional Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) under §808 directly to the requesting agency. Section 808 correspondence includes comments and information solicited by the SRCs and notification of appointment by the Council to an SRC.
7. Councils may submit proposed regulatory changes or written comments regarding proposed regulatory changes affecting subsistence uses within their regions to the Alaska Board of Fisheries or the Alaska Board of Game directly. A copy of any comments or proposals will be forwarded to the ARD when the original is submitted.
8. Administrative correspondence such as letters of appreciation, requests for agency reports at Council meetings, and cover letters for meeting agendas will go through the Council's regional coordinator to the appropriate OSM division chief for review.
9. Councils will submit copies of all correspondence generated by and received by them to OSM to be filed in the administrative record system.
10. Except as noted in Items 6, 7, and 8, Councils or individual Council members acting on behalf of or as representative of the Council may not, through correspondence or any other means of communication, attempt to persuade any elected or appointed political officials, any government agency, or any tribal or private organization or individual to take a particular action on an issue. This does not prohibit Council members from acting in their capacity as private citizens or through other organizations with which they are affiliated.

Approved by the Federal Subsistence Board on June 15, 2004.



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