



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

AUG 18 2023

In Reply Refer To
OSM.23108

Sue Entsminger, Chair
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, M/S 121
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Chair Entsminger:

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) met on January 31–February 3, 2023, in Anchorage, Alaska to consider fisheries closure reviews and proposed changes to Federal subsistence management regulations for the harvest of fish, shellfish, and wildlife in Federal public lands and waters in Alaska. This letter provides a report on the actions taken by the Board on proposals and closure reviews affecting federally qualified subsistence users.

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides that the Board will accept the recommendations of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) regarding take unless, (1) the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, (2) the recommendation violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife management, or (3) adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. When a Council's recommendation is not adopted, the Board is required by Secretarial regulations to set forth the factual basis and reasons for the decision.

The Board acted on 16 fisheries proposals and 19 fisheries closure reviews during the 2023–25 fisheries regulatory cycle, four deferred wildlife proposals WP22-07, WP22-08, WP22-10, and WP22-40 from the 2022–2024 wildlife regulatory cycle, and a threshold assessment of proposal NDP25-01 for rescinding a nonrural determination. The Board agreed with the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils (Councils), in whole or with modifications, on all 16 fisheries proposals. The Board accepted the recommendations of the Councils on 17 of 19 fisheries closure reviews. The Board also agreed with the affected Council's recommendations and adopted deferred wildlife proposal WP22-40. Lastly, the Board agreed with the affected Council's recommendation to move forward with a full analysis of the nonrural determination proposal NDP25-01.

Details of these actions and the Board's deliberations are contained in the meeting transcriptions. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling the toll-free number 1-800-478-1456 and are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/library/transcripts/federal-subsistence-board>.

The Board uses a consensus agenda on those proposals and closure reviews where there is agreement among the affected Council(s), a majority of the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning a proposed regulatory action. These proposals and closure reviews were deemed non-controversial and did not require a separate discussion. The consensus agenda contained one proposal affecting the Eastern Interior Alaska Region, which the Board deferred to the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Eastern Interior Council) recommendation as follows: the Board *adopted* **FP23-02** to recognize the customary and traditional use of all salmon in the Yukon River Management Area by residents of Chevak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay.

The remaining proposals and closure reviews affecting the Eastern Interior Alaska Region appeared on the non-consensus agenda. For two of the proposals and three of the closure reviews, the Board took action consistent with the Eastern Interior Council's recommendations. The Board *adopted* **FP23-01** to rescind the Jim River drainage closure to nonsalmon fish, allow for the use of rod and reel only, and establish a Grayling harvest limit of 10 per day. The Board also *rejected* **FP23-15/16** to recognize the customary and traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District by permanent rural residents who live between named communities along the Alaska Highway from the U.S./Canada Border to Dot Lake. The Board *modified* the Kanuti River (**FCR23-02**) and Bonanza Creek (**FCR23-03**) closures by *rescinding the closures* to nonsalmon species only. The Board *deferred* the Delta River closure (**FCR23-05**) to the next fisheries regulatory cycle.

There was one Southcentral Region crossover proposal that Eastern Interior Council took no action on and deferred to the Southcentral Council. For your information, the Board *rejected* **FP23-14** to recognize the customary and traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District by residents of the Serendipity subdivision.

The Board's action did not differ from your Council's recommendations on any proposals or closure reviews so therefore there is no 805(c) report for the Eastern Interior Council this regulatory cycle.

The Board appreciates your Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the stewardship shown by the Council Chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was noteworthy.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator, at 907-891-9181 or brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Anthony Christianson
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record