Breakout Session Materials

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission – Current Initiatives

Date and Time

March 11 at 3:45 p.m.

Session Overview

This presentation provides an overview of the Commission's activities, mission, and goals, and highlights current activities related to natural resource stewardship, tribal wildlife management, watershed protection, and moose habitat.

Presenters

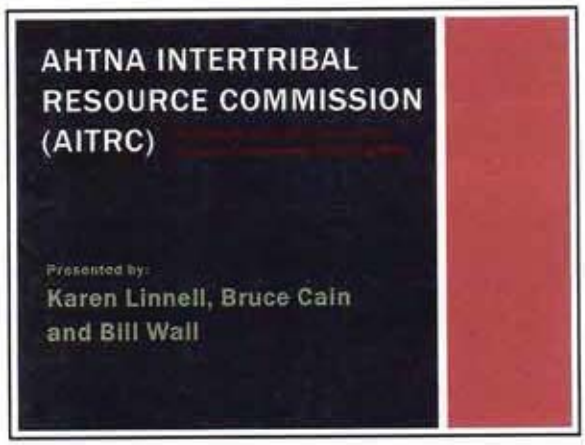
Karen Linnell, Executive Director, Copper River-Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Conservation District
Bruce Cain, Special Projects Manager, Ahtna, Inc.
William A. Wall, President, Sustainability, Inc.

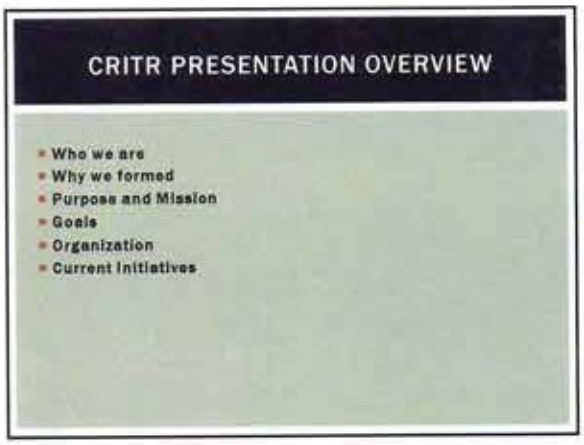
About the Presenters

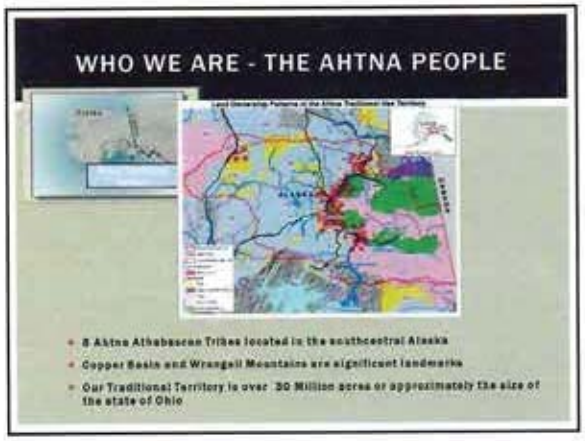
Karen Linnell is the Executive Director for Copper River-Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Conservation District (CRITR). Karen brings to Ahtna 12 years of experience in project management and cost control. Karen has spent the last 2 years as Tribal Administrator for Cheesh'na Tribal Council. Ms. Linnell has been involved with CRITR since its inception and has served as chair from 2011-2015. Karen thoroughly understands the federal and state grant management and has been involved in protecting customary and traditional hunting and fishing rights for many years. In 2011 Ms. Linnell was appointed by the Secretary of Interior to the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission and currently serves as Chair of the She has served as Secretary to the Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee since 2008. Ms. Linnell recently served on Alaska Governor Bill Walker's Transition Team as the Chair of the Wildlife Committee.

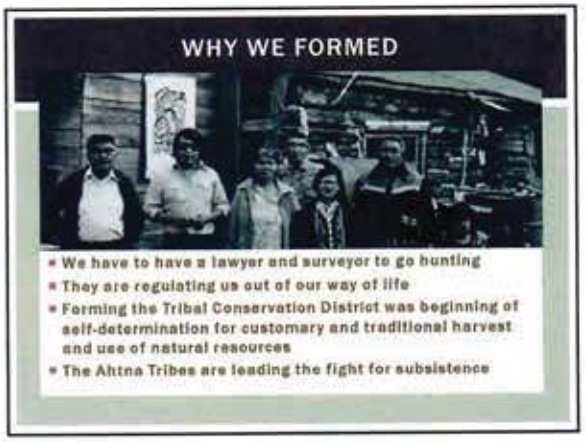
Bruce Cain, MA, is the Special Projects Manager, Ahtna Inc. former Acting Executive Director for Copper River-Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Conservation District (CRITR). Bruce is an accomplished finance and business manager with over 30 years of experience developing business and public programs in rural Alaska. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator. He has over 25 years of involvement with Chinook and Sockeye Salmon research on the Copper River. His education includes extensive research on moose habitat management as a rural development tool in interior Alaska. Bruce has a broad range experience working with subsistence, land rights and self-determination on the Copper River. His background includes developing funding and programs for Federally Recognized Tribes and vast government and non-profit finance experience including: grant writing, fund raising, proposal development, management and finance systems, program compliance for both Federal and State grant and contract programs.

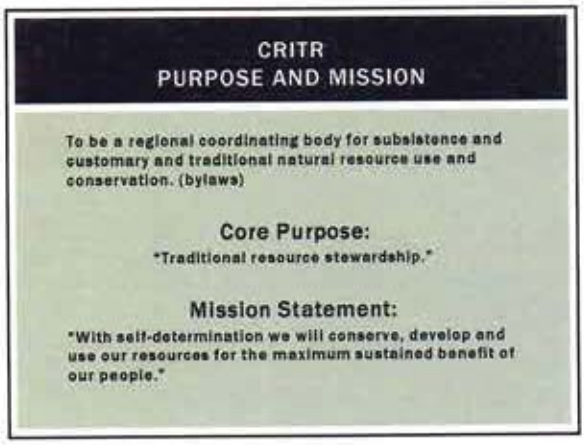
William A. Wall, PhD, is President of Sustainability, Inc. and has a long-term relationship with CRITR to develop its program and technical capacity. He has experience in the development and management of integrated biomass and habitat enhancement projects in Alaska, as well as experience in working with NRCS programs. He has most recently developed and managed a $9 million boiler and biomass procurement project in Fort Yukon, Alaska with multiple funders and partners. He has an understanding of the positive effects of integrated biomass and moose habitat enhancement projects on rural village economics and food security. He has a BS, MS, and PhD in Wildlife and Forest Management. He has held wildlife management positions with two forest products companies, International Paper and Potlatch Corporation. Prior to coming to work full time as a consultant in Alaska he was Director of Conservation Programs for Safari Club International Foundation.


AHTNA INTERTRIBAL RESOURCE COMMISSION (AITRC)
Presented by:
Karen Linnell, Bruce Cain and Bill Wall


CRITR PRESENTATION OVERVIEW
Who we are
Why we formed
Purpose and Mission
Goals
Organization
Current Initiatives


WHO WE ARE - THE AHTNA PEOPLE
8 Ahtna Athabascan Tribes located in the southcentral Alaska
Copper Basin and Wrangell Mountains are significant landmarks
Our Traditional Territory is over 30 Million acres or approximately the size of the state of Ohio


WHY WE FORMED
We have to have a lawyer and surveyor to go hunting
They are regulating us out of our way of life
Forming the Tribal Conservation District was beginning of self-determination for customary and traditional harvest and use of natural resources
The Ahtna Tribes are leading the fight for subsistence


CRITR
PURPOSE AND MISSION
To be a regional coordinating body for subsistence and customary and traditional natural resource use and conservation. (bylaws)
Core Purpose:
"Traditional resource stewardship."
Mission Statement:
"With self-determination we will conserve, develop and use our resources for the maximum sustained benefit of our people."

OUR GOALS
Search Conference
Manage our own resources on our OWN homelands.
Grow our own professionals to manage resources
For all people to be supportive of our resource management

CRITR ORGANIZATION

- Authorizing resolutions from the 8 Ahtna Tribes & 2 ANCSA Corp
- Memorandum of Agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture – Government to Government
- Memorandum of Agreement with the Kenny Lake Soil & Water Conservation District (KLSW), a state organization.
- Memorandum of Agreement with the Ahtna, Inc & the Copper River Native Association (CRNA), a regional non-profit.
- Successfully operated federal grants and contracts for more than three years
- Successfully developed an ideal future planning document
- Actively working on habitat, biomass and capacity building projects

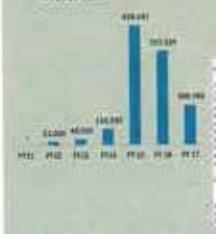
Our Organization

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- Natural Resource Stewardship
- Tribal Wildlife Management
- Moose Habitat Planning
- Moose Habitat Enhancement
- Biomass Pellet Mill in Gulkana
- Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)
- Water Quality in the Copper River System
- Copper River Salmon Protection

AITRC/CRITR FINANCIAL STATUS

CRITR Grant Funding by Fiscal Year



RBEG GRANT - DRYER ROOM LAYOUT AT GULKANA BIOMASS PLANT

THANK YOU TO THE ALASKA NRCS OFFICE

Public
Private
Tribal
Partnerships

CRITR WILDLIFE PROGRAM:
COMMUNITY BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NRCS CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT

"This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the NRCS, Conservation Innovation Grant"

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Program Basis
- Goals of CRITR Program
- Landscape Collaborative
- Review of Landscape Planning Projects
- Review of "on ground" habitat Projects
- Review of Proposed Monitoring Projects

COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROGRAMS BASIC PREMISE

- Engaging resource users/Tribes & Native land owners in resource management
- Creates partnerships that bring greater capacity to resource management
- Creates collaborative process to address issues
- Empowers Tribes & Landowners, creates ownership in management while recognizing responsibilities
- Balances sport hunting and subsistence
- Goes by many names: CBNRM; Cooperative Management, Co-Management – Concepts are the same

PARTICIPATIVE QUOTA SETTING ENGAGES INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN ZAMBIA BY WWF & ZWA

CRITR GOALS

- To participate in sustainable subsistence resource management within the traditional use landscape using a strong cultural & scientific approach
- To develop strong partnerships and working relations with agencies and others within our traditional use landscape

USDA-NRCS - BACKGROUND: ALASKA PERSPECTIVE

- Last 10 years – USDA-NRCS has recognized 38 million acres of private Native Corporation Lands as agricultural lands
- Subsistence use and management is Agriculture
- Created 38 million acres of historically underserved and beginning "Farmers"
- Tribal Conservation Districts are being developed
- Adapting NRCS programs & practices to Subsistence in Alaska

CIG PURPOSE

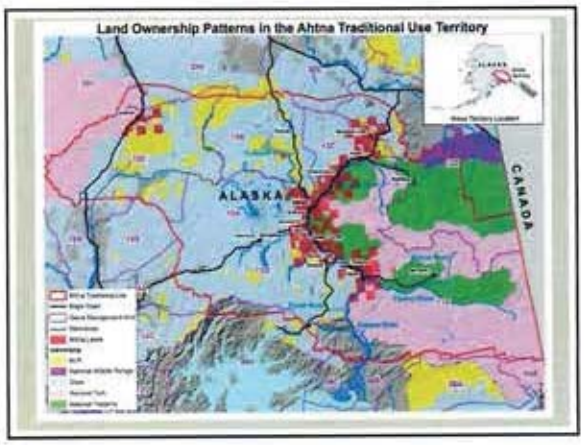
- To stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.

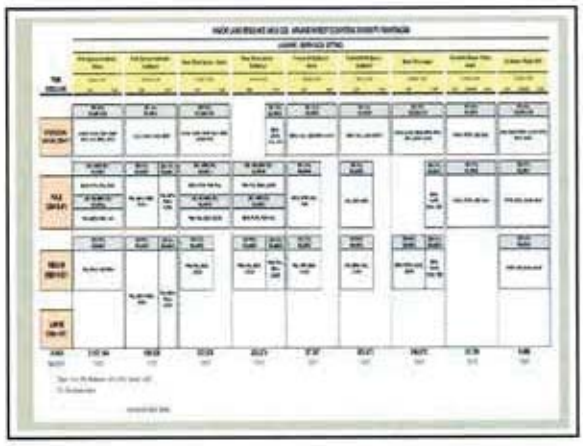
CIG OBJECTIVES LANDSCAPE TO ECOLOGICAL SITES

- Develop an ecologically based resource assessment for Ahtna & CNC ownership and traditionally used lands
- Develop ecological sites for resource planning linked to EQIP practices - NRCS
- Develop moose and caribou habitat suitability models and map on the landscape
- Develop 10-year management plan for the Ahtna's 1.7 million acres: create habitats; produce moose; produce biomass

CIG OBJECTIVES

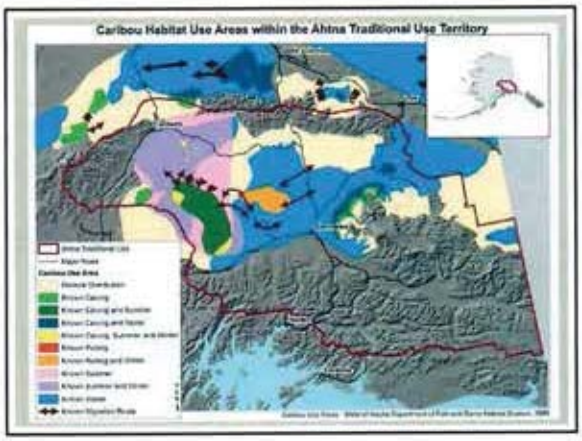
- Initiate a landscape partnership – NRCS, BLM, DNR/Forestry, NPS, USFWS, ADF&G, others...
- Develop specific EQIP treatments for habitat and biomass production
- Train local technicians
- Regional Workshop for Tribes and Partners
- State wide Workshop for TCD's

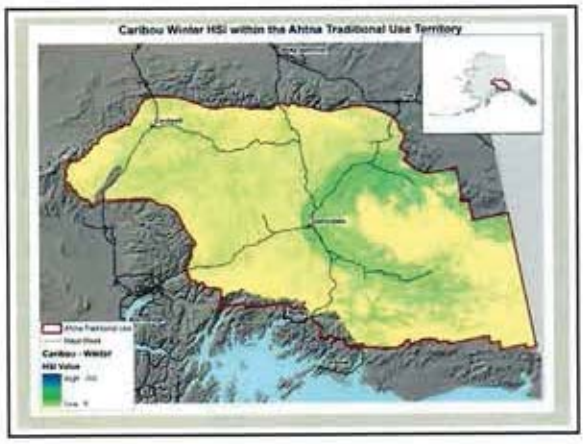




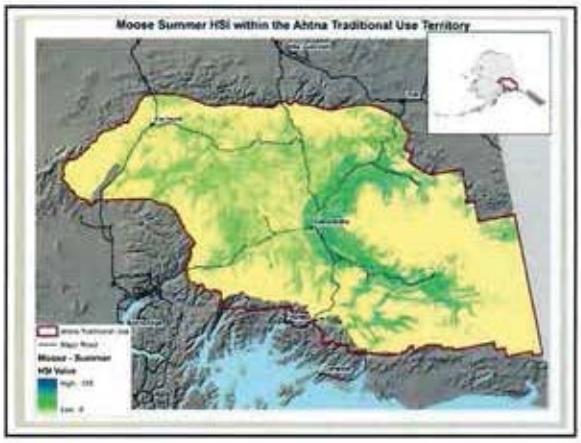
Ecological Landscape Classification

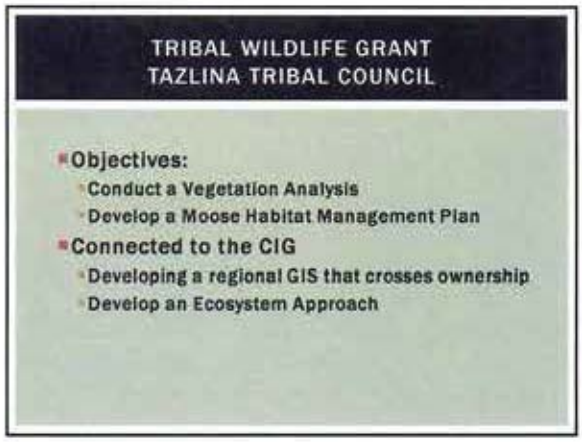
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIPS
WORKING TOGETHER
Landscape fire strategy for safety and habitat enhancement
Habitat and population monitoring
Browse surveys & wildlife populations
Fire in the WRST – Landscape Resilience
-reduce catastrophic fire risk
GIS data sharing & collaboration
Sustainable Subsistence Management Plans
Why Landscapes???

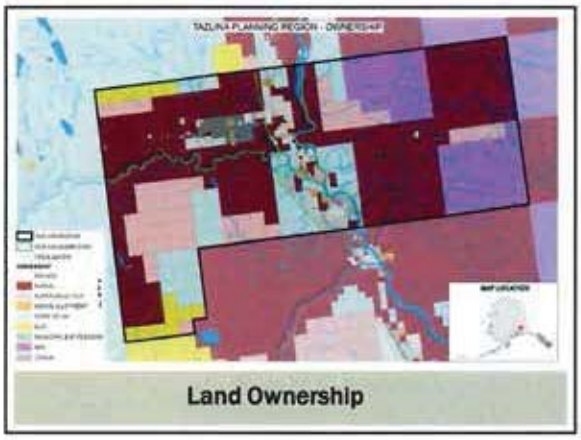

Caribou Habitat Use Areas within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory


Caribou Winter HSI within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory

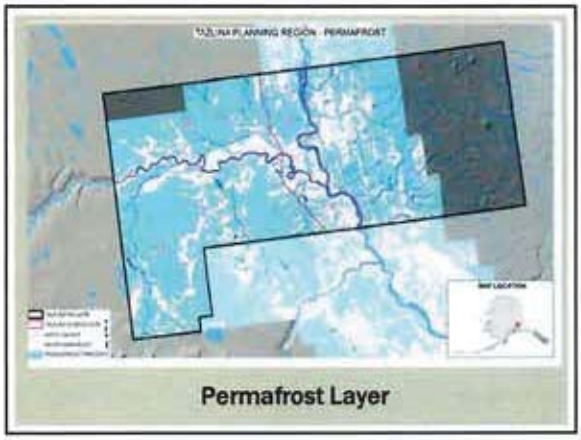
Moose Habitat Use within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory

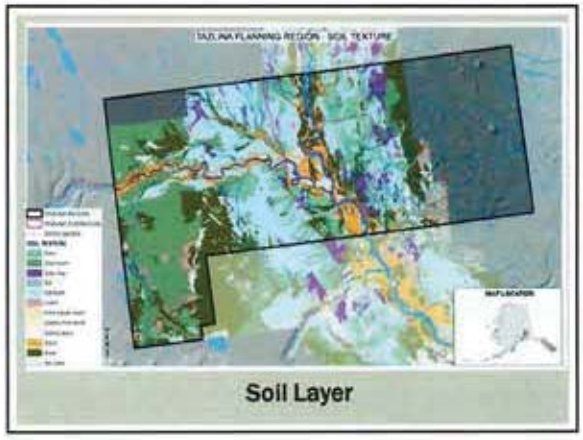

Moose Summer HSI within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory


TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANT
TAZLINA TRIBAL COUNCIL
Objectives:
Conduct a Vegetation Analysis
Develop a Moose Habitat Management Plan
Connected to the CIG
Developing a regional GIS that crosses ownership
Develop an Ecosystem Approach


Land Ownership

Tazlina Wetlands Map


Permafrost Layer


Soil Layer

THREE WAYS TO MAKE MOOSE HABITAT

- Fire
  - Wild Fire – with let burn – when appropriate
  - Safe prescribed fire
- Logging for biomass or timber
- Mechanical Treatment
  - roller chopping/crushing
- Best is to integrate all three – enhance village fire safety, produce biomass & create moose habitat

LINKING HABITAT, BIOMASS & FIRE PROTECTION

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT

- Develop a cost efficient method for creating early successional habitat in black spruce stands <5" DBH
- Test the effective use a small excavator and processor head for harvesting biomass 5-10" DBH for use at Gulkana biomass mill and/or producing firewood
- Support small scale firewood businesses in the Basin.

ROLLER CHOPPING PRESCRIPTION

- Frozen ground if possible with less than 18" of snow
- Moderate to low density Black Spruce <5" DBH
- Strong willow understory Or
- Old burn less than 30 years Or
- Old Riparian Willow Stand

Black Spruce before chopping - Tazlina

Black Spruce Stand – after 1 Year

Tazlina Enhancement Area

NEXT STEPS

- Wildlife & Habitat Monitoring Strategy –
  - data capture & analysis system connected to GIS
  - Monitoring moose and forest carnivores
- USFWS Partners Program – Capacity – Social Scientist
- Wildland Urban Interface – CWPP – develop a fire plan for each community – Gulkana, Gakona & Cheesh'na
  - 3 phases: CWPP's Landscape fire plan –
  - Fire for moose – no fire for caribou
- Chitina Volunteer Check Station - Partially Funded

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Karen@AhtnaTribal.org
(907)822-8154

Arctic Council – Conservation of Flora and Fauna Working Group

Date and Time

March 11 at 3:45 p.m.

Session Overview

This presentation will be an "open house"-style meeting with a focus on the work that the Arctic Council, and the Conservation of Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group specifically, is doing to better understand the Arctic and its wildlife and ecosystems. The presenter will also provide information on upcoming initiatives and activities of the Council. Additionally, the discussion may also include Permanent Participant representatives, such as members of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the Arctic Athabascan Council (AAC), and others. This discussion could include sharing of traditional knowledge and how members of the committees or anyone else can engage and contribute to Arctic Council activities.

Presenter

Gilbert Castellanos, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

About the Presenter

Gilbert Castellanos is the International Affairs Specialist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Alaska, and the United States Head of Delegation to the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group. Hired by the Service in 2012, Gilbert's work is focused on strengthening cooperation, scientific exchange, and providing leadership in Alaska for the conservation of shared fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats across the circumpolar Arctic.

Originally hired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2002, Gilbert later worked as a Physical Scientist at the U.S. EPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs. He has served in numerous roles in the federal government, including coordinating U.S. engagement on international environmental issues in the United Nations, with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and at the OECD as well as other multilateral organizations.

Gilbert graduated with honors from the University of California, Berkeley where he received simultaneous degrees from the College of Natural Resources in Environmental Sciences (B.S.) and the College of Letters and Science in Anthropology (B.A.). Originally from California, Gilbert has lived in Boston, Kansas City, Washington, DC and since 2012 he is sincerely proud to be able to call Alaska his home.

CAFF
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

CAFF Administrative Series Report No.5
April 2015

CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA (CAFF)

WORK PLAN 2015 — 2017

The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) is the biodiversity Working Group of the Arctic Council.

CAFF Designated Agencies:

- Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim, Norway
- Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Faroese Museum of Natural History, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands (Kingdom of Denmark)
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Helsinki, Finland
- Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Reykjavik, Iceland
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greenland
- Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources, Moscow, Russia
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Stockholm, Sweden
- United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska

CAFF Permanent Participant Organizations:

- Aleut International Association (AIA)
- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI)
- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) – Greenland, Alaska and Canada
- Russian Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Saami Council

This publication should be cited as: CAFF Work Plan 20135- 2017. CAFF International Secretariat, Akureyri, Iceland.

Cover image: US CBMP Terrestrial Monitoring representative Jason Taylor conducting biodiversity monitoring activities. Photo: Bureau of Land Management-Alaska.
Back cover: Red knots—a priority species as identified in the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative—in flight. Photo: Morten Ekker

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Internet: www.caff.is

CAFF Designated Area

Introduction

CAFF's mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources. CAFF's projects provide data for informed decision making to resolve challenges arising from trying to conserve the natural environment and permit regional growth.

Chair's summary

CAFF implemented its work plan as approved at the 2013 Ministerial. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) was the first assessment of the state of Arctic biodiversity and ecosystems. . Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021: Implementing the recommendations of the ABA, provides a path towards implementation. It acknowledges the work of Arctic Council working groups/task forces and demonstrates that implementation of 10 recommendations began during Canada's Arctic Council chairmanship. Life Linked to Ice describes impacts of loss of sea ice on biodiversity and the ecosystem services ice provides.

The Arctic Biodiversity Congress, held in Trondheim Norway, December,2014 brought together scientists, policy-makers, government officials, indigenous peoples, students, industry and civil society representatives to discuss challenges facing Arctic biodiversity and actions for conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic's living resources. It was the largest such gathering in the history of the Arctic Council.

The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) implements ABA recommendation #8. It aims to improve the status of a few priority Arctic breeding birds along their migratory routes. AMBI was a priority project for Canada's Chairmanship and has engaged observer countries, non-government organizations and international associations. For the 2015 Ministerial, AMBI delivers a four year work plan.

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) is an ongoing foundational program, providing harmonized and integrated biodiversity information. The CBMP: Strategic Plan 2013 – 2017 is a blueprint for CBMP implementation. Also produced were national reports on implementation of the freshwater, marine and terrestrial monitoring plans, annual reports on circumpolar progress, and initial development of the Coastal monitoring plan.

To ensure accessible biodiversity information CAFF established the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) which became operational in 2015. The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure is linked to the ABDS. The Arctic SDI delivers a signed Memorandum of Understanding, which ensures cooperation on spatial information and application of international standards to seamless circumpolar mapping.

Arctic fox feeding on caribou. Photo: Susan Morse

Workplan 2015-2017

The CAFF Work Plan for 2015-2017 focuses on implementation of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendations, including the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). The Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021 will guide how the Arctic Council addresses biodiversity issues for the coming decade. Key actions in for 2015-2017 include: mainstreaming biodiversity; reducing stressors on migratory birds; ecosystem services evaluation; communications and outreach; adaptation to climate change; addressing stressors on biodiversity, in particular, on migratory species; invasive species; pollution; safeguarding critical areas; improving knowledge and public awareness, in particular, monitoring and traditional and local knowledge, and indicator development. The CBMP Strategic Plan: 2013-2017 also guides the work of CAFF over the next two years.

Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network

The overall rationale and objective is to contribute to the pan-Arctic network of existing MPAs through implementation of the MPA framework; and implementation of Recommendations 5, 6 & 7 of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA). Main activities include assisting in the implementation of the framework for a pan-Arctic network of MPAs; providing technical information, including mapping areas of high species abundance, unique Arctic diversity and those important for sensitive life stages at a scale appropriate for use in planning; analyzing existing Arctic marine protected areas to identifying gaps and priorities including identification of the most climate-change resilient Arctic areas, connectivity gaps and missing buffer zones. PAME and CAFF are the WG leads. CAFF specific co-leads include the U.S. and others to be determined.

Water and Security

CAFF's work in this area contributes to understanding the role and importance of Arctic freshwater systems to biodiversity and people. It responds to ABA recommendations 10, 12, 13 and 16. CAFF has two projects in this area: i)The State of the Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report which will inform an Arctic Freshwater Assessment and an Arctic Water Resource Vulnerability Index; ii) the Salmon Rivers Peoples' Project that advances an understanding of the importance of freshwater fish to food security in the Arctic. Main activities include work towards the CBMP State of Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report and exploring a Salmon Rivers Peoples' project, which is intended to assess status and trends of salmon in 3 rivers in the circumpolar Arctic. Canada and Sweden are leads for CBMP Freshwater Monitoring Group. U.S. and the Kingdom of Denmark are co-leads for the overall CBMP program. The Arctic Athabaskan Council lead the Salmon Rivers Peoples' Project with the involvement of Saami Council, Aleut International, RAIPON and the Gwitch'n Council International. The Arctic Freshwater Biodiversity Report is to be completed in 2018. The Salmon Rivers Peoples' Project, Phase 1 is to be completed 2017.

Fishing vessel, Greenland. Photo: Carsten Egevang/ARC-PIC.com

CBMP marine scientists from Fisheries and Oceans Canada with community members collecting data on seals. Photo: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

CBMP freshwater scientists monitoring the Laxá River in Northern Iceland. Photo: Guðni Guðbergsson

Arctic Climate Resilience

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) is enhancing monitoring, enabling early warning systems, increasing efforts to engage indigenous peoples, and using traditional knowledge. These efforts respond to ABA recommendations 13 and 16. Main activities will involve continuing to implement all ecosystem monitoring plans of the CBMP and indicators. The following are the completion dates for each of the state of biodiversity reports: (1) State of Marine Biodiversity 2017; (2) State of Freshwater Biodiversity 2018; (3) State of Terrestrial Biodiversity 2019; and (4) Coastal Monitoring Plan 2017.

Invasive Species Strategy

The rationale and objectives are to improve our understanding of climate change vulnerabilities and impacts in the Arctic. These efforts respond to recommendation 9 of the ABA. Main activities include developing a strategy for the prevention and management of invasive species. The leads are the U.S. and Norway.

Strategy for Community-Based Monitoring

Expands local environment monitoring through existing citizen-science monitoring networks and traditional knowledge documentation. It responds to recommendation 15 of the ABA. Main activities include developing a strategy for the prevention and management of invasive species. The initiative is led by the U.S.

Case Studies and the Co-Production of Science and Traditional Knowledge

Brings together knowledge systems to provide a holistic understanding of conservation and sustainable use. Main activities include the Community Observation Network for Adaptation and Sustainability (CONAS); the Nomadic Reindeer Herders Project; and a Walrus and Food Security project.

Ecosystem Based Management

Promote the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management approaches across the work of CAFF. This responds to ABA recommendation 3. Main activities include follow-up on the recommendations of the EBM expert group. Led by the CAFF management board the work is ongoing and budget is in-kind.

Life Linked to Ice Follow-Up

Improve our understanding of climate change vulnerabilities and impacts on sea-ice associated biodiversity. Main activities involve following-up on the recommendations of the Life-Linked to Ice report. Led by U.S. and Norway.

Climate Change Indicator System for the Arctic (CCISA)

Support for CCISA and responding to ABA recommendation 13. Main activities include development of and reporting on the CBMP headline indicators. The U.S. and Kingdom of Denmark are leads for the CBMP.

Improving Arctic Climate Science: Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Map (DEM)

Improve access to Arctic topographical information to facilitate monitoring and assessment activities and to inform decisions on development, land management and scientific analyses. Main activities include undertaking work with Arctic SDI towards the development of a DEM. The work is led by the U.S.

Strengthening the Arctic Council

Increase capacity for implementation of Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021, including mainstreaming of biodiversity. This work responds to ABA recommendations 13, 15 and 17. Main activities include engagement of observers, industry and international organisations in CAFFs activities. The initiative is led by Norway, is an ongoing activity.

Public Diplomacy Campaign

Implementation of CAFFs Communication Strategy which works towards raising awareness on Arctic biodiversity, provide information and build partnerships across scales among youth, communities, and managers inside and outside the Arctic etc. This responds to ABA recommendations 15 and 17. Main activity is to continue to implement CAFF's communication strategy. This work is led by the CAFF Secretariat.

Youth Engagement

To raise awareness amongst Arctic children of Arctic biodiversity and the challenges it faces. The principal activity is on developing educational tool-kits for school children. Led by the CAFF Chair, U.S. and Iceland it is to be completed in 2016.

Actions for Arctic Biodiversity: Implementing the recommendations of the ABA 2013-2021

Ongoing activities follow up from the Kiruna Declaration, requesting states to implement the ABA recommendations. This initiative is led by CAFF, with components led by different countries, Permanent Participants, working groups, other Arctic Council subsidiary bodies. This is an 8 year work plan from 2013-2021. The budget is comprised of in-kind support and funding which varies with individual components.

State of Arctic Marine Biodiversity report

Provide the first CAFF assessment on the state of the CBMP Marine biodiversity. This will be a baseline and regular reporting format for future reporting, on the state and condition of key aspects and areas of Arctic biodiversity. This responds to ABA recommendations 4, 13 and 16. Norway, Russia and U.S. are leads for CBMP Marine Monitoring Group, while the U.S: and the Kingdom of Denmark are co-leads for the overall CBMP program. The report is scheduled for completion in 2017.

Meeting attendees at the CAFF Biennial meeting in Whitehorse, Canada, the last CAFF board meeting under the Canadian Chairmanship of CAFF. Photo: Linnea Nordström/Arctic Council Secretariat

King Eider monitoring, Canada. Photo: Grant Gilchrist, Environment Canada

Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI)

Encourages engagement of observers in CAFF activity and implements ABA recommendation 8. Main activities include implementation of work plans for Asian-Australasian, African-Eurasian, Americas and Circumpolar flyways. AMBI is an ongoing initiative led by Canada, Norway, and Russia.

Circumpolar Seabird Program (CBird)

CBird contributes to implementing recommendation 13 of the ABA. Main activities include assessment, monitoring and conservation plans for Arctic seabirds. It is chaired by Canada with individual components led by different countries.

Circumpolar Flora Program (CFG)

CFG provided foundational information for Arctic floral conservation work and responds to ABA recommendation 13. Main activities include developing the Circumpolar Vegetation Map, red-list for Arctic plans, moss and lichen check lists. CFG is led by Norway, with individual components led by different countries.

Mainstreaming Biodiversity

Encourage shared responsibility for biodiversity conservation across different organizations and stakeholders. This responds to ABA recommendation 4. Main activities include developing a set of principles on incorporating biodiversity objectives and safeguards into Arctic Council work. The initiative is led by CAFF with a budget comprised of in-kind support and under $250,000.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)

Evaluating the range of ecosystem services provided by Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity, in order to determine the costs associated with biodiversity loss and the value of effective conservation. This implements recommendations 4 and 12 of the ABA. Main activities include completing The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Scoping Study for the Arctic and to follow-up as appropriate. This work is led by Sweden (partners are TEEB, UNEP, WWF Arctic and GRID-Arendal). The scoping study will be completed in 2015.

Providing Arctic Biodiversity data and information to international processes

Ensure that the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment information is used in different global exercises, thereby promoting the Arctic Council and its work. Main activities include providing Arctic biodiversity information to global processes, such as those initiated by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Global Environment Outlook-6

Industry and NGP representatives discussing challenges facing Arctic conservation and development at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress. Photo: IISD Reporting Services

CAFF International Secretariat with the outgoing and incoming CAFF Chair at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress. Photo: Bjarni Eiriksson.

For further information:

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Challenges in Outreach

Dates and Times

March 9 at 1:30 p.m.
March 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Session Overview

Effective resource management also requires effective outreach. In a state as wide as Alaska, with its many remote communities, this can present challenges. This presentation will consist of an interactive discussion between experts and the audience on how to address specific challenges: youth outreach, tribal outreach, hunter education, and recruiting applicants to serve on the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

Presenters

Youth Outreach
Amanda S. Roberts, Youth Program Coordinator, Department of the Interior-Alaska

Hunter Respect
Andy Bassich, Subsistence Representative, Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Bob Hunter, Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Tribes
Amy Craver, National Park Service
Adrienne Fleek, Alaska Native Affairs Liaison, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office
Orville Lind, Native Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management

Council Appointments
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management

Facilitators
Deborah Coble, Subsistence Outreach Specialist, Office of Subsistence Management
Karen Deatherage, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management

About the Presenters

Amanda S. Roberts is the Youth Program Coordinator for the Alaska Office of the Secretary of the Interior. The Alaska Office of the Secretary of the Interior advances the Department's initiatives, policies and interests in Alaska and provides high level guidance and strategic direction across the departmental bureaus in the Alaska region. Amanda focuses her work to increase youth involvement and cultural diversity representation for the bureaus in Alaska. She has an undergraduate degree from Bates College in education and a Master's degree from

Georgetown University in organizational development. Prior to working for DOI, Amanda worked for non-profit partners of Alaska's public lands.

Andy Bassich is a resident of Eagle and a subsistence use representative on the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, where he has served since 2005. He has served on the Eagle Fish and Game Advisory Committee for 25 years, on the Yukon River Panel since 2002. He has also operated Alaska Yukon Adventure since 1985. He leads a subsistence lifestyle with his wife at their homestead on the Yukon River, is an active dog musher, and provides speaking and instruction on wilderness skills and living. He is a former river boat captain on the Yukon River and is actively involved in Yukon salmon management and conservation.

Amy Craver is an Anthropologist/Subsistence Coordinator for Denali National Park & Preserve. She has worked with the National Park Service for ten years, and, prior to that, for the Office of Subsistence Management. The mission of the National park Service is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. In her position as subsistence coordinator, Amy develops and maintains close working relationships with tribal groups, state and federal agencies to assure successful cooperation and partnerships regarding the cultural and subsistence management of Denali National Park and Preserve's resources. She also serves as the park's liaison to local community and tribal entities. Amy grew up in Talkeetna and has been a resident of Alaska for 45 years. She earned a M.A from Indiana University in Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Early in my career, Amy worked as a consultant for a number of Alaska Native non-profit organizations conducting oral history interviews, surveys, and focus groups on subsistence related topics.

Karen Deatherage is a Subsistence Council Coordinator with the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM). The Office of Subsistence Management provides staffing and regulatory support to the Federal Subsistence Management Program, which manages the rural subsistence regulatory process for Federal public lands in Alaska. In her position, Karen coordinates the activities of the Kodiak/Aleutians and Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. Prior to OSM, Karen has 20 years' experience in Alaska wildlife management and conservation, as well as interpretation and communication. She received a degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from Alaska Pacific University.

Adrienne Fleek is the Alaska Native Affairs Liaison for the National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. Adrienne's parents are Barbara and Wayne Fleek of Southeast Alaska and is a life long Alaska Native (Tlingit, Raven-Coho clan). Adrienne enjoys berry picking, fishing, running, and spending as much time outdoors with friends and family as possible. Adrienne received a MA in Public Administration from University of Alaska Anchorage in 2001 and a bachelor of arts in Sociology from UAA in 1992. Adrienne has 10 years of federal service with the National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and Fish and Wildlife Service. Adrienne has also worked for Southcentral Foundation, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, and First Alaskans Institute. The National park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of

natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The Alaska Native Affairs program is designed to ensure that the government to government relationship between the U.S. government and federally recognized tribes is honored. The program also ensures that Alaska Native interests, perspectives, and traditional knowledge are represented in Alaska's National Parks as a priority of the region and is incorporated into regional and park decision-making and operations.

Carl Johnson is the Council Coordination Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence Management, a position he has held since 2011. In that capacity, he supervises the Council Coordinators and oversees the operation of the Councils and the Council appointment process. Carl has 20 years' experience in law and policy. He has worked for law enforcement, state and tribal courts, a state legislature, and the federal government. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota and a juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School. He moved to Alaska in 1999, where he clerked for two years in the Alaska Court System. He then practiced law for ten years for firms in Anchorage, developing a practice in environmental law, federal Indian law, property and business law. He also taught law-related classes at Matanuska-Susitna College for five years as an adjunct professor.

Orville Lind is currently the Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management. He was born and raised in the village of Chignik Lake. Son of Fred and Annie Lind, grandson of Dora and Fred Lindholm, with six brothers and three sisters. He has four sons, one daughter and a wife of 36yrs. Orville's father was village Chief until his passing, and he became the youngest chief at 18 in Chignik Lake. Prior to working at the Office of Subsistence Management, he worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a variety of capacities, including Bear/Firearms Instructor, Hunter Ed Instructor, Boat Safety Instructor, Refuge Information Technician, and Refuge Ranger. He is also a talented artist, musician for his church, preacher, and cultural and science camp instructor.

Council Member Roles and Responsibilities

Dates and Times

March 8 at 3:45 p.m.
March 9 at 3:45 p.m.

Session Overview

The Regional Advisory Councils play a vital role in federal subsistence management. This session will help Council members better understand their role in the successful operation of the Councils, how to be more effective in their duties, and how they can help individually in the success of Federal Subsistence Management. The session will also introduce Council members to OSM staff who work behind the scenes to help make the Councils successful.

For background materials for this session, refer to your Regional Advisory Council Operations Manual in the chapters on "Regional Advisory Council Membership and Public Participation," "Regional Advisory Council Meetings" and in the appendix, with the "Guidance on Regional Advisory Council Member Conduct."

Presenters

Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Robert Larson, U.S. Forest Service

About the Presenters

Carl Johnson is the Council Coordination Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence Management, a position he has held since 2011. In that capacity, he supervises the Council Coordinators and oversees the operation of the Councils and the Council appointment process. Carl has 20 years' experience in law and policy. He has worked for law enforcement, state and tribal courts, a state legislature, and the federal government. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota and a juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School. He moved to Alaska in 1999, where he clerked for two years in the Alaska Court System. He then practiced law for ten years for firms in Anchorage, developing a practice in environmental law, federal Indian law, property and business law. He also taught law-related classes at Matanuska-Susitna College for five years as an adjunct professor.

Robert Larson was raised in Ketchikan and currently resides in Petersburg. He has a Bachelor in Science from the University of Alaska, School of Fisheries Science. He was employed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Commercial Fisheries Section for 27 years as a manager and researcher with an emphasis on conducting population assessments and life history studies on herring, shellfish and salmon. Robert has been employed by the U.S. Forest Service since 2001 as a subsistence biologist and coordinator for the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

Cross-Cultural Communication

Dates and Times

March 8 at 2:00 p.m.
March 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Session Overview

What is a culture? What is your culture? Do you have a culture? Everyone does. The best definition of culture is "the way you see the world." But you can't *see* the way you see the world. Your culture is always invisible to you. We can look at other people's cultures and not how they differ from our own, but we can't articulate our own very well. Cultures are a "way of seeing." Rev. Dr. Michael Oleksa's presentations are devoted to a discussion of cultures and how they affect us all, how our own culture focuses on certain aspects of reality and neglects others. He speaks internationally on how cultures influence the way we understand each other and how to deal with this in a reasonable and appropriate way.

Presenter

Rev. Dr. Michael Oleksa, Russian Orthodox Church

About the Presenter

Father Michael Oleksa, Ph.D., was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He came to Alaska in 1970 from St. Vladimir's Seminary in New York at the invitation of the Alutiiq village of Old Harbor on Kodiak Island. Over the next three decades, he served as a Russian Orthodox priest in over a dozen Alaska Native villages. In 1988, he completed his doctoral degree at the Orthodox Theological Faculty in Presove, Slovakia, with an emphasis on Native Alaskan History during the Alaska Russia Period (1741-1867).

Recognized as an "Elder" by the Alaska Federation of Natives, a Distinguished Public Servant by the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska, and honored by the Alaska State Legislature and the National Governors Association, Dr. Oleksa is a storyteller who seeks to foster greater understanding across boundaries of race and culture. Father Oleksa is a leader in the development of cross-cultural education in Alaska, an educator of Alaskan teachers, and a student of Alaska Native languages and cultures. He recently published a book in collaboration with the Association of Alaska School Boards entitled *Another Culture/Another World* that explores the great diversity and common humanity of Alaska's cultural mosaic.

Customary & Traditional (C&T) Use Determinations and the Section 804 Prioritization Process

Dates and Times

March 8 at 2:00 p.m.
March 9 at 1:30 p.m.
March 10 at 8:30 a.m.

Session Overview

This session will provide information about the role of customary and traditional use determinations and the Section 804 prioritization process in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. We will discuss the intent, purpose and processes associated with identifying rural Alaskan subsistence uses that are protected by the Federal subsistence priority on Federal public lands. We will also explore how uses and users are prioritized in times of shortage or to ensure the continuation of subsistence uses.

Presenters

Dr. Jennifer Hardin, Anthropology Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Dr. Palma Ingles, Anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Pippa Kenner, Anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Robbin La Vine, Anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management

About the Presenters

Dr. Jennifer Hardin is the Anthropology Division Chief at the Office of Subsistence Management. She has more than 20 years of experience conducting collaborative applied cultural anthropology research with indigenous peoples and rural and urban communities throughout the United States and South America. Before joining the Office of Subsistence Management in March 2015, Jennifer was the Park Cultural Anthropologist and American Indian Liaison at Yosemite National Park in California where she conducted government-to-government tribal consultations and developed and managed the park's Cultural Anthropology and American Indian Relationships Program. While at Yosemite, Jennifer negotiated and managed agreements between the NPS and tribal partners to carry out collaborative resource management and historic preservation activities and facilitate ongoing traditional cultural practices in national parks. Before joining the National Park Service, Jennifer worked as an applied cultural anthropologist in the public sector conducting community-based and interview-focused research and policy analysis throughout the United States and South America examining the ways in which unequal power relations are often institutionalized and reproduced through policy and daily practice. Jennifer holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a M.A. degree in Applied Cultural Anthropology from the University of South Florida.

Dr. Palma Ingles is an anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service. She does analysis for fish and wildlife proposals, monitors cooperative agreements, and works with rural communities and the Regional Advisory Councils. Before starting with OSM she worked for NOAA Fisheries as a researcher and policy analyst in the Southeast United States and in Alaska. She has a Master's Degree and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Florida where she conducted research with indigenous Tribes in the Amazon regions of Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador. Palma has published several journal articles and book chapters based on her research in the Amazon and Gulf of Mexico.

Philippa "Pippa" Kenner has been a staff anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management for eight years. The overall goal of her work has been to determine the effects of fish and wildlife regulatory actions upon subsistence users. She has worked extensively with communities in the Prince William Sound, Bristol Bay, and Kuskokwim regions through her previous work at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Subsistence Division at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. She organized and implemented the Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council and the Bristol Bay Cetuarcutulit (Beluga Whale) Committee comprised of local hunters wanting to participate in co-management of harbor seals, sea lions, and beluga whales with the National Marine Fisheries Service. (The Cetuarcutulit Committee has been incorporated into the Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council, which is now facilitated by BBNA). Ten years after graduating from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, she received her Alaska State Certification in Secondary Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1992 with a rural Alaska emphasis. She has worked with secondary students in Bethel, Fairbanks, and Anchorage public schools.

Robbin La Vine joined the Office of Subsistence Management Anthropology Division in October of 2014. Robbin is an applied anthropologist with extensive experience conducting subsistence research and building partnerships with Alaska tribal, state, and Federal entities since 2002. Before joining OSM, she worked as researcher for the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, served as Social Scientist for the Bristol Bay Native Association Partners Program in Dillingham, and was a Subsistence Resource Specialist for the Division of Subsistence at ADF&G. Robbin is delighted to serve rural Alaskans, working in partnership to support and ensure the continuation of the subsistence way of life.

Understanding Dual Management

Dates and Times

March 8 at 3:45 p.m.
March 9 at 3:45 p.m.
March 10 at 10:15 a.m.

Session Overview
This session will provide an overview of the legal framework that creates the system of dual management in Alaska – management of resources simultaneously by State and Federal land managers. It will explain when State and Federal jurisdiction applies, whether jointly or exclusively, and apply to specific examples.

Presenters
Trevor Fox, Regional Subsistence Coordinator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chris McKee, Wildlife Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management

About the Presenters

Trevor Fox is the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He is the senior subsistence coordinator on fish and wildlife issues for the Fisheries and Ecological Services and Refuges programs, serves as the senior technical advisor to the Deputy and Regional Director on subsistence issues, and is the Service's representative on the Interagency Staff Committee for the Federal Subsistence Board. Trevor has been in his current position since October 2014, but has primarily worked on subsistence issues since 2010 as a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management and a subsistence fish biologist with the U.S. Forest Service.

Chris McKee is the Wildlife Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence Management. He is responsible for planning and overseeing the activities of the division. In this role, he helps to analyze information used to support the subsistence programs decision making process and also maintains effective coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Chris has been in this position for the last two years and before that, worked as a wildlife biologist at OSM since 2011. He has been in Alaska since 1988.

Boards Regulatory Process

The regulatory year begins on July 1. Regulations adopted during the yearly board cycle normally become effective on the July 1 following the board meeting. Commercial fishing regulations may go into effect at the first opening of the fishery following the board meeting. Both boards have standing delegations of authority to the commissioner to accommodate emergency situations.

Call for Proposals

Each year, the boards issue a call for proposals describing regulations the board is considering for changes. There is a hard deadline for submissions.

Publish and Distribute

After the proposals deadline, Boards Support staff consolidate, type, print and distribute the proposals for each board. The proposals are published in books and online and distributed statewide for comment.

Advisory Committee Meetings

Advisory committees meet to review proposals. The committees provide a forum for local area comment.

Written Comments Received

Prior to a board meeting a comment deadline is published. Comments received from advisory committees and the general public are compiled and recorded in the board members' meeting workbooks and online. Additional comments received after the comment deadline are provided to board members at the relevant meeting.

ADF&G Preparation For Board Meeting

At the same time that the Boards' staff is preparing for the board meetings, divisions of ADF&G are compiling reports on the fish or game subjects that will be discussed by the boards.

Board Meeting

At the board meeting, the board hears reports from ADF&G staff and public comment. Staff provide biological and socioeconomic data which, in combination with public comment, form the basis for the board's decisions.

Adopted Proposals Written Into Regulation

After the board meeting, adopted proposals are written into proper legal format and submitted to the lieutenant governor for filing. After filing the adopted proposals become official state regulations.

Board Action Report Prepared and Distributed

At the conclusion of each meeting a report is compiled which outlines the board's actions on each proposal.

Procedure Differences Between Boards of Fisheries and Game

While the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game follow the same process for adopting regulations, each board has adopted various policies and procedures that differ from each other. This can be confusing for individuals who are new to the process and do not regularly attend both board meetings. These policies and procedures become modified over time as the board membership changes, and new issues arise. Prior to attending a board meeting as an AC representative, contact your Boards Support regional coordinator or any Boards Support staff to become more familiar with the meeting procedures and any recent changes.

AC and Public Testimony

Board of Fisheries

- AC testimony typically 10 minute duration, at the discretion of the chair.
- Public testimony generally 3 minute duration, at the discretion of the chair.
- AC member can provide their committee testimony as well as their own separate testimony.
- All other individuals whether testifying for themselves an organization, or both, are bound to the 3 minute time limit set by the chair.

Board of Game

- AC testimony typically 15 minute duration, at the discretion of the chair.
- Public testimony generally 5 minute duration, at the discretion of the chair.
- AC members can elect to testify later in the meeting, prior to their area of proposals.
- Individuals can give personal testimony and testimony on behalf or an organization if he/she is the only person testifying for that that organization.

Submission of Written Comment at Board Meetings

Board of Fisheries

- Limit of ten pages prior to deliberating on proposals; five pages after deliberations begin.
- Requires 27 copies of written comment to be submitted during the meeting.

Board of Game

- Limit of ten pages during entire meeting.
- Requires 20 copies of written comment to be submitted during the meeting.

Committee Process at the Board Meetings

Board of Fisheries

- Employs a “committee” system for board members divide up proposals and hear more about the proposals from the impacted public, including advisory committees.
- Advisory committees and the public sign up for committees. Advisory committees are welcome to attend any committee and move between committees occurring concurrently.
- Will also use a “committee of the whole” system where the full board listens to the discussion and all are welcome to attend and participate.

Board of Game

- On occasion will utilize a "town hall" style format to solicit more discussion from advisory committees and the public.

Meeting Cycle and Deadlines

Board of Fisheries

- Proposal deadline: April 10 at 5:00 p.m. unless it falls on a weekend; then Friday prior.
- Agenda Change Request (ACR) deadline – 60 days prior to first day of October work session.

Board of Game

- Proposal deadline: May 1 at 5:00 p.m. unless it falls on a weekend; then Friday prior.
- Agenda Change Request deadline – 60 days prior to first day of each meeting.

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Forest Service

Contact: Deborah Coble
(907) 786-3880 or (800) 478-1456
deborah_coble@fws.gov

How to Submit a Proposal to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

Alaska residents and subsistence users are an integral part of the Federal regulatory process. Any person or group can submit proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations, comment on proposals, or testify at meetings. By becoming involved in the process, subsistence users assist with effective management of subsistence activities and ensure consideration of traditional and local knowledge in subsistence management decisions. Subsistence users also provide valuable wildlife harvest information.

A call for proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing regulations is issued in January of even-numbered years and odd-numbered years for wildlife. The period during which proposals are accepted is no less than 30 calendar days. Proposals must be submitted in writing within this time frame.

You may propose changes to Federal subsistence season dates, harvest limits, methods and means of harvest, and customary and traditional use determinations.

What your proposal should contain:

There is no form to submit your proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations. Include the following information in your proposal submission (you may submit as many as you like):

- Your name and contact information (address, phone, fax, or E-mail address)
- Your organization (if applicable).
- What regulations 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."
- Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written in the regulations.
- Explain why this regulation change should be made.
- You should provide any additional information that you believe will help the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) in evaluating the proposed change.

1011 East Tudor Road MS-121 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199 • subsistence@fws.gov • (800) 478-1456 /(907) 786-3888
This document has been cleared for public release #0605132015.

You may submit your proposals by:

1. By mail or hand delivery to:

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

2. At any Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting (A schedule will be published in the Federal Register and be announced statewide, bi-annually, prior to the meeting cycles)
3. On the Web at http://www.regulations.gov

Submit a separate proposal for each proposed change; however, do not submit the same proposal by different accepted methods listed above. To cite which regulation(s) you want to change, you may reference 50 CFR 100 or 36 CFR 242 or the proposed regulations published in the Federal Register: http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html. All proposals and comments, including personal information, are posted on the Web at http://www.regulations.gov.

For the proposal processing timeline and additional information contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456/ (907) 786-3888 or go to http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/proposal/submit.cfm.

How a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is processed:

1. Once a proposal to change Federal subsistence regulations is received by the Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) validates the proposal, assigns a proposal number and lead analyst.
2. The proposals are compiled into a book for statewide distribution and posted online at the Program website. The proposals are also sent out the applicable Councils and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) for review. The period during which comments are accepted is no less than 45 calendar days. Comments must be submitted within this time frame.
3. The lead analyst works with appropriate agencies and proponents to develop an analysis on the proposal.
4. The analysis is sent to the Councils, ADF&G and the ISC for comments and recommendations to the Board. The public is welcome and encouraged to provide comments directly to the Councils and the Board at their meetings. The final analysis contains all of the comments and recommendations received by interested/affected parties. This packet of information is then presented to the Board for action.
5. The decision to adopt, adopt with modification, defer or reject the proposal is then made by the Board. The public is provided the opportunity to provide comment directly to the Board prior to the Board's final decision.
6. The final rule is published in the Federal Register and a public regulations booklet is created and distributed statewide and on the Program's website.

A step-by-step guide to submitting your proposal on www.regulations.gov:

1. Connect to www.regulations.gov – there is no password or username required.
2. In the white space provided in the large blue box, type in the document number listed in the news release or available on the program webpage, (for example: FWS-R7-SM2014-0062) and select the light blue "Search" button to the right.

3. Search results will populate and may have more than one result. Make sure the Proposed Rule you select is by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and **not** by the U.S. Forest Service (FS).
4. Select the proposed rule and in the upper right select the blue box that says, "Comment Now!"
5. Enter your comments in the "Comment" box.
6. Upload your files by selecting "Choose files" (this is optional).
7. Enter your first and last name in the spaces provided.
8. Select the appropriate checkbox stating whether or not you are providing the information directly or submitting on behalf of a third party.
9. Fill out the contact information in the drop down section as requested.
10. Select, "Continue." You will be given an opportunity to review your submission.
11. If everything appears correct, click the box at the bottom that states, "I read and understand the statement above," and select the box, "Submit Comment." A receipt will be provided to you. Keep this as proof of submission.
12. If everything does not appear as you would like it to, select, "Edit" to make any necessary changes and then go through the previous step again to "Submit Comment."

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov. Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer

Forest Service

Contact: Deborah Coble
(907) 786-3880 or (800) 478-1456
Deborah_coble@fws.gov

How to submit a Special Action Request to the Federal Subsistence Board

The regulatory cycle for changes to fish/shellfish and wildlife regulations take place every two years. A call for proposals to change fishing regulations is issued in January of even numbered years and odd numbered years for wildlife. A Special Action Request is an out-of-cycle change in a season, harvest limit, or method of harvest. Special Actions are taken when unusual situations arise, such as a significant change in resource abundance that could not reasonably have been anticipated. The Federal Subsistence Board may take a Special Action to restrict, close, open, or reopen the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and waters. Such actions are taken to ensure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population, to ensure continued subsistence use, or for reasons of public safety. These guidelines and requirements can be found in 36 CFR 242.19 and 50 CFR 100.19.

To submit a Special Action request, please provide the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Fax number (if applicable)
- E-mail address
- Organization (if applicable)
- Describe the action you are requesting; reference the current regulations you wish to change
- List if there have been unusual or significant changes in resource abundance or unusual conditions affecting harvest opportunities that could not reasonably have been anticipated and that potentially could have significant adverse effects on the health of fish and wildlife populations or subsistence users
- State if requested action is to ensure the continued viability of a fish or wildlife population, to continue subsistence uses of fish or wildlife, or for public safety reasons
- State the extenuating circumstances that necessitate a regulatory change before the next regulatory review

How a Special Action request is processed:

1. A Special Action that is 60 days or less in duration is an emergency special action. A special action lasting 61 days or more is a temporary special action.

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2. Special Actions are assigned to an analyst who works with the requestor and field staff to develop a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board.
3. The analysis and recommendation is presented to the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC), the affected Regional Advisory Council (Council) chair(s), and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).
4. If the request is a temporary special action, a public meeting is held in the affected area(s) to allow for public comment.
5. If the timing of a regularly scheduled Council meeting permits without incurring undue delay, the Board **may** seek Council recommendations on proposed Emergency Special Actions.
6. If timing of a regularly scheduled Council meeting permits without incurring undue delay, the Board **will** seek Council recommendations on proposed Temporary Special Actions.
7. Prior to taking any action the Board (or ISC) will consult with ADF&G and the chairs of the affected Councils.
8. If there is unanimous consent of the ISC, the Assistant Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence Management may approve the request.
9. If there is not unanimous consent of the ISC the analysis goes to the Board. The decision to adopt, adopt with modification or reject is then made by the Board.
10. Once a decision is made, a response letter, and a copy of the complete analysis and recommendations, is sent to the requesting proponent with a copy sent to the affected Council chair(s), State Federal Liaison Team Lead and Federal and State law enforcement.
11. If needed, the OSM subsistence outreach coordinator or the Federal agency requesting the Special Action will prepare a news release.

Submit your request by:

Mail:

Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Subsistence Policy Coordinator
1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Fax: (907) 786-3898

E-mail: subsistence@fws.gov

The Federal Subsistence Management Program website link to this information may be found here: http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/proposal/special_action/index.cfm

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov. Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

Federal Indian Law

Dates and Times

March 8 at 3:45 p.m.
March 9 at 10:15 a.m.

Session Overview

With 229 federally-recognized tribes, and the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Alaska has very unique issues when it comes to tribes exercising their sovereignty. This session will help the participant gain an understanding of the basic principles of federal Indian law and how it operates within Alaska's unique legal history.

Presenter

David Voluck, Esq., Sitka, Alaska

About the Presenter

David Avraham Voluck graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a major in Sociology of Religion. He received his juris doctorate from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College, along with a certificate of Environmental Law. Following law school, he came to Alaska to work for the Sitka Tribe, eventually becoming the Director of the tribe's Law and Trust Resources Department. In 1998, he moved to Anchorage to the firm Landye Bennett Blumstein, where he co-authored the second edition of *Alaska Natives and American Laws* with David Case. He developed a practice specializing in federal Indian law, traveling often to villages as both a municipal and tribal attorney. He provided representation to Tlingit, Haida, Athabascan, Inupiat, Yup'ik and Alutiiq peoples.

His experience with Alaska Native peoples awakened a renewed interest in his own culture and history, and David took a two year sabbatical from the practice of law to attend the Rabbinical College of America, focusing on Talmudic and Jewish Legal Studies.

After returning to Alaska, he was appointed the Chief Judge of the Sitka Tribal Court and was hired as an Adjunct Professor of Indian Law for Lewis & Clark Law School's summer Indian Law Program. In November 2010, David was appointed to sit as Magistrate/Judge for the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and in 2012 was appointed as Judge Pro Tem for the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government.

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and Partner's Program

Dates and Times

March 8 at 2:00 p.m.
March 9 at 8:30 a.m.
March 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Session Overview

The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) provides up to two million in annual funding for subsistence fisheries research projects throughout the State of Alaska. This session will provide an overview of how the FRMP funded research projects, the selection process, and current operating projects. It will also provide details on the Partner's Program, which funds six fisheries research biologists/anthropologists at various rural and tribal organizations, as well as student intern programs.

Presenters

Stewart Cogswell, Fisheries Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Karen Hyer, Fisheries Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Donald T. Rivard, Fisheries Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management

About the Presenters

Stewart Cogswell is the Fisheries Division Chief with the Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He has worked for the USFWS for the last 24 years. The Office of Subsistence Management is a branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service created to support the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. The staff of the Office of Subsistence Management includes fish and wildlife biologists, anthropologists, technical and administrative staff, and liaisons to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Native community. The staff provides support for the regulatory process and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Stewart serves as the Fisheries Division Chief in the Office of Subsistence Management, supervising and leading the Fisheries Division staff and programs. His main responsibilities are to develop programmatic vision and manage the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, as well as the fishery regulatory proposal process. Stewart is married and has four awesome kids. He is a Tribal Member from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians located in lower Michigan. He has spent a good part of his career working with Tribal Organizations throughout the Midwest and now Alaska. He also has extensive experience with grant programs and fish passage restoration. Stewart enjoys exploring wild places, fly fishing, hunting, gardening, and spending time with his family.

Don Rivard is a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He has a 31-year career in the federal government, with over 15 years of that time at OSM. As a member of the fisheries staff at OSM, he provides support to the

Federal Subsistence Board, the Regional Advisory Councils, the fisheries regulatory process and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Don has a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management/Aquatic Ecology and a M.S. degree in International Agricultural Education. Most of his career has involved working at the grassroots level with Native Americans, from Bolivia, South America to Alaska, including many places in between in Central America and the western United States.

Holistic Management

Dates and Times

March 9 at 10:15 a.m.
March 10 at 3:45 p.m.

Session Overview

All, whole, entire, total. This is how many perceive this great land but often not how it is managed. This session will present holistic approaches to management such as Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Rapid Ecological Assessments, and Local Environmental Observer Programs. Two-way discussions between panel members and participants will stimulate how these programs and others can build understanding of integrated resource management and large scale interaction with subsistence.

Presenters

James Berner, Division of Community Health, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Scott Guyer, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management
Karen Murphy, Coordinator, Western Alaska LCC, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
E. Jamie Trammell, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Alaska – Anchorage
James Nageak, Subsistence hunter and provider, current member of the Inupiat History Language and Culture Department, Retired North Slope Regional Advisory Council member

About the Presenters

James Berner works with the Division of Community Health at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Dr. Berner has been a physician in the Alaska Tribal health care system since 1974, practicing Pediatrics and Internal Medicine. He was the Senior Director of the Division of Community Health from 1984-2006, and has been the Senior Director for Science from 2006 to the present. With funding from the EPA and CDC, he started the Maternal Organics Monitoring (MOM) Study, in the Y-K Delta, to follow the blood level of man-made contaminants and micronutrients, in the pregnant mothers and infants, and watch for health effects in mothers and babies.

Scott Guyer is a Landscape Initiatives Coordinator with the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau of Land Management is an agency within the US Department of the Interior that administers more than 247.3 million acres of public lands in the United States. The mission of the BLM is "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." Currently he oversees the completion of the Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (REA), oversees the Assessment Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) program and oversees Climate Change related issues. Over the past twenty five years Scott Guyer has worked for the Bureau of Land management in Alaska in a number of leadership

capacities: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) coordinator, Reindeer Grazing Administration, State Botanist, State Weeds Coordinator, Bering Glacier Project and logistics Coordinator and North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) field project manager. He was the project lead for the satellite based remote sensing land cover effort mapping of millions of acres of federal and state lands. He has conducted research on the environmental impact of ice roads and currently is the Landscape Initiatives Coordinator and leads the Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (REA), the Assessment Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) program and oversees Climate Change related issues.

Karen Murphy is the Western Alaska LCC Coordinator with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Western Alaska LCC started in 2010. Staff (myself and a Science Coordinator) are funded by the USFWS. I had worked for USFWS for 11 years prior to starting the position with the LCC and I have worked in Alaska for 31 years. The Western Alaska LCC is a partnership of state, federal and Tribal organizations working together to address landscape/seascape scale issues that are too big for any one entity to address on their own. Our LCC is focused on providing information, knowledge and tools about climate change effects to decision makers in western Alaska. As Coordinator, she helps the Steering Committee identify our shared science/knowledge needs and help find ways that we (all the partners involved in the Cooperative) can help address these needs. Although raised on the East Coast of the U.S., she has been in Alaska since 1984. Karen has worked on several interagency partnership issues including the restoration plan for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and wildland fire management. Her experience as a fire ecologist for the USFWS made it clear that climate change impacts were already occurring in Alaska and that we needed better information to manage Alaska's resources into the future.

E. Jamie Trammell is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at the Alaska Center for Conservation Science and the Geography and Environmental Studies Department, University of Alaska, Anchorage. Jamie leads the Conservation Planning program at the Alaska Center for Conservation Science, where they work closely with land management agencies to perform geospatial analyses and identify conservation priorities throughout Alaska. He also teaches geospatial technology and environmental planning for the Geography and Environmental Studies department. He has a BA in Biology and Environmental Studies, an MS in Geography, and a PhD in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology. Jamie specializes in applying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to broad landscapes, with a focus on socio-ecological interactions and conservation planning. He has extensive experience in modeling past, current and future landscapes at local (wildlife refuge) to regional (northern rivers of Australia, North Slope of Alaska) to national (southwestern U.S.) scales using remote sensing and GIS.

James Mumiraaluk Nageak. I have been a North Slope RAC Council member since 2008 and served on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and recently retired to focus on my work with the recent appointment to the Inupiaq Commission as Chair for the Inupiat History Language and Culture Department. I am a retired minister, teacher, professor, linguist, father, husband for 51 years, grandfather and also know how to change spark plug of a snowmobile. I grew up at Kaktovik and only knew Inupiaq until I was ten years old. Moved to Barrow, 1956 and became whaling crew member for my father's whaling crew.

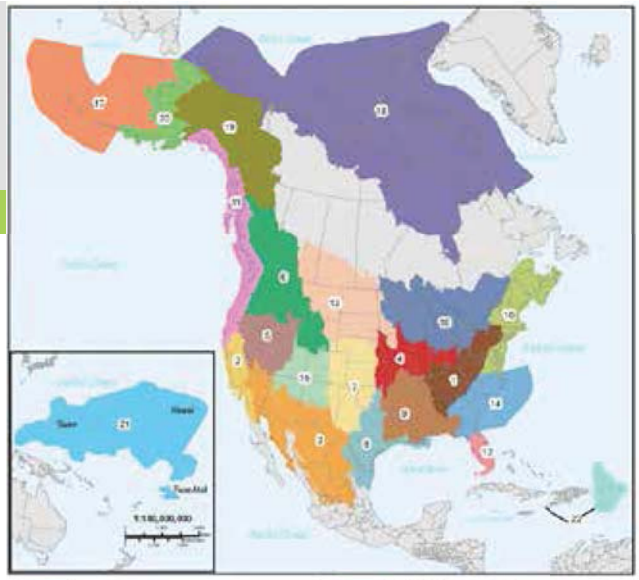
I went to Sheldon Jackson High School in Sitka, Alaska, '57-61' and Junior College, '61-63. Went to UAF in '71 for a Sociology degree and also began the Inupiaq Program for UAF as Professor. Went to Seminary '73 and '76 got the Masters of Divinity. Three months after my Master's degree, my uncle Isaac Akootchook handed me a whaling gun. On September 27, 1976, at 10:45 am, I shot and killed a whale and that made eligible to talk to you about 'Holistic Management' of subsistence living!

LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION
COOPERATIVES

About the LCC Network

Protecting natural and cultural resources is essential to sustaining our health and quality of life. We, along with fish and wildlife, rely on clean water and the benefits of having healthy rivers, streams, wetlands, forests, grasslands, and coastal areas in order to thrive. Managing the landscapes that provide our natural and cultural resources has become increasingly challenging. With the signing of Secretarial Order No. 3289, the Department of the Interior launched the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape scale issues. By building a network that is holistic, collaborative, adaptive, and grounded in science, LCCs are working to ensure the sustainability of our economy, land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources.

The 22 LCCs collectively form a network of resource managers and scientists who share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. Each LCC brings together federal, state, and local governments along with Tribes and First Nations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations. Our partners work collaboratively to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify science gaps, and avoid duplication through conservation planning and design.

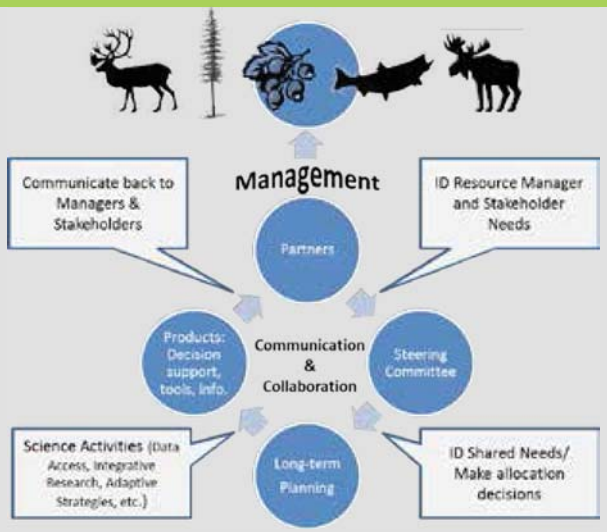


1. Appalachian
2. California
3. Desert
4. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers
5. Great Basin
6. Great Northern
7. Great Plains
8. Gulf Coast Prairie
9. Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks
10. North Atlantic
11. North Pacific
12. Peninsular Florida
13. Plains and Prairie Potholes
14. South Atlantic
15. Southern Rockies
16. Upper Midwest and Great Lakes
17. Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands
18. Arctic
19. Northwest Boreal
20. Western Alaska
21. Pacific Islands
22. Caribbean

Vision

Landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

How Do LCCs Work?



The USFWS, in Alaska, provides based funding & core staff (Coordinator and Science Coordinator). LCCs leverage further funding and resources from other partners.

Mission

A network of cooperatives depends on LCCs to:

Develop and provide integrated science-based information about the implications of climate change and other stressors for the sustainability of natural and cultural resources;

Develop shared, landscape-level, conservation objectives and inform conservation strategies that are based on a shared scientific understanding about the landscape, including the implications of current and future environmental stressors;

Facilitate the exchange of applied science in the implementation of conservation strategies and products developed by the Cooperative or their partners;

Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of LCC conservation strategies in meeting shared objectives;

Develop appropriate linkages that connect LCCs to ensure an effective network.

lccnetwork.org

LCCs in Alaska and Northwest Canada

Contact information

Arctic LCC

Vacant
Coordinator

Joshua Bradley
Acting Science Coordinator
joshua_bradley@fws.gov
(907)455-1847

arcticlcc.org

Northwest Boreal LCC

Amanda Robertson
Coordinator
amanda_robertson@fws.gov
(907)786-3694

Vacant
Science Coordinator

nwblcc.org

Western Alaska LCC

Karen Murphy
Coordinator
karen_a_murphy@fws.gov
(907)786-3501

Joel Reynolds
Science Coordinator
joel_reynolds@fws.gov
(907)786-3914

westernalaskalcc.org

Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC

Douglas Burn
Coordinator
douglas_burn@fws.gov
(907)786-3807

Aaron Poe
Science Coordinator
aaron_poe@fws.gov
(907)786-3834

absilcc.org

North Pacific LCC

John Mankowski
Coordinator
john_mankowski@fws.gov
(360)534-9330

Mary Mahaffy
Science Coordinator
mary_mahaffy@fws.gov
(360)753-7763

nplcc.org

http://www.fws.gov/alaska/lcc/index.htm

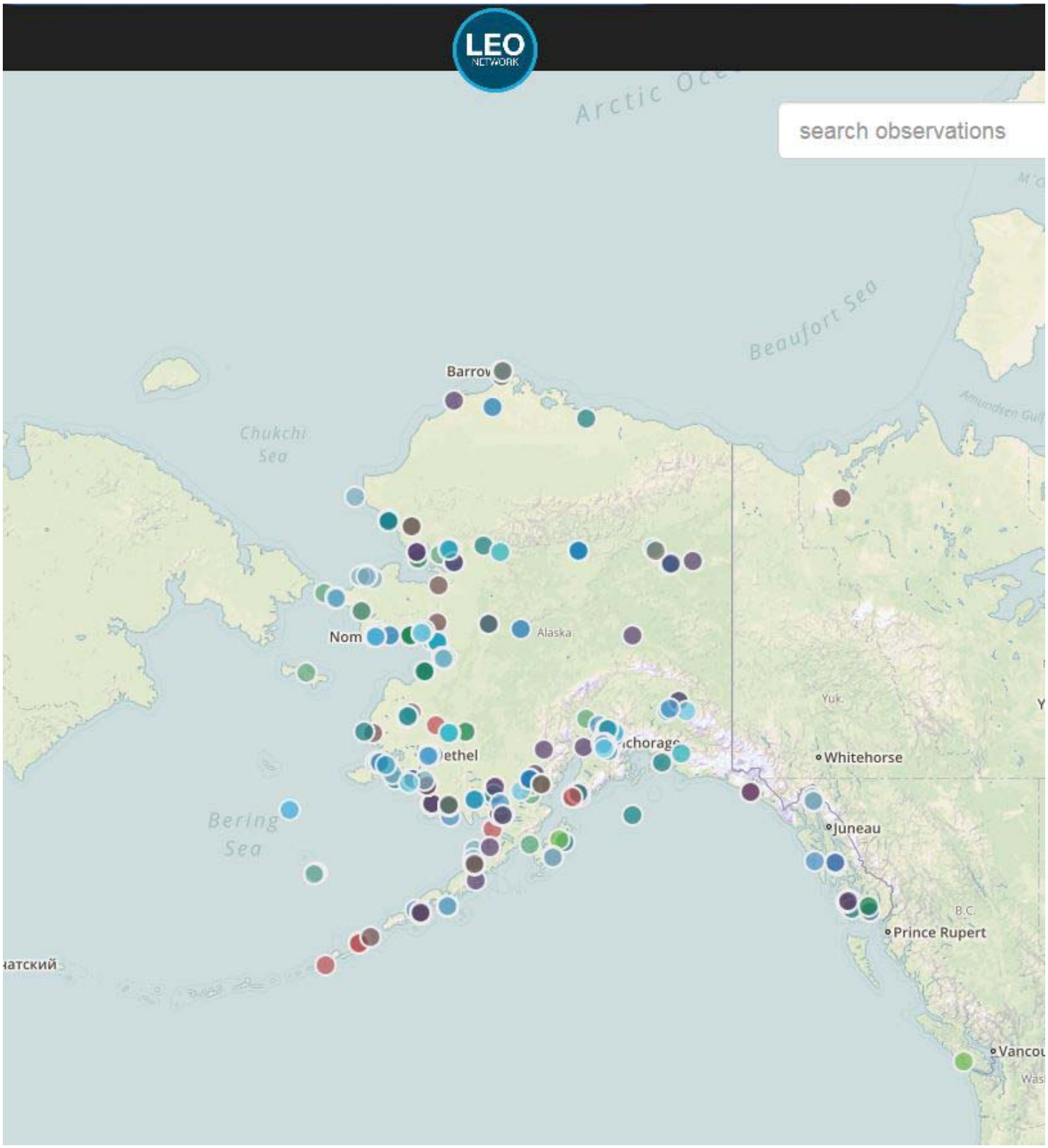
LEO Network

The Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network connects people through information on our shared environment.

Northern communities are changing due to environmental impacts, climate change and development. The LEO Network is a network of local environmental observers and topic experts who apply traditional knowledge, western science and technology to document significant, unusual or unprecedented environmental events in our communities. These changes can be observed in seasonality, plants and wildlife, weather conditions as well as natural hazards including coastal erosion, flooding, droughts, wildfire and other events that can threaten food security, water security and community health.

The purpose of the LEO Network is to increase understanding about environmental change so communities can adapt in healthy ways.

LEO Network
www.leonetwork.org
(907) 729-3430
(907) 729-4043
ceh@anthc.org


LEO
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North Slope Rapid Ecoregional Assessment

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Alaska Natural Heritage Program
Institute of Social and Economic Research
Scenarios Network for Alaska & Arctic Planning

September 2015 Volume 11, Issue 4

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Draft final and all detailed reports and other products available on the web

http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/landscape-ecology/north-slope-rea/final-report/#content

Final community presentation

North Slope Borough Planning Commission meeting

Location: Barrow

Date: September 24, 2015

Final draft technical report and data now available

Full report and data available Spring 2016

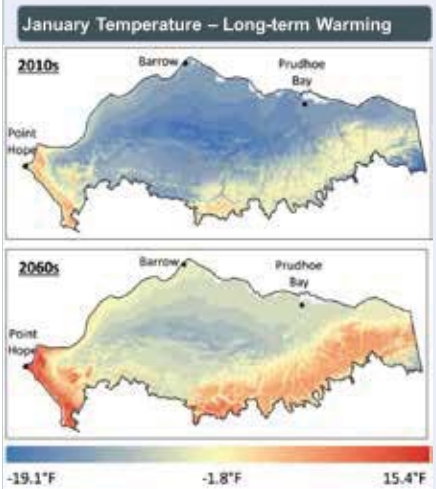
REA Completed. The University of Alaska Team recently completed the North Slope Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (REA). Although some data developed in the project represents local information, the assessment is designed to provide a regional perspective on the current and future condition of the North Slope landscape. The draft final report and technical supplements are now available at:

http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/landscape-ecology/north-slope-rea/final-report/#content

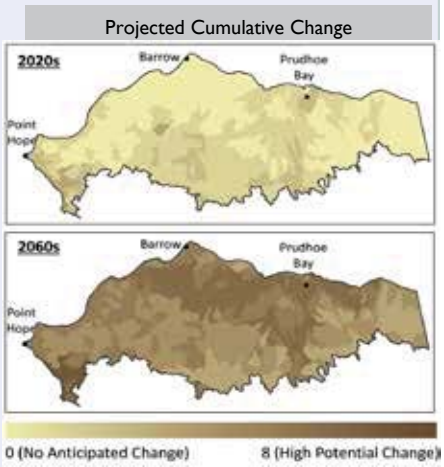
In Spring 2016, the full final report and all data will be available on BLM's national "REA Data Portal" at:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Landscape_Approach/reas/dataportal.html

Findings. The assessment found the landscape condition and ecosystems in this region are functioning at a very high level. Even with climate and other changes the long-term projection (year 2060) is for the landscape condition to remain high. However, this does not mean there will not be changes within these ecoregions. The Change Agents: fire, climate, permafrost, invasive species, and human uses, and the cumulative impacts associated with these change agents are projected to be significant. For example, an increase in temperature could enhance the foraging habitat for moose. It's unclear how changes in vegetation and temperatures will may affect caribou habitat and movements. The assessment found there is a significant data gap in the information available about the magnitude and spatial distribution of future oil and gas development on the North Slope. Although the University of Alaska Team worked with industry data to identify this type of information, much is currently unknown or was unavailable for this project. Because of this, estimates in the final report about future landscape condition underestimate the possible impacts from future development.



Products. The UA Team developed many new products.



New Baseline Data – such as caribou foraging and distribution maps.

Identification of Crucial Data Gaps – such as a lack of data on fish populations and movements, lack of soil surveys, limited water temperature data, and many others found in the final report.

New Maps – hundreds of new maps – see insets as examples.

Analysis – such as a synthesis from 15 years of minutes and testimony from the North Slope's

Alaska Natural Heritage Program
Institute of Social and Economic Research
Scenarios Network for Alaska & Arctic Planning

Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 West 7th Avenue #13

Tel: (907) 271-3241
Fax: (907) 271-5479
E-mail: sguyer@blm.gov

«First Name» «Last Name»
«Title/Expertise»
«Organization»
«Address»
«City, State, Zip»

We're on the WEB!

aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/landscape-ecology/north-slope-rea/#content

Past Events

Data Discovery
- January 2014

Work Plan
- Fall 2014

Preliminary Products
- Fall 2014

Draft Final Report
- Spring 2015

Upcoming Events

Final Report & Data
- Spring 2016

Rapid Ecoregional Assessment - Overview

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (REA) for the North Slope of Alaska is one of four assessment projects in Alaska. An *ecoregion* is a large area of land that contains similar species and environments. The goal of an REA is to look across an ecoregion to more fully understand ecological conditions and trends; natural and human influences; and opportunities for resource conservation and restoration, as well as development. The REA provides scientific information for land and resource managers to use to help answer questions, address problems, and apply to future management actions.

BLM's Collaborative Approach

BLM's approach to the North Slope (NOS) REA is to work with other land and natural resource managers. Each decision about what is included in the REA and the type of analysis needed is made in a collaborative manner by the Assessment Management Team (AMT) consisting of multiple federal and state agency senior managers. Another working team that provides input into the process is made up of specialists from federal, state, local, and university representatives who have in-depth knowledge about a particular area, such as aquatics, wildlife, and vegetation.

Project Team

The Bureau of Land Management partnered with the University of Alaska (UA) to conduct the work associated with the North Slope REA. The University team includes the Alaska Natural Heritage Program with its significant expertise in landscape assessments; the Institute of Social and Economic Research, bringing social and human dimensions to the analysis; and the Scenarios Network for Alaska & Arctic Planning (SNAP) with its expertise in climate change modeling. Mr. Scott Guyer with BLM serves as the lead for REA's in Alaska; his email is sguyer@blm.gov if you would like to contact him with any questions or comments.

Kuskokwim River Salmon – Report and Discussion

Dates and Times

March 10 at 8:30 a.m.

Session Overview

This session will provide an overview of the status Kuskokwim River salmon, as well as a pre-season forecast, subsistence fisheries research overview, management strategies, and discussion among both Kuskokwim River regional advisory council members (YK Delta and Western Interior) and the public.

Presenters

Vernon "Ray" Born, Deputy Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Region, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Aaron Poetter, Fishery Biologist III, Inseason manager, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division
Stewart Cogswell, Fisheries Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Pippa Kenner, Anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management
Dan Gillikin, Environmental Director (IGAP) / Partners Biologist (OSM), Native Village of Napaimute Tim Andrew, Natural Resources Director, Association of Village Council Presidents
Don Rivard, Session Facilitator

About the Presenters

Vernon "Ray" Born. I have worked 20 years with US Fish and Wildlife Service. The US Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Region works as shared stewards of America's last true wild places and wild resources, a vast unparalleled array of fish, wildlife, and lands that people live with, live from, discover and enjoy now and for generations to come. We cultivate a respect for all life, from the smallest plant to the most iconic animal to the communities and cultures who call Alaska home. I am the acting refuge manager for the second largest refuge in the United States. I believe in working with the people of Alaska to conserve fish and wildlife resources for our future generations. I have a Bachelors of Science Degree in Biology, Master's degree in Public Administration. My previous work was with Northwest Hawaiian Islands as acting Superintendent, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Agency international relations specialist, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement. And retired U.S. Army Reserve Colonel.

Stewart Cogswell is the Fisheries Division Chief with the Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He has worked for the USFWS for the last 24 years. The Office of Subsistence Management is a branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service created to support the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. The staff of the Office of Subsistence Management includes fish and wildlife biologists, anthropologists, technical and administrative staff, and liaisons to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Native community. The staff provides support for the regulatory process and the

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Stewart serves as the Fisheries Division Chief in the Office of Subsistence Management, supervising and leading the Fisheries Division staff and programs. His main responsibilities are to develop programmatic vision and manage the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, as well as the fishery regulatory proposal process. Stewart is married and has four awesome kids. He is a Tribal Member from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians located in lower Michigan. He has spent a good part of his career working with Tribal Organizations throughout the Midwest and now Alaska. He also has extensive experience with grant programs and fish passage restoration. Stewart enjoys exploring wild places, fly fishing, hunting, gardening, and spending time with his family.

Philippa "Pippa" Kenner has been a staff anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management for eight years. The overall goal of her work has been to determine the effects of fish and wildlife regulatory actions upon subsistence users. She has worked extensively with communities in the Prince William Sound, Bristol Bay, and Kuskokwim regions through her previous work at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Subsistence Division at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. She organized and implemented the Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council and the Bristol Bay Cetuarcutulit (Beluga Whale) Committee comprised of local hunters wanting to participate in co-management of harbor seals, sea lions, and beluga whales with the National Marine Fisheries Service. (The Cetuarcutulit Committee has been incorporated into the Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council, which is now facilitated by BBNA). Ten years after graduating from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, she received her Alaska State Certification in Secondary Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1992 with a rural Alaska emphasis. She has worked with secondary students in Bethel, Fairbanks, and Anchorage public schools.

Dan Gillikin. I have worked with Native Village of Napaimute for one year. Napaimute Mission Statement: "To Restore Napaimute to a vital, sustainable community that provides a home for our people and preserves our cultural heritage. " To accomplish this we provide local economic opportunities and services through Napaimute Enterprises, contractual arrangements, and grants with resource management agencies. We also provide outreach and collaborate on protection and preservation of our cultural heritage and natural resources. As the Environmental Director I am responsible for oversight of the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) funded through the EPA. My primary duties are: water quality assessment, solid waste management, natural resource protection and conducting outreach related to environmental concerns. In my new (additional) role as the Partners in Fisheries Monitoring Biologist I will provide program oversight for the partners Program. Our programs main focus will be on facilitation of outreach and collaboration between Federal and State Fisheries Managers, and supporting youth environmental education opportunities. I graduated in 1984 from Central Washington University with a degree in Biology, with a focus on Liminology (freshwater ecology). After having worked for several years for on Columbia River smolt passage projects and as a Foreign Fisheries Observer in the Bering Sea I enlisted in the US. Coast Guard and was stationed in Homer Alaska. After leaving the Coast Guard I spent the next 20 some years working in fisheries and habitat assessment with the USDA Forest Service and then the US Fish and Wildlife Service. My last eight years were spent at the Yukon Delta NWR as their Fisheries Biologist, after which I retired from federal service. My "retirement" landed me in Aniak as the

Director of Fisheries with the Kuskokwim Native Association, and eventually to Napaimute as their Environmental Director.

Don Rivard is a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He has a 31-year career in the federal government, with over 15 years of that time at OSM. As a member of the fisheries staff at OSM, he provides support to the Federal Subsistence Board, the Regional Advisory Councils, the fisheries regulatory process and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Don has a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management/Aquatic Ecology and a M.S. degree in International Agricultural Education. Most of his career has involved working at the grassroots level with Native Americans, from Bolivia, South America to Alaska, including many places in between in Central America and the western United States

Public Advisory Groups for Fish and Wildlife Management

Dates and Times

March 9 at 8:30 a.m.
March 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Session Overview

This session will explore the opportunities for the public to participate in the regulatory process through State Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions, the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. It will provide information on what these advisory groups do and how you can become involved with them.

Presenters

Barbara Cellarius, National Park Service
Patty Schwalengerg, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
Sherry Wright, Board Support Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Ralph Lohse, Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (retired)

About the Presenters

Barbara Cellarius has been the cultural anthropologist and subsistence specialist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve since October 2002. Much of Barbara's time is spent working with local residents, including the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, and with agency staff on various aspects of managing the consumptive use of park resources. She also serves as the park's tribal liaison and cultural anthropologist. Prior to joining the NPS in 2002, Barbara completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle/Saale, Germany. She earned a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of Kentucky, a Master of Environmental Studies degree from the Evergreen State College, and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Bryn Mawr College.

Patricia Schwalenberg is the Executive Director of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC). The AMBCC was established as a result of an amendment to the Migratory Bird Treat Act, which allows for the legal subsistence harvest of migratory birds in Alaska during the spring and summer months. The AMBCC is a statewide body that develops, implements, and promotes a co-management program between Alaska Native, Federal and State governments in recognition of the subsistence use and conservation of migratory birds in Alaska. Ms. Schwalenberg is responsible for directing, guiding, and coordinating the formulation of policies, plans, standards, procedures, and processes for the AMBCC. She also oversees the annual regulatory process, which includes coordinating all AMBCC and committee meetings. Ms. Schwalenberg is an enrolled member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin. She has worked for and with Tribes in the field of Tribal natural

resources since 1982, and has been serving the seven member tribes of the Chugach Regional Resources Commission for the past 21 years.

Sherry Wright is a Regional Regulatory Program Assistant with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). She has worked for the State of Alaska for the past 16 years. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages fish and wildlife resources for the State of Alaska and encourages public participation in its regulatory process. Ms. Wright works primarily with the Southcentral Region Fish & Game Advisory Committees, the public and agency staff to engage in the development of Alaska's hunting and fishing laws. She has a Secretarial Sciences Diploma and a Biblical Counseling Diploma. Since starting work for ADF&G, she has gained knowledge through working with the Board of Game process, hearing staff reports throughout the years, and hearing the incredible testimony regarding hunting and fishing practices from public participants.

Ralph Lohse has lived a subsistence lifestyle in the Copper River basin for 45 years, spending most of the year in Kenny Lake and his summers as a commercial fisherman in Cordova. He has hunted, fished, trapped, picked berries, engaged in placer mining and gold panning, made handicrafts, collected firewood, and felled logs for building cabins. He hunts and fishes within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and Prince William Sound. He has also trapped all manner of furbearing mammals in his region, from squirrels, muskrat, beaver, otter, marten, and mink to wolverine, lynx, coyote and wolf. He has commercially gillnetted salmon on the Copper River flats for 40 years, and has commercially harvested halibut, rockfish and lingcod. Mr. Lohse regularly participates in various regional resource management councils, boards, and advisory groups both as a member (in leadership positions), and as an interested citizen, has an interest in the State Board of Game and Board of Fisheries processes. He was an active member of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council since it was established in 1993 (one of only a handful of council members with that length of service) until 2015, and he served as chair for 13 years. Mr. Lohse served on the State's Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee for 15 years as chair or vice-chair, and on the Cordova School Board for 6 years and as chairman for three years. He has been very active in fish and game planning groups at the local and state levels.

ADF&G • Boards Support Section

Understanding the Advisory Committee Process

It comes as a surprise to many Alaskans to learn that the state's hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations are NOT made by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

This job falls to the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries. Each board is a group of seven people appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature.

Advisory committees play a key role in the regulatory process. While the Boards of Game and Fisheries make the final decisions on proposed regulations, they rely on advisory committees to offer their local perspective on fish and wildlife issues that are of interest to the committee by submitting proposals and providing comments on proposals.

What are Advisory Committees?

Advisory committees are local groups authorized by Alaska Statute 16.05.260. This statute gives the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game direction to establish advisory committees for the purpose of providing a local forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations on matters related to the management of fish and wildlife resources. Currently there are 84 advisory committees that represent communities across the state. Each advisory committee is comprised of up to 15 locally elected members with expertise in local fish and game issues.

Advisory Committee Meetings & Roles

Advisory committee meetings are open to the public and provide a local forum for the public, advisory committee members, ADF&G and other agency staff to discuss fish and wildlife issues. Meetings focus on developing and evaluating regulatory proposals and consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies on fish, wildlife, and habitat issues. Advisory committee membership, uniform rules and responsibilities are defined in regulation in 5 AAC Chapter 96, and their functions are supported by ADF&G Boards Support Section through local regional coordinators.

How to Get Involved

For more information about advisory committee meetings and membership, please visit **www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us** or contact an ADF&G regional coordinator (see list at left).

The Value of Working Together

Advisory committees serve as a forum to bring individuals, agencies, and interested organizations together to review important fish and game resource matters. These forums not only provide an opportunity for collaboration and communication, keystones to forging regulatory change with the boards, but serve to strengthen relationships among each of these parties in their work to improve Alaska's fish and game resource.

October 2014

Want to know more?

To find out more about advisory committees, contact your regional coordinator.

Arctic Region
442-1717

Interior Region
459-7263

Southwest Region
842-5142

Southcentral Region
267-2354

Southeast Region
465-4110

Western Region
543-2433

How Regulations are Made

The Public

People bring concerns to their local advisory committee, submit their own proposals directly to the boards, and provide written comments and oral testimony to the boards.

Local Advisory Committees

Advisory committees discuss local wildlife observations and issues, seek information from ADF&G, submit proposals to the boards, review submitted proposals, and provide written comments and oral testimony to the boards.

ADF&G

ADF&G submits proposals to the boards and provides biological information to the boards and advisory committees.

Board of Game

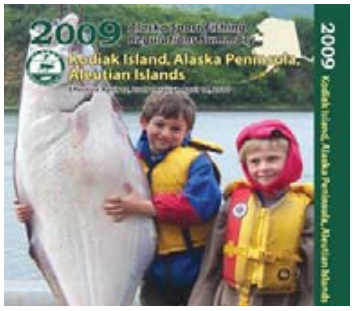
Board of Fisheries

The Boards consider advisory committee and public comments, and information from ADF&G regarding proposals. Decisions on proposals are reached by a majority vote of the Board and written as regulations.

The regulations are given legal review and made official by the Lt. Governor.

Want to know more?

www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us



After regulations are approved, the **Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Regulations** books are produced by ADF&G. Regulations are enforced by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

ADF&G • Boards Support Section

Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees (84)

Arctic Region (9)
Kotzebue
Lower Kobuk
Noatak/Kivalina
North Slope
Northern Norton Sound
Northern Seward Peninsula
St Lawrence Island
Southern Norton Sound
Upper Kobuk

Interior Region (15)
Central
Delta
Eagle
Fairbanks
Grayling/Anvik,/Shageluk/ Holy Cross (G.A.S.H.)
Koyukuk River
Lake Minchumina
McGrath
Middle Nenana River
Middle Yukon River
Minto/Nenana
Ruby
Tanana/Rampart/Manley
Upper Tanana/Forty Mile
Yukon Flats

Southeast Region (23)
N. Frederick Sound
Angoon
Elfin Cove
Icy Straits
Juneau-Douglas
Kake
Klukwan
Pelican
Sitka
Tenakee Springs
Upper Lynn Canal
Yakutat

S. Frederick Sound
Craig
East Prince of Wales Island
Edna Bay
Hydaburg
Hyder
Ketchikan
Klawock
Petersburg
Port Alexander
Saxman
Sumner Strait
Wrangell

Southcentral Region (18)
Anchorage
Central Peninsula
Cooper Landing
Copper Basin
Copper River/PWS
Denali
Homer
Kenai/Soldotna
Matanuska Valley
Mt. Yenlo
Paxson
PWS/Valdez
Seldovia
Seward
Susitna Valley
Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road
Tyonek
Whittier

Southwest Region (12)
Chignik
False Pass
King Cove
Kodiak
Lake Iliamna
Lower Bristol Bay
Naknek/Kvichak
Nelson Lagoon
Nushagak
Sand Point
Togiak
Unalaska/Dutch Harbor

Western Region (7)
Bethel
Central Bering Sea
Coastal Lower Yukon
Lower Kuskokwim
Mid-Lower Yukon
Central Kuskokwim
Stony-Holitna

Guidelines for Advisory Committee Meeting Testimony

Advisory Committee representatives are allowed up to 10 minutes (Board of Fisheries) or 15 minutes (Board of Game) to testify at board meetings, giving ACs an opportunity to expand on and highlight the points in their written comments and recommendations, and answer questions from the board. This testimony should generally be restricted to what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s), and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony. Advisory Committee members also have the opportunity to testify as individuals and express personal views and recommendations, but this testimony must be clearly separate from AC testimony.

NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions the board members may have for you.

When the chair calls for an AC to testify, the designated AC representative will go to the microphone and state his or her name and the AC represented. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

If you wish to give testimony for more than one group (i.e., yourself in addition to the advisory committee), when you begin your testimony, state for the record that after your AC testimony you will then speak for yourself or another group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the advisory committee you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for yourself, give those comments.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions.

A person using derogatory or threatening language will not be allowed to continue speaking.

Personal and Public Testimony and Differences Between the Boards of Fisheries and Game

Advisory Committees receive an opportunity to testify on the proposals at Board Meetings (see "Guidelines for Advisory Committee Meeting Testimony" in this manual). Individual members of ACs may also testify on their own behalf, so the following are some guidelines for individual testimony, and a note on some differences between the way the Boards of Fisheries and Game conduct their meetings.

Persons planning to testify before Board of Fisheries or Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. Persons providing written material for the Board of Game members must provide hard copies to the staff (20 copies to the Board of Game, and 27 to Board of Fisheries); and submit them with their testimony card. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.

If you wish to give testimony for more than one group (i.e., yourself plus an organization), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing who you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record the group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the first group you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for the second group, give comments for that group.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions.

Some differences between Board of Fisheries (BOF) and Board of Game (BOG) meeting procedures:

- **AC testimony:** BOF allows 10 minutes per AC; BOG allows 15.
- **Individual testimony:** BOF allows three minutes per person; BOG allows five.
- **Written materials:** As noted above BOF requires 27 hard copies for written submissions, BOG 20.
- **BOF** discusses certain proposals through a committee system, with the committees then reporting to the full Board.
- **BOG** allows ACs to testify directly prior to the presentation of proposals for the ACs local area, rather than requiring all testimony in the first part of the board meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions from board members.

Common Questions about the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council

Question: **Are migratory birds managed under ANILCA?**

Answer: *No. Migratory birds are not managed under ANILCA. Management of migratory birds is through the migratory bird treaties between the United States of America, Canada, Japan, Great Britain, and Mexico.*

Question: **What was the purpose of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)?**

Answer: *In the early 1900s, migratory bird hunting in North America was not Federally regulated and commercial market hunting of birds took its toll on population numbers. The 1916 Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada sought to stem the rapid declines noted in some bird species. The treaty prevented market hunting, opened regulated sport hunting of "game" species (primarily waterfowl), and protected birds during the nesting season, March 10 through September 1. Similar migratory bird treaties were subsequently signed between the United States and Mexico (1936), Japan (1972), and Russia (1976). To implement these treaties in the United States, Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918 with later amendments).*

Question: **Why did the U.S. negotiate the 1997 Protocol Amendments to the MBTA?**

Answer: *The traditional harvest of migratory birds by northern peoples during the spring and summer months was not taken fully into account during the legal negotiations for the treaties with Canada and Mexico. This harvest, which had occurred for centuries, was necessary to the subsistence way of life in the north and thus continued despite the closed season. To remedy this situation, the United States negotiated Protocols amending both the Canadian and Mexican treaties to allow for spring/summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds by indigenous inhabitants of identified subsistence harvest areas in Alaska. The U.S. Senate ratified the amendments to both treaties in 1997.*

Question: **How did the treaty amendments lead to the formation of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC)?**

Answer: *The amended treaty with Canada calls for creation of management bodies to ensure an effective and meaningful role for Alaska's indigenous inhabitants in the conservation of migratory birds. AMBCC was created as a statewide body to develop, implement, and promote a co-management program between Alaska Native, Federal and State governments in recognition of the subsistence use and conservation of migratory birds in Alaska, as part of the national migratory bird conservation system. According to the Letter of Submittal, management bodies are to include Alaska Native, Federal, and State of Alaska representatives as equals.*

Question: **Who is the AMBCC comprised of?**

Answer: *The AMBCC is 13 member council comprised of one Federal representative designated by the Alaska Regional Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, one State representative designated by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and eleven representatives from the Alaska Native non-profit partners. Each faction is entitled to one vote.*

Question: **What is the AMBCC's purpose and what are the responsibilities of the council members?**

Answers:

1. *To ensure the conservation of migratory birds; and to perpetuate the continuation of the customary and traditional harvest of migratory birds by indigenous inhabitants;*
2. *To promote the co-management of migratory birds;*
3. *To develop recommendations for spring and summer subsistence seasons, methods, means and bag limits which are consistent with the customary and traditional uses of migratory birds and their eggs by Alaska's indigenous inhabitants;*
4. *To recommend law enforcement policies and to assist in their implementation;*
5. *To develop cooperative programs to monitor migratory bird populations and harvests;*
6. *To promote, recommend and assist in migratory bird research and incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in migratory bird research projects;*
7. *To promote and recommend habitat protection policies;*
8. *To provide education and information to the public, appropriate management agencies, and other interested parties;*
9. *To provide guidelines within which the regional bodies can recommend harvest regulations and conservation measures, and;*
10. *To coordinate with other migratory bird groups, joint ventures, and teams regarding issues of common concern.*

Question: **Are the regulations voted on by the AMBCC final?**

Answer: *No, the regulations voted on at the AMBCC are not final. The AMBCC is part of a larger system of both national and international migratory bird management. The council will provide advice, recommendations and information regarding subsistence use*

and the conservation of migratory birds in Alaska. The Council recommendations are forwarded to the Service Regulations Committee who acts on them and makes the final recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior.

Question: **When are the council meetings and what are they about?**

Answer: *There is a fall meeting that is held for the primary purpose of providing background information and guidelines to the regions to develop regulatory and other recommendations for migratory birds.*

A spring meeting is held prior to the Flyway Council meetings to review and vote on regulatory recommendations that are forwarded to the AMBCC by each of the regions or the public. The Council will accept public comment on all regulatory and non-regulatory matters prior to any vote. The council package is sent to the four flyway councils to maintain communications and cooperation between the flyways. The package is ultimately sent to the Service Regulations Committee for their action during the meeting to act on late season proposals.

Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Forest Service

Contact: Deborah Coble
(907) 786-3880 or (800) 478-1456
deborah_coble@fws.gov

Understanding the role of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Member and the Application and Appointment Process

Regional Advisory Council role:

There are 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils in Alaska. The Councils provide advice and recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) on subsistence hunting, trapping and fishing issues on Federal public lands and waters. Each Council has 10 to 13 appointed members typically serving four-year terms. Council members are not paid for their volunteer services; however, their transportation and lodging are pre-paid and per diem is provided for meals and other expenses under Federal travel guidelines. Regional Advisory Councils play a dynamic role in the Federal regulatory process.

Council Responsibilities:

- Review and make recommendations to the Board on:
  - Proposals for regulations
  - Policies
  - Management Plans
  - Customary and Traditional use determinations
  - Other subsistence related issues on Federal public lands and waters within the region
- Develop proposals for the subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife
- Review proposals submitted by others
- Appoint members to National Park Subsistence Resource Commissions
- Encourage and promote local participation in the decision-making process affecting subsistence harvests on Federal public lands and waters
- Provide an open forum for public expressions, opinions and concerns regarding any matter related to subsistence

1011 East Tudor Road MS-121 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199 • subsistence@fws.gov • (800) 478-1456 / (907) 786-3888
This document has been cleared for public release #0405122015

The application and appointment process:

Every autumn, the Office of Subsistence Management opens the application process for people interested in serving on 1 of 10 Regional Advisory Councils in Alaska. Applications are distributed via mail and available at all Council meetings, Alaska Federation of Natives conference and on the Federal Subsistence Management Program website at www.doi.gov/subsistence. A person may apply to serve on the Council or be nominated by another individual or an organization. The application deadline is late January each year. Applications may be mailed, faxed or emailed using the contact information provided on this flyer.

A qualifying applicant must:

- Be a resident of the region the Council represents
- Qualify using the five criteria established by the Board:
  - Possess knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife resources
  - Possess knowledge of the region's subsistence uses, customs and traditions
  - Possess knowledge of the region's commercial and sport uses of fish and wildlife resources
  - Demonstrate leadership through involvement in local or regional fish and wildlife management organizations
  - Be able to communicate effectively with diverse groups
- Be willing to travel at least twice a year to attend meetings

How a Regional Advisory Council application/nomination is processed:

1. Once the application period is closed, all applicants are sent a letter acknowledging receipt of their application and an explanation of the next steps in the process.
2. For each of the 10 subsistence regions, an Interagency Nominations Review Panel (Panel) is created to process the applications. Each Panel consists of Federal staff from the agencies most active in that region, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service. The Panel is chaired by the Subsistence Council Coordinator assigned to that region. The Panel performs the following functions:
   a. Interview applicants/nominees and references or regional key contacts to learn more about the candidate's knowledge and experience. Interviews are conducted in February through early April each year. The Panel creates a short biography based on the information gathered from the interview and the submitted application form.
   b. The Panel meets by mid-April to discuss the candidates for that region, score the candidates based on the five criteria established by the Board (listed previously), and then rank the candidates based on their final score. The candidate with the highest score is ranked first, the second highest is ranked second, and so on.
   c. The Panel then submits a written report to the Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) with recommendations for appointment to the Council.
3. The ISC meets in May or June to consider the recommendations from the 10 Panels. In addition to the five criteria considered by the Panels, the ISC considers gender and geographic diversity within the Council membership. The ISC then submits its recommendations to the Board.
4. The Board meets in June or July to consider the recommendations of the ISC. The Board then develops its nominations to forward to the Secretary of the Interior, with the concurrence of the

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Secretary of Agriculture, for appointment to the Councils. That information is transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior in August each year.

5. The White House Liaison for the Secretary of the Interior receives the names and contact information of all nominees and begins a vetting process that includes examination of State and Federal citations and convictions. Sometimes, even though a candidate was considered qualified by the Board, a candidate is disqualified as part of this vetting process. When a candidate is disqualified by the Secretary of the Interior, the reason for disqualification is not provided to the Federal Subsistence Board or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. After vetting is completed, the Secretary of the Interior issues appointment letters, which are typically signed on December 3.

Confidential process:

The information provided by all applicants and nominees is governed by The Privacy Act and is protected from release. All aspects of this nominations process, from who has applied to the vetting process, are kept strictly confidential.

Mail:

Office of Subsistence Management
Attn: Council Coordination Division Supervisor
1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Fax: (907) 786-3898

E-mail: subsistence@fws.gov

Missing out on the latest Federal subsistence issues? If you'd like to receive emails and notifications on the Federal Subsistence Management Program you may subscribe for regular updates by emailing fws-fsb-subsistence-request@lists.fws.gov. Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

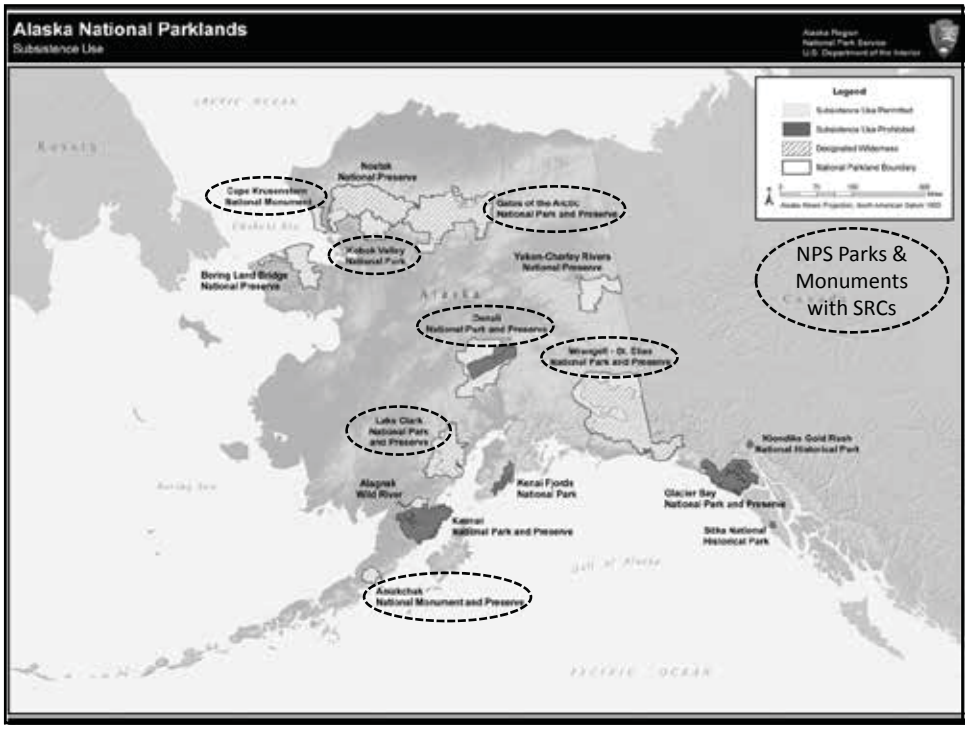
Public Involvement in Managing Subsistence Resources in Alaska National Parks and Monuments

Prepared by Barbara Cellarius
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
(907) 822-7236

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Overview:

Subsistence Resource Commissions	Regional Advisory Councils
7 SRCs in Alaska	10 RACs in Alaska
Focus on a specific national park or national monument (*Congress did not establish SRCs for national preserves*)	All federal public lands within a geographic region
Operate under provisions of FACA	Operate under provisions of FACA
Administrative and technical support is provided by NPS	Administrative and technical support is provided by OSM
In addition to fish and wildlife management, recommendations may address cabin or shelter use, access, wild plants and wood use, and research	Primary focus is provisions related to the harvest and use of fish and wildlife



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Purpose:

Subsistence Resource Commissions	Regional Advisory Councils
• Recommend a program for subsistence hunting in the park to the Governor of Alaska and the Secretary of the Interior; annually make recommendations for changes in the program or its implementation • In developing recommendations, consult with appropriate local committees and regional councils, consider all relevant data, and hold one or more meetings • Develop proposals to change regulations and comment on proposals submitted by others	• Review and evaluate proposals for regulations policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region • Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region • Encourage local and regional participation • Prepare an annual report to the Secretary

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Membership:

Subsistence Resource Commissions	Regional Advisory Councils
Each commission has 9 members	RACs have between 10 and 13 members
3 members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, 3 by relevant RACs, and 3 by the Governor of Alaska	All members are appointed by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture
Members are subsistence users in the park or monument, representing the geographic, cultural, and user diversity in the area	Members are residents of the region knowledgeable about subsistence and other uses of fish and wildlife in their area
Additionally RAC appointees must be active subsistence users and serve on either a local advisory committee or a RAC in the region	To ensure a diversity of interests are represented, the Board will strive to ensure that 70% of the members represent subsistence interests and 30% commercial and sport interests

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Recommendations:

The Secretary is directed to implement the recommendations of SRCs and RACs, unless s/he determines that they:

Subsistence Resource Commissions (§808(b))	Regional Advisory Councils (§805(c))
	are not supported by substantial evidence,
violate recognized principles of wildlife conservation,	violate recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or
threaten the conservation of healthy populations of wildlife in the park …,	
are contrary to the purposes for which the park … is established, or	
would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs of local residents.	would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Subsistence Resource Commission Summary:

- How the process works:
  - SRCs meet regularly in communities in the vicinity of national parks or national monuments to hear public testimony and reports from agency staff and to make recommendations about subsistence management
- How the public can participate:
  - Attend SRC meetings and provide public testimony
  - Provide written comments to the SRC
  - Talk to an SRC member about your concerns
  - Apply for a seat on the SRC in your area

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Any Questions?

- For more information about NPS Subsistence Resource Commissions:
  - Contact the subsistence manager or coordinator at the national park or monument in your area, or
  - Clarence Summers, Subsistence Manager, NPS Alaska Regional Office, (907) 644-3603

Robert's Rules of Order

Dates and Times

March 8 at 2:00 p.m.
March 9 at 1:30p.m.

Session Overview

Many organizations, including the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, rely on Robert's Rules in the conduct of their business. This session will help the participant better understand these guiding principles and make more meetings more productive, respectful, and efficient.

Presenter
Mike Walsh, Vice President/Director of Public Policy, The Foraker Group

About the Presenter

Mike Walsh is the Vice President/Director of Public Policy at The Foraker Group. Mr. Walsh has lived in Alaska for 30 years, most of that time in Fairbanks. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Public Administration from Purdue University, an M.A. in Public Administration from the University of North Texas, and a B.A. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Mike served in the administration of Governor Tony Knowles as deputy director of the governor's Fairbanks office. He has worked extensively with local nonprofit boards and agencies on a wide range of policy and management issues. He is a past president of and currently serves on the board for the Fairbanks Community Food Bank and is board president for Dance Theatre Fairbanks. His work with Foraker focuses on strategic planning, business planning, mergers and collaborations and board training.

Title VIII of ANILCA

Dates and Times

March 8 at 2:00 p.m.
March 9 at 8:30 a.m.
March 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Session Overview
This session will provide a detailed overview of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which established the rural subsistence priority and the legal foundation for the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

Presenter
Ken Lord, Department of Interior Solicitor

About the Presenter

Ken Lord has been with the Solicitor's Office for 16 years. He is a graduate of Cornell Law School and a member of the Alaska and California Bars. He holds a doctorate in geology/geophysics from the University of Florida and previously worked as a field geologist for DuPont. While an undergrad at the University of Miami, he worked as a city police officer in south Florida.

Ken has a diverse practice that focuses heavily on issues related to the management of public lands in Alaska, including such things as subsistence, fish and wildlife management, ANCSA and Native allotments, navigability, hydropower licensing, and hazardous waste remediation. Ken is also a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, which means that he periodically prosecutes misdemeanor criminal violations occurring on refuge and park lands in Federal magistrate court.

Ken and his wife, Satrina, have two children, who are 17 and 11. In recent years, Ken has been active in Boy Scouts, served on Camp Fire's Board of Directors, and has been an incident commander for the Anchorage Police Department's volunteer search team.

TITLE VIII--SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT AND USE FINDINGS

§801. Findings.
§802. Policy.
§803. Definitions.
§804. Preference for subsistence use.
§805. Local and regional participation.
§806. Federal monitoring.
§807. Judicial enforcement.
§808. Park and park monument subsistence resource commissions.
§809. Cooperative agreements.
§810. Subsistence and land use decisions.
§811. Access.
§812. Research.
§813. Periodic reports.
§814. Regulations.
§815. Limitations, savings clauses.
§816. Closure to subsistence uses.

FINDINGS

§801. The Congress finds and declares that--

(1) the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska, including both Natives and non-Natives, on the public lands and by Alaska Natives on Native lands is essential to Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence and to non-Native physical, economic, traditional, and social existence;

(2) the situation in Alaska is unique in that, in most cases, no practical alternative means are available to replace the food supplies and other items gathered from fish and wildlife which supply rural residents dependent on subsistence uses;

(3) continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses of resources on public and other lands in Alaska is threatened by the increasing population of Alaska, with resultant pressure on subsistence resources, by sudden decline in the populations of some wildlife species which are crucial subsistence resources, by increased accessibility of remote areas containing subsistence resources, and by taking of fish and wildlife in a manner inconsistent with recognized principles of fish and wildlife management;

(4) in order to fulfill the policies and purposes of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and as a matter of equity, it is necessary for the Congress to invoke its constitutional authority over Native affairs and its constitutional authority under the property clause and the commerce clause to protect and provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses on the public lands by Native and non-Native rural residents; and

(5) the national interest in the proper regulation, protection and conservation of fish and wildlife on the public lands in Alaska and the continuation of the opportunity for a subsistence way of life by residents of rural Alaska require that an administrative structure be established for the purpose of enabling rural residents who have personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife and of subsistence uses on the public lands in Alaska.

POLICY

§802. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that--

(1) consistent with sound management principles, and the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, the utilization of the public lands in Alaska is to cause the least adverse impact possible on rural residents who depend upon subsistence uses of the resources of such lands; consistent with management of fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized scientific principles and the purposes for each unit established, designated, or expanded by or pursuant to Titles II through VII of this Act, the purpose of this title is to provide the opportunity for rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to do so;

(2) nonwasteful subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and other renewable resources shall be the priority consumptive uses of all such resources on the public lands of Alaska when it is necessary to restrict taking in order to assure the continued viability of a fish or wildlife population or the continuation of subsistence uses of such population, the taking of such population for nonwasteful subsistence uses shall be given preference on the public lands over other consumptive uses; and

(3) except as otherwise provided by this Act or other Federal laws, Federal land managing agencies, in managing subsistence activities on the public lands and in protecting the continued viability of all wild renewable resources in Alaska, shall cooperate with adjacent landowners and land managers, including Native Corporations, appropriate State and Federal agencies and other nations.

DEFINITIONS

§803. As used in this Act, the term "subsistence uses" means the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption, for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade. For the purposes of this section, the term--

(1) "family" means all persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or any person living within the household on a permanent basis; and

(2) "barter" means the exchange of fish or wildlife or their parts, taken for subsistence uses--

(A) for other fish or game or their parts; or

(B) for other food or for nonedible items other than money if the exchange is of a limited and noncommercial nature.

PREFERENCE FOR SUBSISTENCE USE

§804. Except as otherwise provided in this Act and other Federal laws, the taking on public lands of fish and wildlife for nonwasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded priority over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for other purposes. Whenever it is necessary to restrict the taking of populations of fish and wildlife on such lands for subsistence uses in order to protect the continued viability of such populations, or to continue such uses, such priority shall be implemented through appropriate limitations based on the application of the following criteria:

(1) customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood;

(2) local residency; and

(3) the availability of alternative resources.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARTICIPATION

§805. (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary in consultation with the State shall establish--

(1) at least six Alaska subsistence resource regions which taken together, include all public lands. The number and boundaries of the regions shall be sufficient to assure that regional differences in subsistence uses are adequately accommodated;

(2) such local advisory committees within each region as he finds necessary at such time as he may determine, after notice and hearing, that the existing State fish and game advisory committees do not adequately perform the functions of the local committee system set forth in paragraph (3)(D)(iv) of this subsection; and

(3) a regional advisory council in each subsistence resource region. Each regional advisory council shall be composed of residents of the region and shall have the following authority:

(A) the review and evaluation of proposals for regulations policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region;

(B) the provision of a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region;

(C) the encouragement of local and regional participation pursuant to the provisions of this title in the decision making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses;

(D) the preparation of an annual report to the Secretary which shall contain--

(i) an identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region;

(ii) an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the region;

(iii) a recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs; and

(iv) recommendations concerning policies, standards guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy. The State fish and game advisory committees or such local advisory committees as the Secretary may establish pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection may provide advice to and assist, the regional advisory councils in carrying out the functions set forth in this paragraph.

(b) The Secretary shall assign adequate qualified staff to the regional advisory councils and make timely distribution of all available relevant technical and scientific support data to the regional advisory councils and the State fish and game advisory committees or such local advisory committees as the Secretary may establish pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (a).

(c) The Secretary, in performing his monitoring responsibility pursuant to §806 and in the exercise of his closure and other administrative authority over the public lands, shall consider the report and recommendations of the regional advisory councils concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within their respective regions for subsistence uses. The Secretary may choose not to follow any recommendation which he determines is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. If a recommendation is not adopted by the Secretary, he shall set forth the factual basis and the reasons for his decision.

(d) The Secretary shall not implement subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section if within one year from the date of enactment of this Act the State enacts and implements laws of general applicability which are consistent with, and which provide for the definition, preference and participation specified in, §§803, 804, and 805, such laws unless and until repealed, shall supersede such sections insofar as such sections govern State responsibility pursuant to this title for the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands for subsistence uses Laws establishing a system of local advisory committees and regional advisory councils consistent with §805 shall provide that the State rule making authority shall consider the advice and recommendations of the regional councils concerning the taking of fish and wildlife populations on public lands within their respective regions for subsistence uses. The regional councils may present recommendations, and the evidence upon which such recommendations are based to the State rule making authority during the course of the administrative proceedings of such authority. The State rule making authority may choose not to follow any recommendation which it determines is not supported by substantial evidence presented during the course of its administrative proceedings, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of rural subsistence needs. If a recommendation is not adopted by

the State rule making authority, such authority shall set forth the factual basis and the reasons for its decision.

(e)(1) The Secretary shall reimburse the State, from funds appropriated to the Department of the Interior for such purposes, for reasonable costs relating to the establishment and operation of the regional advisory councils established by the State in accordance with subsection (d) and the operation of the State fish and game advisory committees so long as such committees are not superseded by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (a). Such reimbursement may not exceed 50 per centum of such costs in any fiscal year. Such costs shall be verified in a statement which the Secretary determines to be adequate and accurate. Sums paid under this subsection shall be in addition to any grants, payments, or other sums to which the State is entitled from appropriations to the Department of the Interior.

(2) Total payments to the State under this subsection shall not exceed the sum of $5,000,000 in any one fiscal year. The Secretary shall advise the Congress at least once in every five years as to whether or not the maximum payments specified in this subsection are adequate to ensure the effectiveness of the program established by the State to provide the preference for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife set forth in §804.

FEDERAL MONITORING

§806. The Secretary shall monitor the provisions by the State of the subsistence preference set forth in §804 and shall advise the State and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works of the Senate annually and at such other times as he deems necessary of his views on the effectiveness of the implementation of this title including the State's provision of such preference, any exercise of his closure or other administrative authority to protect subsistence resources or uses, the views of the State, and any recommendations he may have.

JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT

§807. (a) Local residents and other persons and organizations aggrieved a failure of the State or the Federal Government to provide for the priority for subsistence uses set forth in §804 (or with respect to the State as set forth in a State law of general applicability if the State has fulfilled the requirements of §805(d)) may, upon exhaustion of any State or Federal (as appropriate) administrative remedies which may be available, file a civil action in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska to require such actions to be taken as are necessary to provide for the priority. In a civil action filed against the State, the Secretary may be joined as a party to such action. The court may grant preliminary injunctive relief in any civil action if the granting of such relief is appropriate under the facts upon which the action is based. No order granting preliminary relief shall be issued until after an opportunity for hearing. In a civil action filed against the State, the court shall provide relief, other than preliminary relief, by directing the State to submit regulations which satisfy the requirements of §804 when approved by the court, such regulations shall be incorporated as part of the final judicial order, and such order shall be valid only for such period of time as normally provided by State law for the regulations at issue.

Local residents and other persons and organizations who are prevailing parties in an action filed pursuant to this section shall be awarded their costs and attorney's fees.

(b) A civil action filed pursuant to this section shall be assigned for hearing at the earliest possible date, shall take precedence over other matters pending on the docket of the United States district court at that time, and shall be expedited in every way by such court and any appellate court.

(c) This section is the sole Federal judicial remedy created by this title for local residents and other residents who, and organizations which, are aggrieved by a failure of the State to provide for the priority of subsistence uses set forth in §804.

PARK AND PARK MONUMENT SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE COMMISSIONS

§808. (a) Within one year from the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary and the Governor shall each appoint three members to a subsistence resources commission for each national park or park monument within which subsistence uses are permitted by this Act. The regional advisory council established pursuant to §805 which has jurisdiction within the area in which the park or park monument is located shall appoint three members to the commission each of whom is a member of either the regional advisory council or a local advisory committee within the region and also engages in subsistence uses within the park or park monument. Within eighteen months from the date of enactment of this Act, each commission shall devise and recommend to the Secretary and the Governor a program for subsistence hunting within the park or park monument. Such program shall be prepared using technical information and other pertinent data assembled or produced by necessary field studies or investigations conducted jointly or separately by the technical and administrative personnel of the State and the Department of Interior, information submitted by, and after consultation with the appropriate local advisory committees and regional advisory councils, and any testimony received in a public hearing or hearings held by the commission prior to preparation of the plan at a convenient location or locations in the vicinity of the park or park monument. Each year thereafter. the commission, after consultation with the appropriate local committees and regional councils, considering all relevant data and holding one or more additional hearings in the vicinity of the park or park monument, shall make recommendations to the Secretary and the Governor for any changes in the program or its implementation which the commission deems necessary.

(b) The Secretary shall promptly implement title program and recommendations submitted to him by each commission unless he finds in writing that such program or recommendations violates recognized principles of wildlife conservation, threatens the conservation of healthy populations of wildlife in the park or park monument, is contrary to the purposes for which the park or park monument is established, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs of local residents. Upon notification by the Governor, the Secretary shall take no action on a submission of a commission for sixty days during which period he shall consider any proposed changes in the program or recommendations submitted by the commission which the Governor provides him.

(c) Pending the implementation of a program under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall permit subsistence uses by local residents in accordance with the provisions of this title and other applicable Federal and State law.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

§809. The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements or otherwise cooperate with other Federal agencies, the State. Native Corporations, other appropriate persons and organizations, and acting through the Secretary of State, other nations to effectuate the purposes and policies of this title.

SUBSISTENCE AND LAND USE DECISIONS

§810. (a) In determining whether to withdraw, reserve, lease, or otherwise permit the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands under any provision of law authorizing such actions, the head of the Federal agency having primary jurisdiction over such lands or his designee shall evaluate the effect of such use, occupancy, or disposition on subsistence uses and needs, the availability of other lands for the purposes sought to be achieved, and other alternatives which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes. No such withdrawal, reservation,]ease, permit, or other use, occupancy or disposition of such lands which would significantly restrict subsistence uses shall be effected until the head of such Federal agency--

(1) gives notice to the appropriate State agency and the appropriate local committees and regional councils established pursuant to §805;

(2) gives notice of, and holds, a hearing in the vicinity of the area involved; and

(3) determines that--

(A) such a significant restriction of subsistence uses is necessary, consistent with sound management principles for the utilization of the public lands,

(B) the proposed activity will involve the minimal amount of public lands necessary to accomplish the purposes of such use, occupancy, or other disposition, and

(C) reasonable steps will be taken to minimize adverse impacts upon subsistence uses and resources resulting from such actions.

(b) If the Secretary is required to prepare an environmental impact statement pursuant to §102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, he shall provide the notice and hearing and include the findings required by subsection (a) as part of such environmental impact statement.

(c) Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit or impair the ability of the State or any Native Corporation to make land selections and receive land conveyances pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act or the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

(d) After compliance with the procedural requirements of this section and other applicable law, the head of the appropriate Federal agency may manage or dispose of public lands under his primary jurisdiction for any of those uses or purposes authorized by this Act or other law.

ACCESS

§811. (a) The Secretary shall ensure that rural residents engaged in subsistence uses shall have reasonable access to subsistence resources on the public lands.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law the Secretary shall permit on the public lands appropriate use for subsistence purposes of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subJect to reasonable regulation.

RESEARCH

§812. The Secretary, in cooperation with the State and other appropriate Federal agencies, shall undertake research on fish and wildlife and subsistence uses on the public lands, seek data from, consult with and make use of, the special knowledge of local residents engaged in subsistence uses; and make the results of such research available to the State, the local and regional councils established by the Secretary or State pursuant to §805, and other appropriate persons and organizations.

PERIODIC REPORTS

§813. Within four years after the date of enactment of this Act and within every three-year period thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall prepare and submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the implementation of this title. The report shall include--

(1) an evaluation of the results of the monitoring undertaken by the Secretary as required by §806;

(2) the status of fish and wildlife populations on public lands that are subject to subsistence uses;

(3) a description of the nature and extent of subsistence uses and other uses of fish and wildlife on the public lands;

(4) the role of subsistence uses in the economy and culture of rural Alaska;

(5) comments on the Secretary's report by the State, the local advisory councils and regional advisory councils established by the Secretary or the State pursuant to §805, and other appropriate persons and organizations;

(6) a description of those actions taken, or which may need to be taken in the future, to permit the opportunity for continuation of activities relating to subsistence uses on the public lands;

(7) such other recommendations the Secretary deems appropriate. A notice of the report shall be published in the Federal Register and the report shall be made available to the public.

REGULATIONS

§814. The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary and appropriate to carry out his responsibilities under this title.

LIMITATIONS, SAVINGS CLAUSES

§815. Nothing in this title shall be construed as--

(1) granting any property right in any fish or wildlife or other resource of the public lands or as permitting the level of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within a conservation system unit to be inconsistent with the conservation of healthy populations, and within a national park or monument to be inconsistent with the conservation of natural and healthy populations, of fish and wildlife. No privilege which may be granted by the State to any individual with respect to subsistence uses may be assigned to any other individual;

(2) permitting any subsistence use of fish and wildlife on any portion of the public lands (whether or not within any conservation system unit) which was permanently closed to such uses on January 1, 1978, or enlarging or diminishing the Secretary's authority to manipulate habitat on any portion of the public lands;

(3) authorizing a restriction on the taking of fish and wildlife for nonsubsistence uses on the public lands (other than national parks and park monuments) unless necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, for the reasons set forth in §816, to continue subsistence uses of such populations, or pursuant to other applicable law; or

(4) modifying or repealing the provisions of any Federal law governing the conservation or protection of fish and wildlife, including the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 927- 16 U.S.C. 668dd-jj), the National Park Service Organic Act (39 Stat. 535, 16 U.S.C. 1, 2, 3, 4), the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 1091, 16 U.S.C. 1187), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884 16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (86 Stat. 1027; 16 U.S.C. 1361-1407), the Act entitled "An Act for the Protection of the Bald Eagle", approved June 8, 1940 (54 Stat. 250; 16 U.S.C. 742a-754), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755;16 U.S.C. 703-711), the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (50 Stat. 917- 16 U.S.C. 669-669i), the Fishery Conservation and Management

Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 331;16 U.S.C. 1801-1882), the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act (64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. 777-777K), or ally amendments to any one or more of such Acts.

CLOSURE TO SUBSISTENCE USES

§816. (a) All national parks and park monuments in Alaska shall be closed to the taking of wildlife except for subsistence uses to the extent specifically permitted by this Act. Subsistence uses and sport fishing shall be authorized in such areas by the Secretary and carried out in accordance with the requirements of this title and other applicable laws of the United States and the State of Alaska.

(b) Except as specifically provided otherwise by this section, nothing in this title is intended to enlarge or diminish the authority of the Secretary to designate areas where, and establish periods when, no taking of fish and wildlife shall be permitted on the public lands for reasons of public safety, administration, or to assure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population. Notwithstanding any other provision of tins Act or other law, the Secretary, after consultation with the State and adequate notice and public hearing may temporarily close any public lands (including those within any conservation system unit), or any portion thereof, to subsistence uses of a particular fish or wildlife population only if necessary for reasons of public safety, administration, or to assure the continued viability of such population. If the Secretary determines that an emergency situation exists and that extraordinary measures must be taken for public safety or to assure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population, the Secretary may immediately close the public lands, or any portion thereof, to the subsistence uses of such population and shall publish the reasons justifying the closure in the Federal Register. Such emergency closure shall be effective when made, shall not extend for a period exceeding sixty days, and may not subsequently be extended unless the Secretary affirmatively establishes, after notice and public hearing, that such closure should he extended.

Tribal and ANCSA Consultation

Dates and Times

March 10 at 8:30 a.m.
March 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Session Overview

This session will include a panel of Native or Tribal Liaisons from federal agencies, as well as tribal and ANCSA Corporation representatives, to discuss how federal agencies and the Federal Subsistence Management Program engage in tribal and ANCSA corporation consultation. Discussion will also seek to understand what consultation is from the tribal perspective and how consultation with federal agencies can be improved.

Presenters

Orville Lind, Native Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Adrienne Fleek, Native Liaison, National Park Service
Melinda Hernandez-Burke, Tribal Relations Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service
Jack Lorrigan, Tribal and Community Liaison, Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement
Roy Ashenfelter, Natural Resource Advocate, Kawerak, Inc.

About the Presenters

Orville Lind is currently the Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management. He was born and raised in the village of Chignik Lake. Son of Fred and Annie Lind, grandson of Dora and Fred Lindholm, with six brothers and three sisters. He has four sons, one daughter and a wife of 36yrs. Orville's father was village Chief until his passing, and he became the youngest chief at 18 in Chignik Lake. Prior to working at the Office of Subsistence Management, he worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a variety of capacities, including Bear/Firearms Instructor, Hunter Ed Instructor, Boat Safety Instructor, Refuge Information Technician, and Refuge Ranger. He is also a talented artist, musician for his church, preacher, and cultural and science camp instructor.

Adrienne Fleek is the Alaska Native Affairs Liaison for the National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office. Adrienne's parents are Barbara and Wayne Fleek of Southeast Alaska and is a life long Alaska Native (Tlingit, Raven-Coho clan). Adrienne enjoys berry picking, fishing, running, and spending as much time outdoors with friends and family as possible. Adrienne received a MA in Public Administration from University of Alaska Anchorage in 2001 and a bachelor of arts in Sociology from UAA in 1992. Adrienne has 10 years of federal service with the National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and Fish and Wildlife Service. Adrienne has also worked for Southcentral Foundation, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, and First Alaskans Institute. The National park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural

resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The Alaska Native Affairs program is designed to ensure that the government to government relationship between the U.S. government and federally recognized tribes is honored. The program also ensures that Alaska Native interests, perspectives, and traditional knowledge are represented in Alaska's National Parks as a priority of the region and is incorporated into regional and park decision-making and operations.

Melinda Hernandez-Burke currently holds the position of Tribal Relations Program Manager for the U.S. Forest Service, Region 10. She serves as a liaison between the Forest Service and Alaska tribes and Native organizations on the Chugach and Tongass National Forests. She previously served as a Subsistence Council Coordinator with the Office of Subsistence Management, serving the Western Interior and Northwest Arctic Councils for five years. Prior to that, Melinda worked for the Tongass National Forest as a social science analyst and worked under the Southeast Alaska Subsistence RAC for many years directly with the Council. She has a B.A. from the University of Alaska-Southeast, with a major in Social Science-Anthropology and a minor in Alaska Native Studies. She resides in Juneau with her husband Kirk and her four-legged children.

Jack Lorrigan is the Tribal and Community Liaison for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which has the unique mission of enforcing and overseeing safe energy resource exploration and production in federal waters. He has previously worked as the Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management, as a Subsistence Biologist for the US Forest Service at the Sitka and Hoonah Ranger Districts on the Tongass National Forest, and with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Southeast Alaska hatchery groups. He is an enrolled Tribal member with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) and was their Tribal Biologist and Natural Resource Director for 10 years. As a staff member for STA he has the unique distinction from his federal peers of having been on both sides of the G2G consultation table as a Tribal member and staff and as a federal employee. Jack received his B.S. in Aquatic Sciences from Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka, and is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He is Nis'gaa Tsimpsian killerwhale through his grandmother Nellie Burton of Hidden Inlet and mother Marlene Lorrigan, and he was adopted by John Littlefield (former Southeast Council Chair) into the Lux'naahaadi kwaan (Raven/coho) in Sitka.

Roy Ashenfelter is currently a Natural Resource Advocate for Kawerak, Inc. He also worked as the Land Management Service Director at Kawerak, Inc. for over 20 years. He has also worked for the North Slope Economic Development Council as a Community Development Coordinator. He serves on the Board for several organizations, including the White Mountain Native Corporation (where he has been president for over 20 years), Bering Straits Native Corporation, and the Inuit Circumpolar Council of Alaska. He has also served as a Committee Member on the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority, the Big Game Commercial Services Board, and as Chair of the northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (for over 15 years). He served on the working group that drafted the Federal Subsistence Board's Tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultation policies.

"Tribes and Alaska Native peoples have been this lands' first conservationists and first multiple use land managers." - Lillian Petershoare, Workgroup Member, United States Forest Service

Federal Subsistence Board

Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy

Preamble

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) recognizes that indigenous Tribes of Alaska are spiritually, physically, culturally, and historically connected to the land, the wildlife and the waters. These strong ancestral ties to the land, wildlife and waters are intertwined with indigenous ceremonies such as songs, dances, and potlatches. The customary and traditional way of life has sustained the health, life, safety, and cultures of Alaska Native peoples since time immemorial. To effectively manage the Federal Subsistence Program, the Board will collaborate and partner with Federally recognized Tribes in Alaska to protect and provide opportunities for continued subsistence uses on public lands.

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribal governments, which has been established through and confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, statutes, executive orders, judicial decisions and treaties. In recognition of that special relationship, and pursuant to direction given by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to implement Executive Order 13175 of November 2000, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," and to meet the requirements of the Presidential Memorandum of November 5, 2009, "Tribal Consultation," the Board is developing this Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy. This Policy sets out the Board's responsibility to engage in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Federally recognized Indian Tribes in Alaska on matters that may have substantial effects on them and their members. This Policy also upholds the Congressional mandate to implement the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980, P.L. 66-487, which, with its implementing regulations, defines the roles and responsibilities of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture in administering subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands.

Government-to-government consultation undertaken through the Board's process is a direct two-way communication conducted in good faith to secure meaningful participation in the decision-making process to the full extent allowed by law. The Board will consider and respond to the Tribes' concerns brought forth through the consultation process (as defined in this policy) before making final decisions.

Two Department-level consultation policies provide the foundation for this policy. They are the Department of the Interior's *Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes (2011)* and the Department of Agriculture's *2010 Action Plan for Consultation and Collaboration*. This policy is consistent with the

Department-wide consultation policies, and it expands on them to apply the policies to the Federal subsistence management program.

The intent of this policy is to describe a framework under which the Board and Federally recognized Tribes in Alaska may consult on ANILCA Title VIII subsistence matters under the Board's authority.

Background

The Federal Subsistence Program, as established by ANILCA and implemented by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, is a multi-agency program consisting of five agencies: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These bureaus and rural subsistence users maintain the opportunity for a subsistence way of life by rural Alaskans on Federal public lands while managing for healthy populations of fish and wildlife. The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils have a foundational role in the Federal Subsistence Program. By statute, the Board must defer to Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council recommendations related to the taking of fish and wildlife on public lands unless they are: a) not supported by substantial evidence, b) violate recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or c) would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs (ANILCA § 805(c)). The Board distinguishes the deference to Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils from the Tribal government-to-government relationship enjoyed by Federally recognized Tribes, and this Policy will not diminish in any way either the consultation obligations towards Federally recognized Tribes or its deference obligations to the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

The Federal Subsistence Management Program regulations are published twice in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): 50 CFR Part 100 and 36 CFR Part 242. The regulations have four subparts. Subparts A and B are within the sole purview of the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. Responsibility and decisions relating to the provisions of Subparts C and D are delegated by the Secretaries to the Federal Subsistence Board. Subpart C concerns Board Determinations, including rural and customary and traditional use determinations, while subpart D consists of the regulations for taking fish, wildlife and shellfish.

Goals

The goals of the Federal Subsistence Management Program are to:

1. Create and maintain effective relationships with Federally recognized Tribes in Alaska.
2. Establish meaningful and timely opportunities for government-to-government consultation.
3. Be responsive to requests from Federally recognized Tribes in Alaska to engage in consultation.
4. Work with Federally recognized Tribes in Alaska to improve communication, outreach and education.
5. Acknowledge, respect and use traditional ecological knowledge.
6. Recognize the importance of coordination, consultation and follow-up between the Federal Subsistence Board and Federally recognized Tribes in Alaska.

Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy

7. Integrate tribal input effectively into the decision-making process for subsistence management on public lands and waters while maintaining deference to the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

Consultation

1. Communication

It is the Board's intention that information sharing between Tribes and the Board/Federal staff will occur early and often. Information sharing includes, but is not limited to, sharing of traditional knowledge, research and scientific data. Communication between the Federal agencies and Tribes will occur in a timely manner to maximize opportunities to provide input to the Board's decisions. For in-season management decisions and special actions, consultation is not always possible, but to the extent practicable, two-way communication will take place before decisions are implemented. When Tribes bring up issues over which the Board does not have jurisdiction, the Board and Federal staff will provide Tribes with contact information for the state or Federal agency that can address the issue and will also provide the tribes' contact information to the relevant state or Federal agency

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Board members are responsible for implementing this policy and ensuring its effectiveness. The Native Liaison in the Office of Subsistence Management is the key contact for the Board's consultations with Tribes. The Native Liaison will also assist Federal land managers and Tribes with their consultations, as requested and as needed. Federal land managers and staff have a local relationship with Tribes and will maintain effective communications and coordination.

3. Topics for consultation are listed under the definition for "Action with Tribal Implications." They may include, but are not limited to:
   - Regulations (e.g., taking of fish, wildlife and shellfish - harvest amounts, methods and means, cultural and educational permits and funerary/mortuary ceremonies; emergency and temporary special actions; customary and traditional use determinations and customary trade)
   - Policies and guidance documents [Note: this is consistent with page 3 "Definitions" of DOI Policy "Departmental Action with Tribal Implication".]
   - Budget and priority planning development [Note: this is consistent with page 16 USDA Action Plan for Tribal Consultation and Collaboration (Nov 2009) and page 3 "Definitions" of DOI policy – "Departmental Action with Tribal Implication" – specifically "operational activity".]
   - Agreements (e.g. Cooperative Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding, Funding Agreements)

4. Timing

Timing of consultation will respect both the Federal subsistence management cycle and the Tribal timeframes for doing business. The requirement of early notification, methods of notice, availability of Federal analyses and time and place of Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings and Board meetings are described in Appendix A of the "Federal Subsistence Consultation Implementation Guidelines." A chart showing the Federal subsistence management cycle is in Appendix B of the same document

5. Methods

No single formula exists for what constitutes appropriate consultation. The planning and implementation of consultation will consider all aspects of the topic under consideration. The Board will be flexible and sensitive to Tribal cultural matters and protocols. Familiarity with and use of Tribes' constitutions and consultation protocols will help ensure more effective consultation. Consultation may be prompted by a Federally recognized Tribe in Alaska or by the Board. Methods for correspondence, meetings, and communication are further described in Appendix A: "Federal Subsistence Consultation Implementation Guidelines."

Accountability and Reporting

The Board will monitor consultation effectiveness and report information to the Secretaries, pursuant to the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture policies. On an annual basis, the Board will evaluate whether the policy has been implemented and is effective and what progress has been made towards achieving the seven goals outlined in this policy. The Board will actively seek feedback from Federally recognized Tribes in Alaska on the effectiveness of consultation, and the Board's evaluation will summarize and reflect this feedback. The Board will modify the consultation process to incorporate needed enhancements, as identified through the annual review. The Board will provide Tribes an oral and written summary of the evaluation and changes, if any, in Board meetings with Tribes.

Training

Training on this policy for Federal staff will conform to the requirements of the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture consultation policies. The Board recognizes the unique traditional values, culture and knowledge that Tribes can impart and shall incorporate Tribes into the training for the Board and staff. The Board will accompany subsistence users in the field to gain direct experience in traditional Alaska Native hunting and fishing activities. In addition, Federal Subsistence Management training will be offered to representatives of Tribal governments and Tribal members on a regular basis as funding allows. A list of possible venues for training is included in Appendix C: "Venues for Training."

Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy

Alaska Native Corporation Consultation

Refer to the supplemental policy for consultation with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations.

Adopted by the Board on May 9, 2012

Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy

Definitions

Action with Tribal Implications – Any Board regulations, rulemaking, policy, guidance, legislative proposal, grant funding formula changes, or operational activity that may have a substantial effect on an Indian Tribe in Alaska.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) –Title VIII of the Act provides for the protection and continuation of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife by rural Alaskans on Federal public lands.

ANCSA Corporations – As defined in 43 U.S.C. § 1606, those regional and village corporations formed by Congress through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq., to provide for the settlement of certain land claims of Alaska Natives.

Consensus Agenda – The Federal Subsistence Board's consensus agenda is made up of regulatory proposals for which there is agreement among the affected Regional Advisory Councils, a majority of the Interagency Staff Committee members, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning a proposed regulatory action. Anyone may request that the Board remove a proposal from the consensus agenda and place it on the non-consensus (regular) agenda. The Board votes on the consensus agenda after deliberation and action on all other proposals.

Consultation – The process of effective and meaningful government-to-government communication and coordination between the appropriate Federal agency and Tribe(s) conducted before the Federal government takes action or implements decisions that may affect Tribes.

Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) – Requires regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications to strengthen the United States government-to-government relationships with Indian Tribes, and to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian Tribes.

Federal Subsistence Board – The Board administers the subsistence taking and uses of fish and wildlife on public lands and exercises the related promulgation and signature authority for regulations of subparts C and D. The voting members of the Board are: a Chair, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture; two public members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture who possess personal knowledge of and direct experience with subsistence uses in rural Alaska; the Alaska Regional Directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Alaska Regional Forester of the U.S. Forest Service; and, the Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management.

Federally Recognized Tribe in Alaska – Any Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian Tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. §479a.

Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) – The ISC is made up of senior staff from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and USDA Forest Service. The ISC members serve as the primary advisors for their agency's respective Board member.

Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) – The OSM provides support to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. The staff includes fish and wildlife biologists, cultural anthropologists, technical and administrative staff, an Alaska Native liaison and liaisons to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game.

Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy

Regional Advisory Councils – Title VIII of ANILCA provides a foundational role for the ten Regional Advisory Councils in the development of regulations guiding the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska. Council members, a majority of whom are rural subsistence users, are appointed by the Secretary.

Special Action – An out-of-cycle change in the seasons, harvest limits or methods and means of harvest. The two types include: 1) emergency, which are effective for up to 60 days, and 2) temporary, which are effective for the remainder of the regulatory cycle.

List of Appendices

APPENDIX A: Federal Subsistence Consultation Implementation Guidelines

APPENDIX B: Federal Subsistence Management Cycle

APPENDIX C: Venues for FSMP Training

1-23-15 – Adopted by the Board

Federal Subsistence Board Policy on Consultation with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations

I. Preamble

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) distinguishes the federal relationship to ANCSA Corporations from the Tribal government-to-government relationship enjoyed by any federally recognized Indian Tribe, and this Policy will not diminish in any way that relationship and the consultation obligations towards federally recognized Indian Tribes. Recognizing the distinction, the Board is committed to fulfilling its ANCSA Corporation consultation obligations by adhering to the framework described in this Policy.

The Department of the Interior has a Policy on Consultation with ANCSA Corporations and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has an Action Plan on Consultation and Collaboration with Tribes, which includes consultation with ANCSA corporations. The Board will follow the Department-level policies; and for the purpose of Federal subsistence management, this policy further clarifies the Federal Subsistence Board's responsibilities for consultation with ANCSA Corporations.

II. Guiding Principles

In compliance with Congressional direction, this Policy creates a framework for consulting with ANCSA Corporations. Congress required that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and all Federal agencies shall hereafter consult with Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Indian Tribes under Executive Order Number 13175. Pub. L. No. 108-199 as amended by Pub. L. No. 108-447. Pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims

1-23-15 – Adopted by the Board

Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, ANCSA Corporations were established to provide for the economic and social needs, including the health, education and welfare of their Native shareholders. ANCSA also extinguished aboriginal hunting and fishing rights.

Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) states, "except as otherwise provided by this Act or other Federal laws, Federal land managing agencies, in managing subsistence activities on the public lands and in protecting the continued viability of all wild renewable resources in Alaska, shall cooperate with adjacent landowners and land managers, including Native Corporations, appropriate State and Federal agencies and other nations."

III. Policy

Provisions described in the Federal Subsistence Board Tribal Consultation Policy sections entitled Consultation, Training, and Accountability and Reporting shall apply to the Federal Subsistence Board Policy on Consultation with ANCSA Corporations, with adjustments as necessary to account for the unique status, structure and interests of ANCSA Corporations as appropriate or allowable.

ANCSA Corporations may initiate consultation with the Board at any time by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management Native Liaison.

The Board will consult with ANCSA Corporations that own land within or adjacent to lands subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Management Program (see 36 CFR242.3 and 50 CFR 100.3) when those corporate lands, water areas, or their resources may be affected by regulations enacted by the Board.

1/23/15 —Adopted by the Board

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

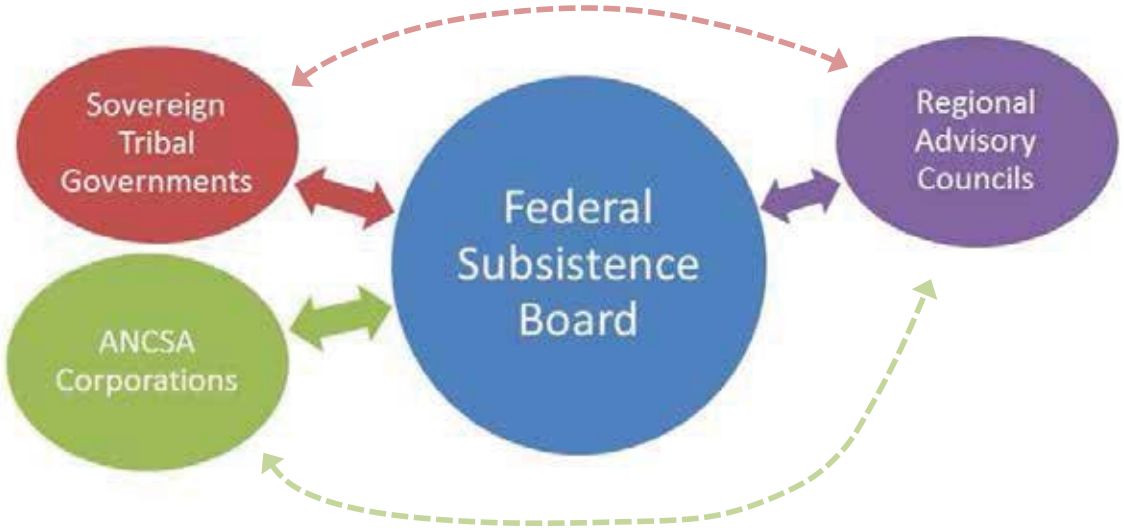
for the

Federal Subsistence Board Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide additional guidance to Federal staff on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's Tribal Consultation Policy. Refer to the *Federal Subsistence Board Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy* (Policy) for a broad scope including goals of the policy; consultation communication, roles and responsibilities, topics, timing, and methods; accountability and reporting; and training.

This a "living" set of guidelines that can be modified per the Policy under Accountability and Reporting.



The Board consults directly with tribal governments and with ANCSA corporations. Consultation results are shared with the RACs, which informs their recommendations to the Board. Tribal governments and ANCSA corporations are also encouraged to attend RAC meetings to discuss proposals and influence RAC recommendations, in addition to consultation with the Board.

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CONSULTATION MEETING PROTOCOLS

The items below provide general protocols about consultation meetings. Notice of the availability of these Protocols will be distributed to the Tribes at the beginning of each regulatory cycle and a copy will be sent to any Tribe requesting a consultation meeting with the Board.

1. **Participants in Consultation Meeting:**
If the consultation meeting is not being held immediately before a FSB regulatory meeting, at least two Board members (generally representing the most-relevant land managing agency and the nearest public member) will participate in the consultation meeting. Other Board members may join the meeting. Participating tribal officials are only those elected or appointed Tribal leaders or individuals designated in writing by a federally-recognized Tribe. The Board and Tribe(s) may invite appropriate staff to attend the consultation. The Chair of the most-relevant RAC(s) or their designee(s) will also be invited to attend.

2. **When to Hold Consultations:**
    a. Before RAC regulatory meetings: hold one or more teleconferences (depending on number of proposals) at least two weeks before RAC meetings begin.
    b. At regulatory Board Meetings: consultation should begin prior to the start of the regular Board meeting. The regular Board meeting then begins after the consultation meeting is complete.
    c. At additional times as initiated by the Board or tribal governments on regulatory or non-regulatory topics.

3. **Location and Room Setup:**
    a. The consultation may be closed to public observation [including media], and documentation of the dialog will be made available to the public (see 7[e]). Transcription services may be utilized to capture the meeting notes.
    b. Consultation meetings should be held in easily accessible locations.
    c. At in-person meetings, room should be configured in such a way that Board members and Tribal Government representatives (and RAC representatives, if present) are seated dispersed, as equals. Consider chairs placed in a circle with or without tables. This will differentiate between the room configurations during consultation and the public process. If possible, avoid the appearance of a testimony table.

4. **Topics:**
    a. Topics to be consulted on can be determined by either Tribes or Board members (see also section 3. of the Policy for more information), and do not need to be determined nor agreed upon in advance, unless it is regulatory in nature. If the request for consultation is regulatory in nature, advance notice to agencies for Administrative Procedures Act (APA) compliance is required (see 7.a).
    b. For topics not within the purview of the Board, Tribes will be referred to a Federal liaison who can assist in determining how that topic can be addressed.

c. For topics that need further consultation, the OSM Native Liaison will arrange follow-up consultation.

5. **Information Availability:**

   a. Materials and information relevant to the consultation meeting (i.e.: teleconference information, meeting topics, transcripts, meeting summary, etc.) will be made available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website.
   b. OSM will prepare a written summary of consultations (reviewed by the consulting participants) that will be sent to affected RACs and participating Tribes.

6. **Follow-up to Participating Tribes:**

   Correspondence will be sent to participating Tribes expressing appreciation for their participation, providing a summary of the consultation, and, if applicable, relaying the decision that was made.

7. **Consultation Meetings Requested by Tribes:**

   Staff will endeavor, to the extent authorized by law, to reduce procedural impediments to working directly and effectively with federally recognized Tribal governments.

   a. Government to Government Tribal Consultation will be held in accordance with the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (Act), 5 U.S.C. § 555 (2006).
   b. The consultation may be closed to public observation [including media], and documentation of the dialog will be made available to the public (see [e]).
   c. If a consultation with the Board is requested by Tribe(s), at least two Board members (generally representing the most-relevant land managing agency and the nearest public member) will participate in person unless the Tribe(s) and Board agree to a telephonic consultation (see [d]). Other Board members may join the meeting in person or telephonically. The Board and Tribe(s) may invite appropriate staff to attend the consultation. The Chair of the most-relevant RAC(s) or their designee(s) will also be invited to attend.
   d. Consultation will take place in a mutually agreeable location, or telephonically.
   e. Draft meeting notes will be made available for review by all participants in the consultation. Official meeting notes, or transcripts if prepared, will be made available to the RAC(s) and the public if the content of the meeting included discussion on regulatory matters.

1/23/15 —Adopted by the Board

REGULATORY CYCLE TIMELINE AND ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is committed to providing federally recognized Tribes in Alaska with opportunities to be meaningfully involved in the wildlife and fisheries regulatory process. On an annual basis, the Board accepts proposals to change wildlife or fisheries regulations on seasons, harvest limits, methods and means of harvest and customary and traditional use determinations. In some instances, regulations are modified in-season, and that is typically accomplished through in-season or special actions taken by either the Board or the relevant land manager who has been delegated authority by the Board to take that action. The Board will provide Tribes with the opportunity to consult on the regulatory process, which includes proposal development and review, proposal analysis and review, and decision making by the Board.

Tribes must be given the opportunity to consult throughout the Federal Subsistence Management process when a "departmental action with tribal implications[1]" is taken. A regulatory proposal is potentially a departmental action with substantial direct effect on an Indian Tribe. If an OSM recommendation on a regulatory proposal changes, then affected Tribes will be notified as that change becomes publicly available.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Tribal officials are elected or appointed Tribal leaders or individuals designated in writing by a federally recognized Tribe may participate in government-to-government consultations. Federal officials are those individuals who are knowledgeable about the matters at hand, are authorized to speak for the agency and/or Board, and exercise delegated authority in the disposition and implementation of a Federal action.

REGULATORY PROCESS

Steps 1-5 outlined below correspond to Appendix B of the Board's Tribal Consultation Policy *Appendix B: Federal Subsistence Management Program Annual Regulatory Process at a Glance.*

Step 1.A.: Call for Proposals (January – March): Proposals recommending changes to fish or wildlife harvesting regulations may be submitted regarding seasons, harvest limits, methods and means and/or customary and traditional use determinations. The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) staff or land managers can assist Tribes in developing proposals.

RESPONSIBLE LEAD	ACTION
Federal Agencies	• Any Federal agency preparing regulatory proposal should contact representatives of Tribes potentially affected by a Federal agency regulatory proposal prior to submittal.
OSM	• Announces the call for proposals and describes what this means;

[1] Department of the Interior Policy on Tribal Consultation definition of "Departmental Action with Tribal Implications" is: Any Departmental regulation, rulemaking, policy, guidance, legislative proposal, grant funding formula changes, or operational activity that may have a substantial direct effect on an Indian Tribe on matters including, but not limited to:

1. Tribal cultural practices, lands, resources, or access to traditional areas of cultural or religious importance on federally managed lands;
2. The ability of an Indian Tribe to govern or provide services to its members;
3. An Indian Tribe's formal relationship with the Department; or
4. The consideration of the Department's trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes.

This, however, does not include matters that are in litigation or in settlement negotiations, or matters for which a court order limits the Department's discretion to engage in consultation.

- Provide an overview and timeline of the annual Federal Subsistence Regulatory process; and
- Provides name and contact information for OSM staff who can provide assistance in reviewing and developing proposals.

- Notifies Tribes at the beginning of the period and a reminder two weeks before the end of the proposal period.

Step 1.B.: Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Meetings: (Winter Meetings February-March): During these meetings, the RACs can develop proposals to change subsistence regulations. The Tribes have the opportunity to work with the RACs to draft proposals.

OSM

- Sends notice to all Tribes announcing all RAC meetings, including teleconference information if available.
- Contacts local media (newspaper, radio, TV) to provide meeting announcement and agendas.
- Arranges teleconference line for RAC meeting(s) so Tribes can participate in the RAC meetings. Tribes may discuss proposals with the RACs and relevant Federal staff. This should be included in the RAC's agenda.
- Posts RAC meeting materials on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website so Tribes can review the materials prior to the meetings.
- OSM Native Liaison coordinates with Interagency Staff Committee (ISC) and Tribal representatives to draft summary reports on Tribal Consultations (if any have taken place since the fall RAC meetings). These written summaries are provided to the RACs. Tribal representatives are encouraged to share in the delivery of this report.

Step 2-3: Review of Regulatory Proposals (April-May) Once the Proposals are received by OSM, they are compiled into a book that includes all proposals from throughout Alaska. Tribes will have the opportunity to review the proposals and provide comments. Consultation can be requested.

OSM

- Sends Tribes the proposal book with a link to the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, and a description of the process schedule. The name and contact information for OSM staff will be included in the proposal book.
- Coordinates with appropriate Federal staff to notify Tribes if a particular proposal might impact them.
- Meetings will be held for Federal analysts and affected Tribes to discuss proposals. These meetings can be with one or multiple Tribes.
- Includes information in Proposal Books about the availability of Tribal consultation.

Tribes

- Provides comments or participates in meetings. This can help with analysis of the proposal.
- If interested in consulting at this step, Tribes may contact OSM or an agency official and discuss course of action.

STEP 3: Proposal Analysis (April – August): Each of these proposals will be analyzed by OSM or other agency staff to determine its effect on the resource, other resources, rural subsistence users, other users, etc. OSM develops a preliminary recommendation on the proposal.

OSM	• Draft analyses should be made available to Tribes for consultation at least two weeks prior to Tribal consultation. • Draft analyses should be posted on the OSM website and provided directly to Tribes affected by proposals. • Summary bullets of the analysis, written in plain language, will be provided to affected Tribes.
Tribes / Board	• **TRIBAL CONSULTATION OCCURS:** One or more teleconference(s) will be scheduled to provide consultation opportunities open to all Tribes to discuss proposals with the Board. Consultation occurs approximately 2 weeks before the RAC meeting (see consultation meeting protocols on page 2 of this Guideline). • Results of consultation are written, and distributed to the appropriate RACs, Tribes and the Board as provided in the Consultation Meeting Protocols.

Step 4: Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Meetings (Fall meetings August - October): During these meetings, RACs develop recommendations to the Board on proposal(s) based on their review of the staff analyses, their knowledge of the resources and subsistence practices in the area, testimony received during the meeting, and Tribal input.

OSM	• Sends e-mail notification and or fax to all Tribes announcing all RAC meetings, including teleconference information if available. • Contacts local media (newspaper, radio, TV) to provide meeting announcement and agendas. • Arranges teleconference line for RAC meeting(s) so that Tribes that cannot participate in-person may do so by teleconference. Tribes may discuss proposals with the RACs, and appropriate Federal staff. • Materials and information relevant to the consultation meeting (i.e.: teleconference information, meeting topics, transcripts, meeting summary, etc.) will be made available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website (http://www.doi.gov//subsistence/index.cfm). • Coordinates reporting on prior Tribal consultations during the regulatory cycle to the RACs, and encourages Tribal representatives to share in delivery of this report.
RACs Tribes	• Includes time on the RAC agenda for Tribes to give additional comments and recommendations (in addition to the consultation with the Board) on proposals and other matters. • Tribes may choose to attend RAC meetings to provide input directly into the

regulatory process, assisting the RACs make better informed recommendations to the Board.

Step 5: Federal Subsistence Board Regulatory Meeting (Winter or Spring): The Board reviews the staff analyses, considers recommendations provided by OSM and the RACs, considers comments provided by the State, consults with Tribes, and makes a decision as to whether to adopt, reject, defer, or take no action on each proposed change to the Federal subsistence regulations. **Tribal consultation occurs before the Board meeting following the protocols outlined in the first section of this Guideline (Consultation Meeting Protocols).**

OSM	• Sends a meeting announcement to Tribes, with the teleconference call-in information. Contacts Tribes (with assistance of agencies, when needed) to verify that Tribes significantly affected by proposals are aware of the Board meeting. • Posts meeting materials on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website so that Tribes can review the materials before the meeting.
Tribes & Board	• Consults on regulatory proposals following the "Consultation Meeting Protocols." Time should be available to consult on other items of interest. RAC Chairs are invited to participate in the consultation. • During the meeting, OSM staff and/or Tribal representatives will report on the results of prior Tribal consultations.
OSM	• Following the Board meeting, OSM sends notification of meeting results to the affected Tribes. Tribes who consulted on proposals will be notified of the outcome.

Other Regulatory Actions Not Covered As Part of Annual Regulatory Cycle

If regulatory actions occur outside of the regulatory cycle, Tribes will be offered the opportunity to consult on them.

Special Actions

Special actions include emergency and temporary special actions. Because the regulatory process occurs on a biennial basis (fish one year, wildlife the next), sometimes issues arise that require immediate action; these actions may be taken as needed to address harvest regulations outside of the normal regulatory cycle.

Special Action requests usually require a quick turnaround time and consultation may not be possible; however, in-season and land managers will make every effort to consult with Tribes that are directly affected by a potential action prior to taking action. Public hearing requirements are followed for temporary special actions that would be in effect for 60 days or longer. Affected Tribes

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will be notified of actions taken. Federal field staff will work with Tribes in the affected area and distribute Tribal consultation information.

NON-REGULATORY ISSUES

For non-regulatory issues, the Board's Consultation Meeting Protocols will be followed when needed.

TRAINING

The Board's Policy directs that the Federal Subsistence Management Program follow the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture's policies for training of Federal staff:

1. OSM staff will work with the ISC (Interagency Staff Committee) and others to develop training modules on the subsistence regulatory process, customary and traditional use determinations, proposal development, Tribal consultation, Alaska Native cultures and the Federal budget process. Additionally, OSM staff will work with the ISC, agency Tribal liaisons, and others such as tribal elders to develop a training module that Federal staff can deliver at regional Tribal meetings (see Appendix C of the FSB's Tribal Consultation Policy) and to interested Tribal councils.

2. These trainings will be open to other entities responsible for management of subsistence resources, such as marine mammals, migratory birds, halibut, etc.

3. Board members should make every opportunity to directly participate in or observe subsistence activities.

4. It is recommended that Board members, OSM, ISC, & Federal land management staff directly involved in Tribal consultation as part of their work responsibilities attend cross-cultural training and cultural events in Alaska Native communities to learn the unique communication and cultural protocols of the Tribes with which they interact.

5. Recommended Training Topics for Federal Staff and Tribal Citizens

    a. Alaska Native identity, language, cultures, traditions, history, and regional differences
    b. Alaska Native perspectives on natural resource management
    c. Customary and traditional relationship to land, water, and wildlife
    d. Effects of historical trauma and acculturation stress on Alaska Native peoples
    e. Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act subsistence provisions
    f. Natural resource law, especially pertaining to fisheries and wildlife management and conservation
    g. Federal subsistence regulations
    h. Federal subsistence regulatory process
        1) Special actions
        2) Customary and traditional use determinations

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i. Rural determination process and implications
j. Jurisdiction (Tribal /Federal Government/ State of Alaska)
k. Relevant information about Tribe(s), including sovereignty, history of Tribal interactions with the United States government, Tribal constitutions, and traditional knowledge
l. Foundations of the government-to-government relationship and trust responsibility within Federal Indian law as expressed through the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Code, Supreme Court decisions, and executive actions
m. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 1.2
n. Tribal and Federal consultation policies
o. Wildlife and fisheries monitoring, including the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
p. Opportunities for co-management or shared stewardship
q. Communication etiquette and protocols

ACCOUNTABILITY, REPORTING, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

1. **Tribal Contact Information:**
   a. Department of the Interior (DOI) employees will utilize the DOI Tribal Consultation SharePoint site contact list.
   b. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees will utilize the Forest Service Alaska Region's contact list on the region's Tribal Relations webpage.
2. **Tracking Consultations:**
   a. The Alaska Region of the Forest Service will utilize the USDA consultation database to track Forest Service and tribal consultations.
   b. The Office of Subsistence Management and DOI employees will utilize the DOI Tribal Consultation SharePoint site database to track and record consultations.
3. **Report on Consultations:**
   a. Report annually as required by DOI and USDA consultation policies.
   b. The OSM Native Liaison provides a summary report annually to the Board on Federal Subsistence Management Program consultations noting any feedback received from Tribes regarding the policies and their implementation and any other follow-up actions or accomplishments. The report shall be posted on the OSM web site.
4. **Review of the Tribal Consultation Policy:**
   a. Annually, the Consultation Workgroup, OSM Native Liaison, land managers, and ISC should assess the effectiveness of the Tribal Consultation Policy and the implementation guidelines. The Workgroup will report to the Board at its annual winter/spring meeting.
5. **Follow-up to Consultations at the Federal Subsistence Board Meeting:**
   a. OSM is responsible to follow up on action items from Tribal Consultations at Federal Subsistence Board meetings.
   b. Post-Board meeting follow-up includes notification to Tribes of Board actions.

Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou – Report and Discussion

Date and Time

March 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Session Overview

This session will provide an overview of Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herd status, subsistence harvest reports, review current State regulations and proposed federal regulations, with discussion on local observations, subsistence traditions, conservation strategies while meeting subsistence needs. This is a unique opportunity for sharing and discussion amongst all four Regional Advisory Councils within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd: Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic, North Slope, and Western Interior Councils will all meet together for this panel session and discussion.

Presenters

Lincoln Parrett, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Nikki Bream, Anthropologist, Subsistence Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Chris Mckee, Wildlife Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Tom Evans, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management

About the Presenters

Chris McKee has worked with OSM for 5 years. The Office of Subsistence Management helps to provide opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands while maintaining healthy populations of these resources. He oversees all aspects of the wildlife division which mainly responsible for analyzing proposals and special actions seeking to make changes to Federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations. Chris has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife Biology and a Master’s of Science degree in Natural Resources Management; both from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Chris has worked as a biologist in Alaska for the last 25 years throughout all parts of the state.

Thomas Evans has worked as a Wildlife Biologist with the US Fish Wildlife Service in Alaska since 1990. For 20 years he worked with Marine Mammals Management studying sea otters and polar bears and now works with the Office of Subsistence Management as the wildlife biologist for the North Slope, Kodiak Aleutians, and South Central regions. He received a B.A. in biology from Earlham College in Indiana and M.S. in Wildlife Biology from Humboldt State University in northern California. First came to Alaska in 1975 and worked as a commercial fisherman for 5 summers on a seiner out of Ketchikan to help pay for college. His work at Marine Mammals, which involved both management and research on sea otters and polar bears, included doing population surveys in northern and western Alaska and the Aleutians, monitoring the Native subsistence harvest, collecting contaminant data to monitor the health of polar bears and their marine habitat, and development of the Polar Bear Critical Habitat. International activities

involved analysis and preparing reports for the management of the Southern Beaufort Sea polar bear population for the North Slope Borough (US)/Inuvialuit Game Council (Can) meetings, assisting with the US/Russia Polar Bear Bilateral Agreement for the Chukchi Sea polar bear population, development of the Arctic-wide ESA listing for Polar Bears, and development of analysis and reports on polar bears for the Polar Bear Technical Committee (Canada and US) and the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group (five circumpolar nations). These activities involved outreach and lot of travel to coastal communities in the Northern and Western Alaska.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Caribou Hunting Regulations For Residents of Unit 23

What You Need to Know

Regulations for caribou harvest have recently changed because of a decline in our region's caribou herd. Hunters need to be aware of the following rules that took effect July 1, 2015.

This is a summary of caribou hunting regulations for most of Northwest Alaska (Game Management Unit 23). Some parts of Unit 23 have slightly different regulations. Call us or look in the full regulation booklets for details.

State Resident Hunting Regulations (All Alaska Residents)	Federal Subsistence Hunting Regulations (Permanent Residents of Unit 23)
5 caribou per day **No harvest of calves (any caribou under 12 months old)**	
Bulls CLOSED Oct. 15 - Jan. 31	
Cows CLOSED April 1 - Aug. 31	**Cows CLOSED April 1 - June 30;** **No taking of cows with calves July 1 - Oct. 10**

Please Note: Hunting regulations vary somewhat depending on the land ownership status.

- You must follow State regulations on State, private, and Native-owned lands.
- You must follow Federal regulations on Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Park (where only residents of the NANA Region may hunt).
- Both sets of regulations apply on other Federal public lands.

Have Questions? Yes, this is complicated. Please feel free to contact us for more information:

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Kotzebue, AK
(907) 442-3799 or (800) 492-8848
email: susan_georgette@fws.gov

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Kotzebue, AK
(907) 442-3420 or (800) 478-3420
email: esther.slaathaug@alaska.gov

National Park Service
Kotzebue, AK
(907) 442-3890 or (800) 478-7252
www.nps.gov/noat/contacts.htm

This fact sheet is a publication of the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge in Kotzebue, in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service.

July 2015

Yukon River Salmon – Report and Discussion

Dates and Times

March 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Session Overview

This session will provide an overview of the status of Yukon River salmon, as well as a pre-season forecast, subsistence research overview, management strategies, and discussion among all Yukon River regional advisory council members and the public. This is a unique opportunity for sharing and discussion amongst all Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and community representation along the Yukon River and Delta including Eastern Interior, Western Interior, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and Seward Peninsula Councils.

Presenters

Fred Bue, Yukon Area Federal In-season Fishery Manager
Subsistence Fisheries Branch Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gerald Machman, Yukon Area Federal In-season Fishery Manager, Subsistence Fisheries Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Stephanie Schmidt, Yukon River Fishery Management Biologist, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Jeff Estensen, Yukon River Fall In-season Manager, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Caroline Brown, Subsistence Resource Specialist Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence
Brian McKenna, Fisheries Biologist, Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, Tanana Chiefs Conference
Ben Stevens, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
Tim Andrew, Association of Village Council Presidents
Catherine Moncrieff, Staff Anthropologist, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
Wayne Jenkins, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Executive Director

About the Presenter

Fred Bue. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for managing Federal Trust fisheries for subsistence uses in waters adjacent to Federal management units along the Yukon River in cooperation with the State of Alaska based in Fairbanks. Fred Bue's active fisheries management is through delegated authority of the Federal Subsistence Board. Fred is also the delegated Federal representative sitting on the Yukon River Panel charged with carrying out measures of the United States and Canada Agreement as part of the Pacific Salmon Fisheries Treaty. Fred began his current Federal Yukon River duties in 2010 after retiring from a career of 32 years with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. During the last 10 of those years with ADF&G, Fred was the Yukon Area Fall Season Manager for commercial and subsistence fisheries with the Division of Commercial Fisheries. Originally from Minnesota, Fred graduated from the

University of Alaska Fairbanks with a degree in Fisheries Management in 1982 and has been involved in Alaska fisheries ever since.

Stephanie Schmidt. The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (ADF&G) cooperatively manages the subsistence fishery on the Yukon River with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). ADF&G also manages the commercial, sport, and personal-use fisheries. Dr. Schmidt started her career with ADF&G as the Summer Season Fishery Research Biologist on the Yukon River in 2012. She oversaw all research and assessment related to Yukon River Chinook salmon and summer chum salmon. In 2014, Dr. Schmidt became the Summer Season Fishery Management Biologist on the Yukon River for the State. She travels throughout the Yukon River drainage, working with local stakeholders to help facilitate an open dialogue about fisheries management. She works closely with the USFWS subsistence fishery manager to develop and implement management plans regarding the subsistence fishery. She also serves on the Joint Technical Committee for the U.S.-Canada Yukon River Panel. Dr. Schmidt received her Ph.D. in Limnology and Marine Science from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She initially began a career in academia and taught in the Environmental Studies and Biology departments at St. Olaf College in Minnesota for three years. However, a strong interest in applied fisheries and Native resource issues led Dr. Schmidt to look to Alaska for a change in her career path. Dr. Schmidt is originally from Wisconsin and grew up fishing and hunting with her family. She is an enrolled member of the Brotherton Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

Caroline Brown has over 15 years of experience conducting anthropological research in Yukon River communities and has worked for ADF&G as a Subsistence resource Specialist for 12 years. She serves as the social scientist on the Joint Technical Committee that advises the Yukon River Panel on salmon issues. She has also been involved in several salmon-specific research projects: Socioeconomic Effects of Declining Salmon Runs on the Yukon River (2010-2013), Climate Change and Impacts on Subsistence Fisheries in the Yukon River Drainage (2010-2013), and Natural Indicators of Salmon Run Timing and Abundance (2007-2009). She is currently involved in several salmon-focused studies, including exploring the patterns and trends of salmon fishing along the Yukon River and documenting local knowledge of freshwater salmon habitats. Ms. Brown has an MA in Anthropology from the University of Chicago and is also a PhD candidate in Anthropology there.

Brian McKenna. Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people. I facilitate on the ground research and data collections that assist in the conservation and management of the Yukon River fisheries. Brian has worked at TCC since July 2013. Prior to my employment with TCC, I gained valuable experience working in various fisheries from the Midwest, to the Gulf of Mexico, and now in Alaska. My fisheries background began in Missouri. I grew up fishing every creek, pond, lake, and river in Missouri, and began volunteering with both the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service while concurrently completing my undergraduate course work in fisheries science (2009). From there, I moved south to Mobile, Alabama, where I served as a fisheries technician with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab conducting fisheries independent research on sharks and rays throughout the Gulf of Mexico (2011). I have also served as a seasonal fisheries technician with the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association in

Kenai and Seward, Alaska in 2010 & 2011. In 2012 and 2013, I moved to Fairbanks and was employed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fairbanks Field Office. I served as crew leader on the East Fork Andreafsky River Weir and I also served on the Chandalar River Fall Chum Sonar project. I transferred to TCC in 2013 after completing my duties with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and continue to maintain great working relationships with the many individuals that I have met and worked with over the years throughout the Yukon River drainage. Regarding education, I completed a Masters Certificate in Fisheries Management from Oregon State University in 2013, and am currently completing a Master's of Science degree in Fisheries Science from the University of Florida.

Ben Stevens has worked for TCC since August 2014. TCC is charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional Native unity. Advocates for Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights. In addition, the development of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Served as the Executive Director of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), a tribal consortium located in Alaska's eastern interior. Also served as CATG's Policy Analyst and Self-Governance Coordinator where he advanced two major Self-Governance initiatives to completion. The first was leading negotiations to secure the first ever Compact funding agreement (AFA) between a federal conservation unit (Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge managed by the Fish & Wildlife Service) and a tribal entity in the nation in 2004. Following that accomplishment, Ben led a successful effort to secure a similar self-governance AFA with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Alaska Fire Service for the Upper Yukon Zone in 2011. Prior to CATG, Ben served the people of Alaska in local, regional and state-wide capacities involving health care and natural resource program development. In Stevens Village, he helped the Tribal Council develop a Tribal natural resource management program designed to protect and preserve resources the Tribe relies upon. After serving as its Director, Ben moved on to the state-wide level where he worked to facilitate Tribal natural resource management strategic planning. Other experience includes developing regional health programs and projects at the direction of a regional board of directors.

Catherine Moncrieff has worked with YRDFA since 2002. YRDFA is the non-profit Yukon River fishermen's group representing the Alaska portion of the Yukon River with a mission is to protect and promote all healthy wild fisheries and cultures within the Yukon River drainage. We accomplish our work through efforts to reduce river-wide conflict and coordinating a river-wide approach to fishers' and tribes' involvement in sustainable fisheries management, reducing threats to Yukon River salmon, preserving the traditional/subsistence way of life and cultures of the Yukon River, and providing accurate information about Yukon River salmon, their management and issues affecting salmon and their habitat. Catherine's work focuses on helping fishers have a stronger voice in management of their fishery and preserving their way of life along the Yukon River. Her current projects focus on documenting how people of the Yukon River value salmon, traditional place names of the Koyukuk River, contemporary exchange practices in the Upper Yukon, and the in-season salmon fishery surveys. Ms. Moncrieff completed an M.A. at the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2004 in Applied Cultural Anthropology with an emphasis in ecological anthropology and Local and Traditional Knowledge (LTK). Her thesis was based on the YRDFA project documenting LTK of salmon along the Yukon River. She has been with YRDFA for 14 years and during time she has worked with many Elders and communities along the Yukon River, learning a tremendous amount of

information about local and traditional ways of knowing. Her past projects have included TEK of salmon along the Yukon River, Phenotypic Characteristics of Chinook Salmon, Customary Trade of Subsistence Harvested Fish on the Yukon River, Natural Indicators of Salmon Run Timing and Abundance, and Changes in Salmon Spawning Grounds along the Koyukuk River.

Wayne Jenkins has worked with YRDFA for two and a half years, first as Deputy Director and was approved for the Director's position in October of 2015. He previously served as executive director of Georgia Forest Watch, a non-profit organization for eight years before working with YRDFA and has most of his training in non-profit management from that period. His current duties at YRDFA include staff management, project oversight and implementation, which require him to work with fishermen and agency personnel along the Yukon River, Board development, securing new funding and new program development. He has experience in working with state and federal agency personnel and resource users.

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)
Narrative Report

Federal Regional Advisory Council,
Spring 2016 meeting of all AK RACs
Anchorage Alaska

Pre-season Salmon Fishery Preparation Meeting
Funded by the Yukon River Panel through the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Fund

In 2015, the Pre-season Yukon River Fishery Preparation meeting was hosted by YRDFA on April 29th in Anchorage, AK. The meeting rotates its location on an annual basis between Fairbanks and Anchorage. The 2015 Pre-season Yukon River Fishery Preparation meeting directly followed YRDFA's annual Board meeting. YRDFA Board and Alternates, commercial and subsistence fishers from the full length of the Alaska portion of the Yukon River were able to attend. This meeting, funded by the Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund, is a one-day event for fishermen to meet with fisheries managers and biologists from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare for the upcoming fisheries season. The fishery managers shared their pre-season outlook as well as stock status updates and time was spent in open discussion talking about the specific scenarios to anticipate and plan for in-season fishing on the Yukon River. Despite the weak condition of the Chinook salmon run and subsequent need for severe conservation measures for the second year, it was clear that attendees understood the gravity of the situation and intended to target other salmon and non-salmon species for meeting subsistence needs. The sacrifice of Alaskan Yukon fishers resulted in meeting most escapement goals for Alaskan Yukon River tributaries and going over the Yukon River Agreement's Canadian escapement target for 2015. Yukon River fishers are true heroes in their sacrifice's affecting whole communities and traditional culture in choosing to avoid the harvesting of Chinook salmon during this period of weak runs.

Planning for the 2016 Pre-Season planning meeting is underway and we are looking forward to bringing Yukon River fishers and community representatives, fisheries managers and scientists together for preparing for this summer's subsistence and commercial season. This meeting creates a social engagement approach so necessary for addressing the geographical scope, present Chinook declines, meeting subsistence and commercial harvest needs and sheer complexity of the Yukon River fishery for finding balanced and acceptable approaches and solutions.

In-season Yukon River Salmon Teleconferences
Funded by the Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) and the Yukon River Panel through the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Fund

YRDFA has hosted in-season salmon management teleconferences every year since 1994 or for 21 years. Many of you know or have participated in these teleconferences funded by both the Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program and the Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund. YRDFA hosted the calls every Tuesday, beginning June 2, 2015 and running through the last week in August. The calls follow an agenda each week: opening with subsistence fishing reports from Alaska Yukon River villages and fishers and First Nation reports from Yukon, Canada; then, reports from state and federal fisheries managers on their test fisheries results, assessments and management strategies and also hearing from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada. These calls are an open forum for members of the public to call in and hear weekly fisheries updates and also a place to ask questions about the salmon fishery in-season. Managers gain valuable information from Yukon River fishers as to river conditions and how well people are meeting their subsistence needs. This year's calls reflected many challenging issues facing Yukon River fishers and managers. While striving to meet subsistence needs fishers faced delayed initial runs of king and summer chum salmon, high water conditions, wildfires which threatened some villages and pulled fishermen away for fire fighting, and lack of proper fishing gear in some communities. All the while managers and fishers worked to avoid harvesting king salmon and targeting other fish species. It was a tough year. As mentioned previously, the choices, actions and sacrifice made by Alaska's Yukon River fishers enabled all Canadian and Alaskan escapement goals to be met and in some cases exceeded. YRDFA proposals for next year's teleconference program are in process and we look forward to continuing this important effort.

YRDFA's Education Exchange
Funded by the Yukon River Panel through the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Fund
The education exchange trip was developed by YRDFA and is funded by the Yukon River Panel through its Restoration and Enhancement fund. It has been taking place for the past 12 years following the signing of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement by the US and Canadian governments. This exchange trip is for Yukon River Alaskans and Canadians and people who work with Yukon River salmon fisheries to learn from each other and fisheries management agencies about issues pertaining to Canadian origin

Chinook and fall chum salmon fisheries. Some key topics for sharing are management approaches and goals, Yukon River cultures and people who rely on salmon, and the goals of Yukon River Salmon Agreement. A group of five people travel across the border to the neighboring country each summer and state and federal agency personnel, Yukon River Panel members, Elders, youth, fish processors and guides augment the group along their trip at various stops. The goal of the exchange is to foster cross border collaboration and acts as a bridge to greater understanding, dialogue and cooperation along the Yukon River for protecting and improving the fishery resources that all communities on the river are dependent upon.

This year's Alaskan group represented the Yukon River villages of Marshall, Huslia, Galena and Minto. We visited 3 Yukon Territory First Nations; Trondek Gwitchin in Dawson City, Little Salmon Carmacks in Carmacks and Teslin Tlingit at Teslin Lake in the very headwaters of the Yukon River. We also met with Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans management and visited 2 restoration projects in Whitehorse. Our post trip evaluation indicated that our guests found the experience informative, beautiful and deeply moving as they gained a greater understanding of the salmon decline situation, river-wide, and the long sacrifice that Yukon Territory First Nation communities have been making. Some communities have chosen to not harvest king salmon for more than 17 years. Alaskan visitors saw and heard how First Nations are working to uphold their culture and educate the youth as their fish camps sit idle. Alaskan's shared their culture while gaining more understanding of the critical importance of Alaskan salmon conservation for meeting escapement goals to rebuild the Chinook salmon run and for healing native cultures in the upper Yukon headwaters.

YRDFA BLM Resource Management Planning Yukon River Community Engagement Support
Funded by PEW Charitable Trusts

The Bureau of Land Management is the largest federal lands manager in Alaska and is in the process of long-range resource management planning (RMP) in two regions; the Bearing Sea-Western Interior (10.6 million acres of BLM land) and Central Yukon Region (16 million acres of BLM land). These plans will guide BLM management on nearly 27 million acres of public land for the next 20 plus years. The plans will govern BLM lands, some of which are used by communities and is of critical interest to villages for traditional harvest needs, clean water and wildlife habitat and cultural identity.

This project, begun in 2014, in partnership with the PEW Charitable Trusts. YRDFA continues to reach out to inform communities about BLM resource management plans and when requested, is providing assistance and support for tribes along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers who wish to inform planning and management with their comments and input. Protecting the water, wildlife habitats and traditional harvest areas is a major concern for villages we are working with but there may be other concerns around mining development, road building, guided hunts, etc. To date Tribal Councils representing 14 villages along the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers have made land protection nominations to BLM through the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) process.

Requests to appropriate RACs for letters of support for village ACEC nominations has been ongoing and we would like to thank the council members of both the YK Delta and Western Interior RACs for their support.

Yukon River In-Season Salmon Harvest Survey
Funded by the Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP)

As you know, YRDFA has reapplied to the FRMP for this project and we have been following the approval process closely. We are happy to see that we are on the Fund list and hope that this project receives final approval. We thank the Yukon River RACs for supporting this important project. If final approval is received, we will be able to bring the project back up to 10 surveyors in 10 villages stretching along the Yukon River from the mouth to the Canadian border. The previous cycle ended in October of 2015 and the new 4-year project, if approved, will begin in April/May 2016. The project goal is to contribute local information into fisheries management discussions and build capacity along the river to participate in fisheries management. Updates or changes to this program include a greater focus on increased capacity building of the local surveyors and enhancing their ability to participate in in-season fisheries management.

The in-season harvest survey is an important assessment tool in that it qualitatively informs managers how fishers in key locations throughout the drainage are doing in-season, enabling managers to make timely decisions allowing the maximum of fishers to meet their subsistence needs. The in-season harvest survey compliments the quantitative post-season survey conducted by ADFG by providing an explanation of fishing success such as high water, debris and other adverse effects that influence fishing success.

Beginning in 2002, in-season harvest interviewers have been hired each year in select communities along the Yukon River to ensure consistent participation and reporting to managers and on the In-season Salmon Management Teleconferences each week regarding subsistence harvests and observed abundance. These in-season interviews were implemented to assist in meeting the mandate set forth in the Alaska Native Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and the State of Alaska Statute 16.05.258 *Subsistence use and allocation of fish and game,* both of which require a priority for subsistence over other consumptive uses. In-season interviews provide managers insight on subsistence harvest progression within multiple villages located on the Yukon River for use in fisheries management decision-making.

Customary Trade in the Upper Yukon River
Funded by the Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP)

This project, funded by the FRMP, is a partnership project with ADFG Subsistence Division. The project examines historic and contemporary customary trade of harvested salmon in the Upper Yukon and Tanana Rivers. We are using ethnographic interviews to

describe how customary trade practices fit within the overall subsistence use of salmon and a survey on barter and exchange practices to document the scope and local nature of customary trade. The final objective of this project is to improve understanding of the role of customary trade within a continuum of exchange practices and to describe any potential effects on customary trade from declining salmon runs.

In the fall of 2015, we reported completing our fieldwork in Fort Yukon and in Steven's village. We are now in the analysis phase but if the budget allows we may consider adding another community to expand our fieldwork. We are looking at adding a Yukon Flats community but have not approached them or received community approval yet. Once we have completed the analysis, we will revisit the communities to share the preliminary findings and collect their feedback. I will continue to provide updates throughout the life of this project which is scheduled to end in December of 2016

How People of the Yukon River Value Salmon: A case study in the lower, middle, and upper portions of the Yukon River.
Funded by the North Pacific Research Board

This project, funded by the North Pacific Research Board, has been previously reported on as well. The goal of this project is to describe how people of the Yukon River value salmon through case studies in three communities – Russian Mission, Nenana, and Fort Yukon. As an update, I have completed the ethnographic interviews in all three communities. Nenana has offered a preliminary approval of the data and the community is reviewing the draft chapter. Next steps include the analysis for the Fort Yukon and Russian Mission interviews.

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program process

YRDFA's mission is to protect and promote all healthy, wild fisheries and cultures within the Yukon River drainage. YRDFA is highly interested in working with Yukon River RAC members on priority issues and developing projects appropriate for YRDFA that may develop into FRMP proposals. Please feel free to contact any YRDFA staff member to discuss your ideas and ways that YRDFA can help implement them.

Thank you,

Wayne Jenkins; Executive Director
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association