

# **NORTH SLOPE Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**



*Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*

USFWS

**Fisheries Meeting Materials**  
August 24, 2010  
Barrow

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**NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**North Slope Borough Assembly Room-Barrow, Alaska**  
**August 24, 2010; 9 a.m.– 6 p.m.**

DRAFT AGENDA

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Public comments are welcomed for each agenda item. Please fill out a comment form or be recognized by the Chair. Testimony time limits may be given to provide opportunity for all to testify and to keep on schedule.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** These are estimated times and topic order are subject to change. Contact staff at the meeting for the current schedule.
- **AREA CONCERNS:** The Regional Council arranges its meetings to hear and understand the subsistence concerns of the area where they meet. Please share your subsistence concerns and knowledge. The agenda is an outline and is open to the area’s subsistence concerns, listed or not.

1. **Call to Order** (*Harry Brower, Chair*)
2. **Moment of Silence** (*Harry Brower, Chair*)
3. **Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum** (*Lee Kayotuk, Secretary*)..... 3
4. **Welcome and Introductions** (*Harry Brower, Chair*)
5. **Review and Adoption of Agenda** (*Add new items under 13*)..... 1
6. **Review and Adoption of Minutes From Feb. 16, 2010** (*Harry Brower, Chair*)..... 4
7. **Election of Officers** (*Barb Atoruk, Coordinator*)
8. **Western Arctic Caribou Herd Representative** (*Barb Atoruk*)
9. **Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Priority Information Needs** (*Karen Hyer*)..... 10
10. **Next Meeting** (*Barb Atoruk*)
  - A. Establish Dates and Places for Winter 2011 and Fall 2011 Meetings ..... 16
11. **Draft 2010 Annual Report** (*Barb Atoruk*)
12. **Agency Reports**
  - A. Office of Subsistence Management
    1. Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group Update (*staff*)
  - B. National Park Service (*Staff*)
  - C. Bureau of Land Management (*Dave Yokel*)
  - D. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (*Staff*)
    1. Introduce Lisa Slaton, Subsistence Resource Specialist

*Agenda*

E. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (*Vince Mathews*)

1. Update on the ANWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan .....
2. Announcement of Appointments to the International Porcupine Caribou Board

**13. New Business**

**14. Adjourn**

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## REGION 10 – NORTH SLOPE

<i>SEAT 1</i> <i>2011</i> <i>1993</i>	<i>Harry K. Brower, Jr.</i>	<i>Barrow</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>SEAT 2</i> <i>2010</i> <i>2006</i>	<i>Lee Kayotuk</i>	<i>Kaktovik</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>SEAT 3</i> <i>2011</i> <i>2008</i>	<i>Ray F. Koonuk, Sr.</i>	<i>Point Hope</i>	
<i>SEAT 4</i> <i>2010</i> <i>2007</i>	<i>Lloyd K. Leavitt</i>	<i>Barrow</i>	
<i>SEAT 5</i>	<i>VACANT</i>		
<i>SEAT 6</i> <i>2010</i> <i>1998</i>	<i>Paul S. Bodfish, Sr.</i>	<i>Atqasuk</i>	
<i>SEAT 7</i> <i>2011</i> <i>2008</i>	<i>James Nageak</i>	<i>Anaktuvuk Pass</i>	
<i>SEAT 8</i> <i>2012</i> <i>2009</i>	<i>Rosemary Ahtaungaruak</i>	<i>Nuiqsut</i>	
<i>SEAT 9</i>	<i>VACANT</i>		
<i>SEAT 10</i>	<i>VACANT</i>		

**NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE COUNCIL MEETING  
NSB Assembly Room, BARROW, ALASKA  
February 16, 2010, 9:10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Harry Brower, Jr., Barrow, Chair  
Mr. James Nageak, Anaktuvuk Pass  
Mr. Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik  
Mr. Lloyd Leavitt, Barrow

**Unexcused Absence**

Mr. Ray Koonuk, Sr., Pt. Hope

**Excused:**

Mr. Paul Bodfish, Sr., Atqasuk  
Ms. Rosemary Ahtuanguak, Nuiqsut

**Federal/Agency Personnel**

**FWS/OSM**

Barb Atoruk, Anchorage  
Tom Kron, Anchorage

**NPS**

Sandy Rabinowitch, Anchorage

**BIA**

Pat Petrivelli, Anchorage

**BLM**

Dave Yokel, Fairbanks  
Ben Nageak, Barrow  
Dan Sharp, Anchorage

**ADF&G**

Susan Bucknell, Kotzebue

**PUBLIC**

Thomas Olemaun, Barrow NVB  
Ernest Nageak, Barrow NVB  
Joseph Sage, Barrow NVB

**Court Reporter:** Selena Hile

**Call to Order**

Harry Brower, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. in Barrow.

**Roll Call/Confirmation of Quorum**

Roll was called. Quorum was established.

**Moment of Silence**

The Chair asked Mr. Nageak for the invocation.

## Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked each to introduce themselves beginning with the Council members.

## Review and Adoption of Agenda

**MOTION:** Mr. James Nageak *moved* to adopt the agenda as modified to move up Alaska Department of Fish & Game proposals as number one under eight and Election of Officers will be at their fall meeting.. Mr. Leavitt *seconded*. *The motion carried unanimously.*

## Review and Adoption of Minutes

**MOTION:** Mr. James Nageak *moved* to approve the minutes of August 25, 2009 as written. Mr. Lloyd Leavitt *seconded*. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Yes, at the August 2009 meeting, my surname was still Armstrong; I got married in October 17, 2009 and became Atoruk. James wanted to know.

**Migratory Birds** was discussed in length, we did not have an answer to the questions so Fred Armstrong, Jr. Executive Director to the Migratory Bird Co-Management Council was called and he expounded on the birds management of the North Slope to them. They further invited him to attend their meetings to keep them updated on the birds. The Council requested that this be on their 2009 Annual Report for documentation.

## Wildlife Proposal Review and Regional Council Recommendations

### STATEWIDE PROPOSALS

**Proposal WP10-01**, Drawing Permit Definition request for the addition of a “drawing permit” definition to the regulations.

**Council Recommendation:** Mr. Lloyd Leavitt moved to support the original proposal wording on page 13 and 11 of the North Slope Council book. Mr. James Nageak seconded. The motion carried with three votes for and one against.

**Justification:** The Council supported the proposal because subsistence is a way of life. There are concerns about having to use a drawing permit.

**Proposal WP10-03** requests the addition of a general provision in Federal subsistence management regulations to allow the harvest of fish and wildlife by participants in a cultural or educational program.

**Council Recommendation:** Mr. Lloyd Leavitt moved to support as modified on page 21 of the North Slope Council book (OSM preliminary conclusion). Mr. James Nageak seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Justification:** It is very important to provide opportunity for cultural/educational programs permits.

**Proposal WP10-04** would remove Units 6, 12, 20A, 20B, 20C east of the Teklanika River, 20D and 20E from the areas for which the Assistant Regional Director for Subsistence Management has the delegated

authority to open, close or adjust Federal Subsistence lynx seasons and to set harvest and possession limits.

**Council Recommendation:** Mr. James Nageak moved to support with modification in OSM preliminary conclusion. Mr. Lloyd Leavitt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Justification:** There should be no impacts on wildlife populations as season and harvest limits can still be changed via the normal regulatory cycle or via special action if needed. There will be no impacts to subsistence users as season and harvest limits may still be changed. This proposed change is only addressing the authority delegated to the Assistant Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence Management. The current delegation is already done through a letter and the regulatory language sub section \_\_, 26(f)(3) is redundant and not needed. The draft letter found in Appendix II would update the delegation of authority letter making it more consistent with other delegation letters issued throughout the state by the Board.

**Proposal WP10-05** seeks to update, clarify, and simplify the regulations regarding accumulation of harvest limits for both fish and wildlife.

**Council Recommendation:** Mr. Lloyd Leavitt moved to support the proposal as written. Mr. James Nageak seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Justification:** This proposal does not change North Slope Area Federal Subsistence regulations concerning accumulation of harvest limits or the timeframe for harvest limits. The proposed updates, clarifies and simplifies the regulations.

## CROSSOVER PROPOSAL

**Proposal WP10-67** requests changes in harvest seasons and limits for moose in Unit 24B.

**Council Recommendation:** Mr. James Nageak moved to defer the proposal to Western Interior Regional Advisory Council. Mr. Lloyd Leavitt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Justification:** The North Slope and Anaktuvuk Pass are not affected to any extent. The Council feels that this is best addressed by the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.

## NORTH SLOPE PROPOSALS

**Proposals 106 and 107** seek to shorten the Unit 26 wolf hunting season and lower the harvest limit. These proposals were submitted separately, but because they ask for the same thing, they have been combined for the purposes of analysis.

**Council Recommendation:** Mr. Lloyd Leavitt moved to support the proposals. Mr. James Nageak seconded. The motion failed unanimously.

**Justification:** The Council would like to keep Unit 26 wolf hunting regulations as they are (15 wolves and August 10-April 30 season).

## **Review and Approve Draft 2009 Annual Report**

The 2009 Annual Report was submitted with corrections and adding Migratory Bird Program where the Council requests that the staff from the Program provide them with update of the regulations and changes for each new regulatory year.

## **Western Arctic Caribou Herd Representative**

The Council requested that they be provided with some information on what this working group does and they will make a recommendation at their fall 2010 meeting.

## **Established Times and Places of Next Meetings**

The fall meeting will be in Barrow on August 24 and 25, 2010

The winter meeting will be in Barrow on March 7 and 8, 2010

## **Call for Proposals to Change 2011/13 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations**

(Deadline –March 24, 2010) None were proposed at this meeting.

## **Agency Reports**

Mr. Kron from **Office of Subsistence Management** informed the Council that OSM did not have any reports to present; he also referenced the Council to the letter from Mr. Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant concerning the Federal Subsistence Program Review. The letter was a briefing on the comments they received through the review process to date.

Mr. Rabinowitch from **National Park Service** gave a short report highlighting a few things that the Council might be interested in. He acknowledged James Nageak's appointment to the Gates of the Arctic SRC and the SRC's meeting will be in Barrow in April 2010. NPS worked with OSM and the college on a proposal to take sheep during the summer. The permitting worked out OK, hunt was successful and the elders, teachers and the community participated in the camp at Anaktuvuk Pass. NPS, ADF&G, BLM and FWS are now putting additional collars on moose and tracking them every 8 hours in Units 24A and B through the end of October. They are doing additional work to continually improve their survey methods on sheep. More detailed information will be reported as they work on answers to the Council's annual report. The request to be able to collect shed horns and antlers, either naturally shed by the animals or discarded by hunters is still ongoing. For North Slope, this would only affect the Gates of the Arctic Park. He said that the Council would be updated at their future meetings. An inventory and monitoring group called Arctic Research Central Network, a standalone project under NPS will be doing aerial survey of brown bear on the Itkillik Preserve, north of Anaktuvuk Pass. NPS is in the process of updating the 1986 General Management Plan and the scoping meetings in various communities will be happening. This project affects only the Gates of the Arctic Park. The Chair asked if a list of the acronyms could be provided from NPS and what each stand for.

Mr. Mathews from **ANWR** introduced himself to the Council and referred the Council to page 122 of the meeting book. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is working on their Comprehensive Conservation Plan. It is a plan that outlines and guides long-term management for the Refuge. The scoping meetings will be happening in Kaktovik, Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Washington, D.C.

Access to Native Allotments on ANWR was questioned, Mr. Mathews says that he will provide an answer at a later date.

Ms. Bucknell from **Alaska Department Fish and Game** gave a short report. She explained that the subsistence hunt and general hunt for bears in 26A will be open in the summer, so people who shoot a bear can avoid the cumbersome “defense of life and property” paperwork. So, it would be easier if you would just take it as if you were hunting a bear. If you would like to receive state proposal books, please sign up on the web or let her know. State submitted a proposal to shorten the non-resident hunting season for Porcupine caribou and reduce the bag limit to one caribou in parts of Unit 25 and 26C. Jack Reakoff submitted several proposals about caribou or moose in 26B and C.

Mr. Yokel from **Bureau of Land Management** gave brief update of their activities in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. They are continuing with other agencies in monitoring, collaring of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. More money has been provided through the impact funds and they are getting very good data set now and establishing baseline information on their use of the land. If NPR-A should be developed, they have good information on how the caribou used the land in absence of oil development. If they do see change in the future, they will need to figure out whether it’s because of oil development or climate change or combination of the two. Collars are put only on adult cow caribou, some collars are expandable as the neck of the caribou grows. Last summer they have put some satellite collars on some bulls with Teshekpuk Herd. They have experimented with collaring calves with expandable collars in the Central Arctic Herd and so far, they are doing well. He states that he does not deny what the hunters saw with the collars because some things do go wrong. Although, it’s tough at times, this helps them to manage the population of the herd as a whole. They are also working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in helping them with logistics in studying the willows along the Colville River. They are doing this because of the fluctuations of the moose population in studying the summer forage along the Colville River. They are also participating with other entities in fisheries studies in the Northeastern NPR-A. They have tagged some fish and learning about their movements to help them understand the fish cycle if development should occur. Oil and gas activities in NPR-A have been quiet this winter, he said. Alpine, the Corps of Engineers denied ConocoPhillips the permit to build a bridge across Nigliq Channel. Question and answer period by the Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Leavitt **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kayotuk **seconded**. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara M. Atoruk, DFO  
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry K. Brower, Jr., Chair  
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

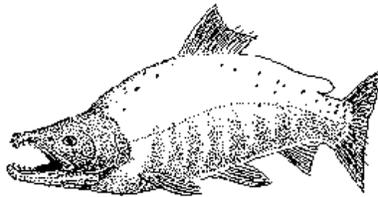
These minutes will be formally considered by the Regional Advisory Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

For a more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript are available upon request. Call Barbara Atoruk at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3885.

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# ***PRIORITY INFORMATION NEEDS***

## ***FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES***



**2012 FISHERIES RESOURCE MONITORING PROGRAM**

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Office of Subsistence Management  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3888 Voice  
907-786-3612 Fax

July 23, 2010

The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) invites the submission of proposals for fisheries investigation studies to be initiated under the 2012 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (Monitoring Program). Taking into account funding commitments for ongoing projects, we anticipate approximately \$2.7 million available in 2012 to fund new monitoring and research projects that provide information needed to manage subsistence fisheries for rural Alaskans on Federal public lands. Funding may be requested for up to four years duration.

Although all proposals addressing subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands will be considered, the 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on priority information needs. The Monitoring Program is administered by region, those being the Northern, Yukon, Kuskokwim, Southwest, Southcentral, and Southeast regions. Strategic plans developed by workgroups of Federal and State fisheries managers, researchers, Regional Advisory Council members and other stakeholders, have been completed for three of the six regions: Southeast, Southcentral (excluding Cook Inlet Area), and Southwest Alaska. These plans identify prioritized information needs for each major subsistence fishery and can be viewed on or downloaded from OSM's website: <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/index.cfml>. Independent strategic plans were completed for the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions for salmon in 2005, and jointly for whitefish in 2010. For the Northern Region and the Cook Inlet Area, priority information needs were developed with input from Regional Advisory Councils, the Technical Review Committee, Federal and State managers and staff from OSM.

This document summarizes priority information needs for 2012 for all six regions and a multi-regional category that addresses priorities that may extend to more than one study region. Investigators preparing proposals for the 2012 Monitoring Program should use this document and relevant strategic plans, and the Request for Proposals, which provides foundational information about the Monitoring Program, to guide proposal development. While Monitoring Program project selections may not be limited to priority information needs identified in this document, proposals addressing other information needs must include compelling justification with respect to strategic importance.

Monitoring Program funding is not intended to duplicate existing programs. Agencies are discouraged from shifting existing projects to the Monitoring Program. Where long-term projects can no longer be funded by agencies, and the project provides direct information for Federal subsistence fisheries management, a request to the Monitoring Program of up to 50% of the project cost may be submitted for consideration. For Monitoring Program projects for which additional years of funding is being requested, investigators should justify continuation by placing the proposed work in context with the ongoing work being accomplished. For projects with broad overlap of Federal and State management authority, a substantial match in funding must be included in order to be considered for Monitoring Program funding.

Because cumulative effects of climate change are likely to fundamentally affect subsistence fishery resources, their uses, and how they are managed, investigators are requested to consider examining or discussing climate change effects as a component of their project. Investigators conducting long-term stock status projects will be required to participate in a standardized air and water temperature monitoring program. Calibrated temperature loggers and associated equipment, analysis and reporting services, and access to a temperature database will be provided. Finally, proposals that focus on the effects of climate change on subsistence fishery resources and uses, and that describe implications for subsistence management, are specifically requested. Such proposals must include a clear description of how the project would measure or assess climate change impacts to subsistence fishery resources, uses, and management.

Projects with an interdisciplinary emphasis are encouraged. The Monitoring Program seeks to combine ethnographic, harvest monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge, and biological data to aid in finding effective management approaches to fisheries. Investigators are encouraged to combine interdisciplinary methods, theories, and data to address information needs. Consideration should be given to the cultural context of key research topics.

Collaboration and cooperation with rural communities is encouraged at all stages of research planning and implementation of projects that directly affect those communities. The Request for Proposals describes the collaborative process in community-based research and in building partnerships with rural communities.

The following sections provide specific regional and multi-regional priority information needs for the 2012 Monitoring Program. They are not listed in priority order.

### **Northern Region Priority Information Needs**

The Northern Region is divided into three areas which reflect the geographic areas of the three northern Regional Advisory Councils (Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic, and North Slope). Together, the three areas comprise most of northern Alaska, and contain substantial Federal public lands. Since 2001, the three northern Regional Advisory Councils have identified important fisheries issues and information needs for their respective areas. The Seward Peninsula and Northwest Arctic Councils have identified salmon and char fisheries as being the most important fisheries for their areas. The North Slope Council identified char, whitefish, and Arctic grayling fisheries as most important for its area. In addition, the effects of climate change on subsistence fishery resources has been identified as a priority research need. The Multi-regional priority information needs section at the end of this document includes climate change research needs.

For the Northern Region, the 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on the following priority information needs:

- Baseline harvest assessment and monitoring of subsistence fisheries in the Northwest Arctic and North Slope regions.
- Historic trends and variability in harvest locations, harvests and uses of non-salmon fish.
- Iñupiaq taxonomy of fish species, Iñupiaq natural history of fish, land use, place name mapping, species distribution, and methods for and timing of harvests. Species of interest include sheefish, northern pike, or other subsistence non-salmon fish in the Northwest Arctic region.
- Spawning distribution, timing, and stock structure of Selawik River whitefish species.

### **Yukon Region Priority Information Needs**

Since its inception, the Monitoring Plan for the Yukon Region has been directed at information needs identified by the three Yukon River Regional Advisory Councils (Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior, and Eastern Interior) with input from subsistence users, the public, Alaska Native organizations, Federal and State agencies, and partner agencies and organizations. The U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Joint Technical Committee Plan has been used to prioritize salmon monitoring projects in the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage. Additionally, a research plan for whitefish has identified priority information needs for whitefish species in the Yukon and Kuskokwim river drainages.

For the Yukon Region, the 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on the following priority information needs:

- Reliable estimates of Chinook and chum salmon escapements (e.g., weir and sonar projects).
- Effects on salmon stocks and users of fishery management practices implemented to conserve Chinook salmon (e.g. gillnet mesh size, gillnet depth, and windowed openings).
- Methods for including “quality of escapement” measures in establishing Chinook salmon spawning goals and determining the reproductive potential of spawning escapements.
- Trends in Yukon River Chinook salmon production relative to other spawning stocks of the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.
- Contemporary economic strategies and practices in the context of diminished salmon runs. Topics may include an evaluation of barter, sharing, and exchange of salmon for cash, as well as other economic strategies and practices that augment and support subsistence activities. Of particular interest are distribution networks, decision making, and the social and cultural aspects of salmon harvest and use.
- Description of the use of gillnets to harvest salmon species by residents of the Yukon River drainage.
- Location and timing of Bering cisco spawning populations in the Yukon River drainage.
- Complete genetic baseline sampling and population marker development for sheefish spawning populations in the Yukon River drainage.
- Harvest, use, and associated contextual information for whitefish by species in lower Yukon River drainage communities.

### **Kuskokwim Region Priority Information Needs**

Since 2001, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils, with guidance provided by the Kuskokwim Fisheries Resource Coalition, have identified a broad category of issues and information needs in the Kuskokwim Region. These include collection and analysis of traditional ecological knowledge; harvest assessment and monitoring; salmon run and escapement monitoring; non-salmon fish population monitoring; and marine/coastal salmon ecology. Additionally, a research plan for salmon and a research plan for whitefish have been used to prioritize monitoring projects for salmon and whitefish. These were reviewed to ensure that remaining priority information needs were considered.

For the Kuskokwim Region, the 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on the following priority information needs:

- Reliable estimates of Chinook, chum and coho salmon escapement (e.g. weir projects).
- Harvest, use, and associated contextual information for whitefish by species in upper Kuskokwim River drainage communities. Communities of interest include McGrath, Telida, Nikolai, Takotna, and Lime Village.

- Traditional ecological knowledge of whitefish by species in central Kuskokwim River drainage communities. Communities of interest include Upper Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River, and Crooked Creek. The findings from this research will supplement harvest and use information from previous research.
- Harvest, use, and associated contextual information for whitefish by species in lower Kuskokwim River drainage communities. Specific groups of communities of interest are Kwethluk, Akiachak, Napaskiak, and Tuluksak, or Chefornak, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, and Kwigillingok.
- Broad whitefish population assessment, including distribution and age structure.
- Location and timing of Bering cisco spawning populations in the Kuskokwim River drainage.
- Complete genetic baseline sampling and population marker development for sheefish spawning populations in the Kuskokwim River drainage.
- Status of sheefish spawning population in Highpower Creek, an upper tributary of the Kuskokwim River (this could be part of the genetic baseline study listed directly above).

### **Southwest Region Priority Information Needs**

Separate strategic plans were developed for the Bristol Bay-Chignik and Kodiak-Aleutians areas, corresponding to the geographic areas covered by the Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Councils. These strategic plans were reviewed to ensure that remaining priority information needs were considered.

For the Southwest Region, the 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on the following priority information needs:

- Trends in whitefish harvest and use from Lake Clark communities.
- Environmental, demographic, regulatory, cultural, and socioeconomic factors affecting harvest levels of salmon for subsistence use in the Kodiak Area. Researchers should consider evaluating factors influencing use patterns and describing the socioeconomic impacts of other fisheries.
- Harvest of salmon for subsistence use by residents of the Aleutian Islands Area, including current and traditional harvest methods and means by species, and current and traditional uses and distribution practices.

### **Southcentral Region Priority Information Needs**

A strategic plan was developed for Prince William Sound-Copper River and an abbreviated strategic planning process was employed for Cook Inlet. These sources were reviewed to ensure that remaining priority information needs were considered.

For the Southcentral Region, the 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on the following priority information need:

- Historical and current subsistence use areas for harvest of salmon and non-salmon fish species by residents of Ninilchik, Hope, and Cooper Landing. Research should including intensity of use and use on Federal public lands and waters.

### **Southeast Region Priority Information Needs**

A strategic plan was developed for Southeast Region in 2006 and was reviewed to ensure that priority information needs are identified. The 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on priority information needs for sockeye salmon and steelhead trout. It should be noted that current Department of Agriculture funding levels for the monitoring program in Southeast Alaska are fully committed to continuation of projects initiated in 2010. However, this request for proposals includes solicitation for the Southeast Region so as to maintain options for 2012 should additional funding become available.

For the Southeast Region, the 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on the following priority information needs:

- Reliable estimates of sockeye salmon escapement. Stocks of interest include: Gut Bay, Red, Kah Sheets, Salmon Bay, Sarkar, Lake Leo, and Hoktaheen.
- In-season subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon. Stocks of interest include: Hatchery Creek, Gut Bay, Red, Kah Sheets, Salmon Bay, Sarkar, Kanalku, and Hoktaheen.
- Contribute to the genetic stock identification baseline of Chatham Strait sockeye salmon.
- Reliable estimates of steelhead escapement, especially for systems on Prince of Wales Island.

### **Multi-Regional Priority Information Needs**

The Multi-regional category is for projects that may be applicable in more than one region. For the Multi-Regional category, the 2012 Request for Proposals is focused on the following priority information needs:

- Changes in subsistence fishery resources and uses, in the context of climate change where relevant, including but not limited to fishing seasons, species targeted, fishing locations, harvest methods and means, and methods of preservation. Include management implications.
- An indexing method for estimating species-specific whitefish harvests on an annual basis for the Kuskokwim and Yukon drainages. Researchers should explore and evaluate an approach where sub-regional clusters of community harvests can be evaluated for regular surveying with results being extrapolated to the rest of the cluster, contributing to drainage-wide harvest estimates.
- Evaluation of conversion factors used to estimate edible pounds from individual fish, and from unorthodox units such as tubs, sacks, or buckets.

## Winter 2011 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

*February 15–March 24, 2011 current as of 08/02/10*

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb. 13</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i> <i>Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i> <b>NWA—Kotzebue</b>	<i>Feb. 19</i>
<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>Feb. 21</i> <b>HOLIDAY</b>	<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Feb. 23</i> <b>YKD—Bethel</b>	<i>Feb. 24</i>	<i>Feb. 25</i>	<i>Feb. 26</i>
<i>Feb. 27</i>	<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Mar. 1</i> <b>EI—Tanana</b> <b>WI—Galena</b>	<i>Mar. 2</i>	<i>Mar. 3</i>	<i>Mar. 4</i>	<i>Mar. 5</i>
<i>Mar. 6</i>	<i>Mar. 7</i> <b>NS—Barrow</b>	<i>Mar. 8</i>	<i>Mar. 9</i> <b>BB—Naknek</b>	<i>Mar. 10</i>	<i>Mar. 11</i>	<i>Mar. 12</i>
<i>Mar. 13</i>	<i>Mar. 14</i>	<i>Mar. 15</i>	<i>Mar. 16</i> <b>SC—Anchorage</b>	<i>Mar. 17</i>	<i>Mar. 18</i>	<i>Mar. 19</i>
<i>Mar. 20</i>	<i>Mar. 21</i>	<i>Mar. 22</i> <b>SP—Nome</b> <b>SE—Sitka</b> <b>K/A—Kodiak</b>	<i>Mar. 23</i>	<i>Mar. 24</i> <i>Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 25</i>	<i>Mar. 26</i>

## Fall 2011 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Window

*August 30–October 15, 2011 current as of 08/04/10*

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Aug. 21</i>	<i>Aug. 22</i> <b>WINDOW OPENS</b>	<i>Aug. 23</i>	<i>Aug. 24</i>	<i>Aug. 25</i>	<i>Aug. 26</i>	<i>Aug. 27</i>
<i>Aug. 28</i>	<i>Aug. 29</i>	<i>Aug. 30</i>	<i>Aug. 31</i>	<i>Sept. 1</i>	<i>Sept. 2</i>	<i>Sept. 3</i>
<i>Sept. 4</i>	<i>Sept. 5</i> <b>HOLIDAY</b>	<i>Sept. 6</i>	<i>Sept. 7</i>	<i>Sept. 8</i>	<i>Sept. 9</i>	<i>Sept. 10</i>
<i>Sept. 11</i>	<i>Sept. 12</i>	<i>Sept. 13</i>	<i>Sept. 14</i>	<i>Sept. 15</i>	<i>Sept. 16</i>	<i>Sept. 17</i>
<i>Sept. 18</i>	<i>Sept. 19</i>	<i>Sept. 20</i>	<i>Sept. 21</i>	<i>Sept. 22</i>	<i>Sept. 23</i>	<i>Sept. 24</i>
<i>Sept. 25</i>	<i>Sept. 26</i>	<i>Sept. 27</i>	<i>Sept. 28</i>	<i>Sept. 29</i>	<i>Sept. 30</i> <i>END OF FY2010</i>	<i>Oct. 1</i>
<i>Oct. 2</i>	<i>Oct. 3</i>	<i>Oct. 4</i>	<i>Oct. 5</i>	<i>Oct. 6</i>	<i>Oct. 7</i>	<i>Oct. 8</i>
<i>Oct. 9</i>	<i>Oct. 10</i> <b>HOLIDAY</b>	<i>Oct. 11</i>	<i>Oct. 12</i>	<i>Oct. 13</i>	<i>Oct. 14</i> <b>WINDOW CLOSES</b>	<i>Oct. 15</i>



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

## Federal Subsistence Board

1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



U.S. FOREST SERVICE

JUL 22 2010

FWS/OSM 10069/AW

Mr. Harry Brower Sr., Chair  
North Slope Subsistence  
Regional Advisory Council  
Post Office Box 69  
Barrow, Alaska 99723

Dear Mr. Brower:

This letter responds to the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's 2009 Annual Report. The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) appreciates your effort in developing the Annual Report and values the opportunity to review the issues brought forward concerning your region. Annual Reports allow the Board to become more aware of the issues that fall outside the regulatory proposal process and affect subsistence users in your region.

The responsibility to respond to these reports has been delegated to the Board by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. The Board has reviewed your Council's Annual Report and offers the following responses.

### **Issue 1: Units 24 and 26 Moose**

*The Council is continually concerned with the moose population status in Units 24 and 26. Moose are an important subsistence resource for Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass residents. The Council requests a report on the status of the moose population which also includes the impacts of predation, and habitat.*

### **Response**

#### Unit 24

In 2003, the estimate was 8,342 moose, which was based on relatively small survey areas. In 2006, the total Unit 24 moose population was estimated at 8,467 moose. The most recent survey in 2007, of the subunits adjacent to the North Slope Region (Units 24A and 24B), estimated the moose population at 3,270.

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Unit 26

Moose populations on the North Slope are generally sporadic or at low densities. However, moose have become well established in Unit 26A, in riparian habitat along river corridors. The largest winter concentrations of moose are found in the inland portions of the Colville River drainage (the mouth of the Killik River to the mouth of the Anaktuvuk River; the Chandler River below Sivugak Bluff; and the Anaktuvuk River below Table Top Mountain). In Unit 26A, moose increased steadily from 1,219 in 1970 to 1,535 in 1991, but declined to 326 in 1999, then increased to 1,048 by 2005. Past declines were due to limited habitat, disease, mineral deficiency, predation, weather, and depletion of browse by snowshoe hares. Calving surveys were flown in 2006 and found 10 of 25 cows giving birth had twins (40%). The 2006 fall composition surveys observed 316 moose with 59 bulls:100 cows and 40 calves:100 cows. The fall composition count in 2007 observed 315 moose with 60 bulls:100 cows and 38 calves:100 cows. There were two sets of twins. In 2008, there were 293 moose observed with 63 bulls:100 cows and 37 calves:100 cows.

In Unit 26B West, moose are generally found along major drainages on the coastal plain. Moose numbers in the mid to late 1980s were relatively stable at approximately 150 moose. In 1999, 50 moose were observed and the population increased to about 70 moose in 2001 and 2002. From 1999-2008, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducted spring moose surveys in Unit 26B West along riparian willow habitat on the Sagavanirktok River from Happy Valley to Sagwon Bluffs and on the Toolik and Kuparuk rivers to the White Hills. Spring aerial surveys conducted in 2006-2007 observed 136 adult moose and 39 short yearlings (11-month old calves) in Unit 26B West, excluding the Itkillik River drainage. For 2007-2008, 121 adult moose and 19 short yearlings were observed.

In Unit 26B East (east of the east bank of the Sagavanirktok River, including the Canning River), 629 moose were observed in 1988 and 600 were observed in 1989. Beginning in 1990, the number of moose observed declined to 381 and by 1996 only 141 were observed. In 2005, the number of moose observed increased to 335. Spring aerial surveys in 2006-2007 observed 267 adults and 41 short yearlings and for 2007-2008, 262 adults and 47 short yearlings were observed.

In Unit 26C (along the Kongakut and Firth Rivers and Mancha Creek), 169 moose were observed in 1989, 406 in 1991, and 227 in 2002. No surveys have been conducted by ADF&G in eastern Unit 26C in the upper Kongakut and Firth rivers and Mancha Creek area since 2002. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge staff conducts aerial moose surveys of the entire Arctic Refuge coastal plain and all major river drainages from the Canadian border up to, but not including, the Canning River. In 2007, Refuge staff observed 59 moose, 49 (83%) of these were in the Aichilik, Egaksrak and Kongakut river drainages. During similar surveys in 2003 and 2005 there were 52 and 47 moose observed, respectively. These data suggest that the population of moose on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge remains low, and has not recovered enough to allow increased harvest. Refuge staff plans to initiate a study of moose movements, survival, and reproduction in Unit 26C and the eastern portion of Unit 26B beginning in 2010. Up to 25 moose will be fitted with GPS-satellite collars to track their movements. This study will indicate whether moose in this region

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migrate to other areas and will help managers understand why the moose population in this area has not yet shown the recovery that has occurred in other areas of the North Slope (Units 26A and 26B West). Because of the low population size, subsistence and sport hunting of moose in Unit 26C was closed in 1996. A limited subsistence harvest has been allowed since the 2004/2005 season, but sport hunting remains closed.

## **Issue 2: Unit 26 Muskox**

*Muskoxen are no longer hunted in Unit 26, due to severe population decline. The Council is concerned about this decline and requests an update on the Unit 26 muskox population to include possible causes of the decline. The Council is aware that the muskox population in Unit 26C, in the Kaktovik area, the population level is nonexistent. Nuiqsut requested that their fall muskox hunt be revisited.*

### **Response**

In Unit 26B, ADF&G monitored 20 radio-collared muskoxen cows during 2007, 27 during 2008, and 20 during 2009—this provided information on an estimated 200 during all three years. Minimum estimated birth rates ranged from 51% in 2007 and 84% in 2008 with survival of calves from birth until October increasing from 52% in 2007 to 77% in 2009. Predation by grizzly bears was the most common proximate cause of death. However, muskoxen that were killed by bears commonly showed signs of disease or other conditions that might increase susceptibility to predators. Specific infectious diseases identified were *Chlamydia*, *Pasteurella trehalosi* (pneumonia), *Brucella suis*, leptospirosis, and contagious ecthyma. These results suggest that immune function of many muskoxen in northeastern Alaska is compromised and the population decline may be due to interactions among nutrition, disease, and predation. Additional work is needed to clarify the relative contributions of these factors and potential effects of changes in vegetation and weather patterns due to the warming climate.

In 2008, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Unit 26C and the southern portion of Unit 26B) conducted a pre-calving muskoxen census across the Refuge from Canning River to the west, the U.S.-Canada border to the east, the Beaufort Sea coast to the north, and the foothills of the Brooks Range to the south. Refuge staff estimates there are approximately 250 animals in northeastern Alaska with an additional 100 animals assumed to be in northwestern Yukon Territory, Canada. In recent years, numbers of muskoxen directly within the Refuge (Unit 26C) have declined sharply, with only five muskoxen seen in April 2007 and only one muskox observed in 2006. However, in the summer of 2007, groups of muskoxen moved into the Refuge from adjacent areas; 44 muskoxen were counted in Unit 26C during the 2008 census which allowed a drawing for one bull muskoxen for the 2008-2009 hunting season in Unit 26C. Possible factors that have led to the muskox decline on the North Slope include: emigration to Canada and other subunits of Unit 26; weather effects on female body condition, calf survival, and yearling recruitment; adults calving in alternate years; brown bear predation; muskoxen going out onto the coastal ice and not returning; and disease. In recent years, there have been several reports, with visual confirmation, that muskoxen have moved into areas south of the continental divide within the Refuge and have

Mr. Harry Brower Sr.

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been seen crossing the Porcupine River. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge manager requests the public to report any sightings of muskoxen in these areas.

The Board encourages the Council to submit proposals to address the muskoxen fall harvest season in Unit 26 during the next wildlife cycle in 2012.

### **Issue 3: Unit 26 Brown Bear**

*The Council has heard reports from subsistence users in the region that brown bears have been damaging cabins more frequently than in the past. The Council is concerned about this and requests an update on the Unit 26 Brown Bear population that more hunts be regulated for the Brown Bear in Unit 26.*

#### **Response**

Since 2006, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ADF&G and other researchers have monitored grizzly bears on the coastal plain and in the northern foothills of the Refuge since 2006. The estimated density of grizzly bears in Unit 26B and the Canning River drainage of Unit 26C for the past three years is 18.3 bears/1000 km<sup>2</sup>.

A joint effort of ADF&G, ConocoPhillips, the North Slope Borough, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the North Slope Environmental Alliance to address human-grizzly bear conflicts has resulted in purchase of bear-proof dumpsters and electric fences around the regional landfill to limit negative interactions due to food-conditioned bears. In addition, ADF&G has had recent success of hazing of grizzly bears by Karelian bear dogs to chase bears away from human facilities and establishments.

The harvest seasons for brown bear in Unit 26A and Unit 26C are ten months long with a harvest limit of one brown bear. In Unit 26B, the harvest season is eight months long for one brown bear. The length of the season is typical for other areas in Alaska. If the Council desires to do so, it may submit proposals to liberalize the season or increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 26 to the Office of Subsistence Management during the next wildlife cycle in 2012.

### **Issue 4: Fish Studies**

*The Council requests that more fish studies be done in various areas of the North Slope. The Council is concerned for the subsistence users due to Industrial developments and how it affects their native grown fish.*

#### **Response**

The Office of Subsistence Management provides funding support for fisheries projects through the Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program (Monitoring Program). The Monitoring Program supports studies that provide information to aid in the management of subsistence fisheries resources. To date, 32 projects have been funded for the entire northern region (which consists of the areas covered by the three northern Regional Advisory Councils). At present, there are no

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ongoing projects in the North Slope Region. In the 2010 priority needs document, the Council identified char, whitefish, and Arctic grayling fisheries as the most important for its region. The Federal public waters in the North Slope Region are the waters within the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, the Gates of the Arctic National Park, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Unfortunately, no proposals for research in the North Slope Region were received in response to the 2010 call for proposals.

At its Fall 2010 meeting the Council will be asked to review and comment on the priority information needs for the Northern Region in preparation for the 2012 request for proposals for the Monitoring Program. The Council should review the priority information needs carefully to be sure they accurately reflect its issues and concerns, as this document will provide the basis for the request for proposals. The Council will also have an opportunity to weigh in on the project proposals at its Fall 2011 meeting.

### **Issue 5: Sheep**

*The Council is concerned about impacts from non subsistence users to the sheep population in the Unit 26, especially in the areas around Unit 24 - Arctic Village, Atqasuk, Wainwright, Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass, where sheep are an important subsistence resource. The Council requests an update on the sheep population in Unit 24.*

### **Response**

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge staff conduct Dall sheep surveys in several areas specifically along the Hulahula River (Unit 26C), Atigun Pass (Unit 26B), and the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area (Unit 25A).

Hulahula River (Unit 26C): In 2008, 512 sheep were observed in the Hulahula River drainage with 45 lambs:100 ewes. There were 33 yearlings:100 ewes observed in 2008 which is slightly greater than the 2003-2007 average of 27 yearlings:100 ewes and suggests a high overwinter survival of lambs.

Atigun Pass (Unit 26B): Refuge staff observed 226 Dall sheep in 2008 along the Atigun River north of Atigun Pass, including 40 rams and 93 adult ewes. There were 49 lambs:100 ewes which is slightly greater than the 20-year average for this area (44 lambs:100 ewes) and slightly greater than the 2007 estimate of 43 lambs:100 ewes. There were an estimated 17 yearlings:100 ewes which suggests that approximately 40% of the lambs seen in June 2007 survived to June 2008.

Arctic Village Sheep Management Area (Unit 25A): In 2008, 130 sheep were observed with an estimated 58 lambs:100 ewes and 19 yearlings:100 ewes.

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Bureau of Land Management staff conducted sheep surveys along five areas of the Dalton Highway in Unit 24A during various seasons from 2000 to 2006. The five areas are designated as areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) by the BLM are Poss Mountain ACEC, Nugget Creek ACEC, Snowden Mountain ACEC, West Fork Atigun ACEC, and Galbraith Lake ACEC. The productivity of sheep for all years and all ACECs was 30 lambs:100 ewes. Bureau of Land Management staff also observed hundreds of sheep just outside the ACECs' boundaries and therefore not part of the survey results. Sheep populations appeared to have fluctuated markedly across years and ACEC's. Further study is needed to determine the contribution of seasonal and annual movements, fecundity, and lamb mortality within these ACEC's.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game conducts aerial surveys in the upper Chandalar River drainage (eastern Unit 24A and Unit 25A) and upper Atigun River (Unit 26B) drainage. From 2002 to 2007, the sheep population in both survey areas has remained relatively stable. Within the upper Chandalar River drainage there were 1589 sheep observed in 2002 and 1310 sheep in 2007. For the Atigun River drainage, there were 208 sheep observed in 2001 and 290 observed in 2006.

The National Park Service tested distance sampling methods as a means to estimate Dalls sheep abundance across Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in 2009. Survey results estimate that there were 8,564 sheep (95% Confidence Interval: 6,586 to 11,130 sheep) in Gates of the Arctic in 2009; the survey area totals 10,785 mi<sup>2</sup> (27,934 km<sup>2</sup>) across all potential sheep habitat in the park and preserve. The National Park Service also conducted an aerial minimum count survey in the Itkillik Preserve/Itkillik drainage of northeastern Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, east of Anaktuvuk Pass in July 2008. Sport hunting is permitted in the preserve portion of the study area. A total of 1,231 sheep (960 adults, 269 lambs and 2 unclassified sheep) were observed in the 734 mi<sup>2</sup> that were surveyed that year, including 40 lambs per 100 ewe-like sheep (ewes, yearlings and rams with less than 1/2 curl horns) and 43 rams per 100 ewe-like sheep. Rams with horns full-curl or larger made up 18% of all classified rams and 4.2% of the total sheep counted. Observed sex and age class ratios from the 2005 and 2008 surveys in the Itkillik indicate a healthy and stable population for the area.

Since 1996, the number of hunters and harvest has remained relatively stable in Unit 24A and Unit 26C. In Unit 26B, however, the number of hunters increased from an average of 121 hunters for years 1996-2003 to an average of 149 hunters in years 2004-2006, but harvest remained stable. In 2008, 58 sheep were harvested in Unit 26B and 67 in Unit 26C. At this point it does not appear that sheep harvests by nonsubsistence users are adversely affecting sheep populations; however, if future sheep populations in Unit 26 cannot sustain nonsubsistence harvests, the Board could consider a proposal to close Federal public lands to nonsubsistence users.

### **Issue 6: Migratory Bird Program**

*The Council requests that the staff of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC) Program take time to provide them with an update of the regulations and changes for the coming regulatory year either at their fall or winter meetings each year. Bird hunting is very important part of their cultural and traditional lifestyle and they depend on the birds for food consumption. The Council requests that they be fully informed in person by the staff of AMBCC.*

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### **Response**

The Board contacted the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC) for its response to this request. The AMBCC reports that it appreciates the Council's interest regarding information and updates on migratory bird regulations. To facilitate information sharing, staff of the AMBCC will provide information and updates on migratory bird regulations to the AMBCC member in Barrow, who can then provide it to the Council. In the event the representative is unable to present information on their regulations, staff of the AMBCC will provide a written report to the Council.

### **Issue 7: Arctic Region Councils**

*The Council requests that the Arctic Region (Units 22, 23 and 26) councils to include the North Slope Subsistence Regional Council, the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Council and the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Council be allowed to have a joint meeting to discuss the impact of global warming in their respective regions. This joint meeting will enhance their understanding and communication of what is actually happening in each region of the far north with shared resources of caribou, fish and birds.*

### **Response**

The Board supports the idea of a joint meeting of the three northern Regional Advisory Councils, and the Office of Subsistence Management is prepared to assist the three councils to ensure that such a meeting occurs. This should be discussed by each of the three Regional Advisory Councils at their Fall 2010 meetings, and if all three councils are in support, the Office of Subsistence Management staff will coordinate a time and a place for the meeting to occur. Given budgetary and staffing constraints, the meeting would be part of the regular regulatory cycle rather than an additional meeting, and should occur within the established meeting window. Budgetary constraints may also affect meeting location.

In closing, I thank the members of the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for their continued involvement and diligence in matters regarding the Federal Subsistence Management Program. I speak for the entire Board in expressing our appreciation for your efforts and our confidence that the subsistence users of the North Slope Region are well represented through your work.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Michael R. Fleagle*

Michael R. Fleagle  
Chair, Federal Subsistence Board

cc: NSSRAC Members  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Peter J. Probasco, Office of Subsistence Management



**Federal Subsistence Board**  
1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199



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FWS/OSM 10054/AW

JUL 1 2010

Mr. Harry K. Brower Jr., Chair  
North Slope Subsistence Regional  
Advisory Council  
Post Office Box 69  
Barrow, Alaska 99723

Dear Mr. Brower:

Enclosed with this letter is a report of the Federal Subsistence Board's actions at its May 18-20, 2010, meeting regarding proposed changes to subsistence wildlife regulations. The Board used a consensus agenda on those proposals where the Regional Advisory Council(s), the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were in agreement. The Board adopted the consensus agenda at the conclusion of the meeting. Details of these actions and the Board's deliberations are contained in the meeting transcripts. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling our toll free number, 1-800-478-1456, and are available online at the Office of Subsistence Management website, <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/index.htm>.

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

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact Barbara Atoruk, 1-907-786-3885.

Sincerely,

  
/s/ Michael R. Fleagle

Michael R. Fleagle, Chair

Enclosure

cc: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members  
Peter J. Probasco, OSM

**FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD ACTION REPORT  
MAY 18-20, 2010**

Note to Reader: 1) Changes to regulatory language are shown by ~~lettering~~ for deleted language and bolded **lettering** for new language. 2) The consensus agenda is comprised of proposals for which the Office of Subsistence Management, Regional Advisory Council(s), the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game agree on a recommended action. The Federal Subsistence Board does not address consensus agenda proposals individually unless requested to do so at the meeting.

**STATEWIDE PROPOSALS**

**Proposal WP10-01**

DESCRIPTION: Proposal WP10-01, submitted by the USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), requests the addition of a definition for “drawing permit” to the Federal subsistence management regulations.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Southeast Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. This proposal is housekeeping and provides clarity for a term in common use.

Southcentral Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. This proposal would not negatively affect subsistence users.

Kodiak/Aleutians SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion.

Bristol Bay SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. This is a housekeeping proposal to clarify random drawing.

Western Interior Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion.

Seward Peninsula SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. The Council agrees with clarifying definitions for “drawing permits.”

Northwest Arctic SRAC: Support. The Council supported the proposal because subsistence is a way of life and there are concerns about having to use a drawing permit.

Eastern Interior Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. This proposal is housekeeping and would simplify and clarify regulations.

North Slope SRAC: Support. Subsistence is a way of life and there are concerns about having to use a drawing permit.

BOARD ACTION/JUSTIFICATION: **Adopted with modification**, as recommended by eight councils to read, “*Statewide-General Regulations §\_\_.25(a) Definitions. **Drawing permit—a permit issued to a limited number of Federally qualified subsistence users selected by means of a random drawing.***” The definition clarifies a term that is used in the Federal subsistence hunting regulations and does not affect fish and wildlife populations, subsistence uses or other

uses. The modified wording simplifies the definition and makes it clear that drawing permits are based on a random drawing for all similarly situated Federally qualified subsistence users.

### Proposal WP10-02

NOTE: The status of Proposal WP10-02 (deferred proposal WP08-05) was presented to all Regional Advisory Councils during the winter 2010 cycle of meetings. This proposal was further deferred until the assigned State-Federal workgroup completes its work and presents its findings to the Board in January 2011. The Southeast Alaska SCRAC was the only council that took action on the proposal.

#### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Southeast Alaska SRAC: Support use of brown bear parts for handicrafts. There is no evidence to indicate the need for a bear handicrafts workgroup or a need to limit or restrict the use of brown bear parts. There is no need to defer action.

BOARD ACTION/JUSTIFICATION: The Board did not address this proposal, preferring instead to wait until the workgroup has completed its work.

### Proposal WP10-03

DESCRIPTION: Proposal WP10-03, submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management, requests the addition of a general provision in Federal subsistence management regulations to allow the harvest of fish and wildlife by participants in a cultural or educational program.

#### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Southeast Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. The Council favors removing confusing language regarding the ceremonial use of fish and wildlife. However, it is unclear to the Council how OSM would define an educational camp. The Council favors simplifying regulations that do not include hard timelines and that provide flexibility in the number of animals that can be taken.

Southcentral Alaska SRAC: Support with modification to read “§\_\_\_\_.27(e) §\_\_\_\_.25(g) Cultural/educational program permits. ~~(2)(1) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management may issue a permit to harvest fish for a qualifying cultural/educational program to an organization that has been granted a Federal subsistence permit for a similar event with the previous 5 years. A qualifying program must have instructors, enrolled students, minimum attendance requirements, and standards for successful completion of the course. Applications must be submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board through the Office of Subsistence Management and should be submitted 60 days prior to the earliest desired date of harvest. Permits will be issued for no more than 25 fish per culture/education camp. Appeal of a rejected request can be made to the Federal Subsistence Board. Application for an initial permit for a qualifying cultural/educational program, for a permit when the circumstances have change significantly, when no permit has been issued within the previous 5 years, or when there is a request for harvest in excess of that provided in this paragraph (e)(2), will be considered by~~”

*the Federal Subsistence Board. Harvest must be reported and any animals harvested will be counted against any established Federal harvest quota for the area in which it is harvested. (2) A permit to harvest fish, wildlife, or shellfish for a qualifying culture/educational program which has been granted a Federal subsistence permit for a similar event with the previous 5 years may be issued by the Federal in-season manager (for fisheries) or the Federal local land manager (for wildlife). Requests for follow-up permits must be submitted to the in-season or local land manager and should be submitted 60 days prior to the earliest desired date of harvest.*” These amendments provide more clarity, especially with respect to harvest limits.

The proposal will not affect existing culture camps and is consistent with existing regulations.

Kodiak/Aleutians SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. The modified proposal will simplify the process.

Bristol Bay SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. The proposal would simplify the current regulations to reduce confusion among the public and Federal managers.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. This is a housekeeping proposal; adding general provisions in the regulations would clarify subsistence management regulations.

Western Interior Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion.

Seward Peninsula SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion.

Northwest Arctic SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. It is very important to provide opportunity for cultural/educational programs permits.

Eastern Interior Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. This proposal supports subsistence uses of wildlife and retains the ability to obtain permits with less than a 60-day notice. The Council suggested further simplification by asking the Federal Subsistence Management Program to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to develop a joint Federal-State permit.

North Slope SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. It is very important to provide opportunity for cultural/educational programs permits.

**BOARD ACTION/JUSTIFICATION: Adopted with modification**, as recommended by nine councils, to read, § \_\_\_\_ .25(g) *Cultural/educational program permits (1) A qualifying program must have instructors, enrolled students, minimum attendance requirements, and standards for successful completion of the course. Applications must be submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board through the Office of Subsistence Management and should be submitted 60 days prior to the earliest desired date of harvest. Harvests must be reported and any animals harvested will count against any established Federal harvest quota for the area in which it is harvested. (2) Requests for follow-up permits must be submitted to the in-season or local manager and should be submitted 60 days prior to the earliest desired date of harvest.*

The harvest of fish and wildlife by participants in cultural and educational programs is generally allowed in the Federal Subsistence Management Program regulations. Proposal WP10-03 will further clarify for fish and wildlife manager, Office of Subsistence Management staff, members of the Interagency Staff Committee, and members of the Federal Subsistence Board the cultural and educational permit regulations.

## Proposal WP10-04

DESCRIPTION: Proposal WP10-04, submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management, would remove Units 6, 12, 20A, 20B, 20C east of the Teklanika River, 20D, and 20E from the areas for which the Assistant Regional Director for Subsistence Management has the delegated authority to open close or adjust Federal subsistence lynx seasons and to set harvest and possession limits.

### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Southeast Alaska SRAC: No action taken.

Southcentral Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. The proposed action would not impact subsistence users and there are no conservation concerns for the lynx population.

Kodiak/Aleutians SRAC: No action taken. The Council did not want to take action on a proposal that would affect another region.

Bristol Bay SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. The Council supports Federal and State alignment of regulations that enhance the management of resources, reduce confusion for the public, and allow subsistence uses to continue.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion. This is a housekeeping proposal and has no impact on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region.

Western Interior Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion.

Seward Peninsula SRAC: No action taken. The proposed action would not affect the Seward Peninsula Region.

Northwest Arctic SRAC: Oppose.

Eastern Interior Alaska SRAC: Support. This proposal could be considered housekeeping in that the ability to adjust seasons is still possible and this change would simplify regulations.

North Slope SRAC: Support with modification to delete the regulatory language found in § \_\_.26(f)(3) and delegate the authority to open, close, or adjust Federal lynx seasons and to set harvest and possession limits for lynx via a delegation of authority letter only.

BOARD ACTION/JUSTIFICATION: **Adopted with modification** to delete the regulatory language found in § \_\_.26 (f)(3), and delegate the authority to open, close, or adjust Federal lynx seasons and to set harvest and possession limits for lynx via a delegation of authority letter only, consistent with five of the Councils' recommendations.

## Proposal WP10-05

DESCRIPTION: Proposal WP10-05, submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management, seeks to update, clarify, and simplify the regulations regarding accumulation of harvest limits for both fish and wildlife.

### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Southeast Alaska SRAC: Support. This proposal is housekeeping and necessary to accommodate previous changes to Federal regulations.

Southcentral Alaska SRAC: Support. This is a housekeeping proposal that would not affect fish and wildlife populations and subsistence users.

Kodiak/Aleutians SRAC: Support.

Bristol Bay SRAC: Support. The proposal will not impact subsistence users and will not affect fish and wildlife populations.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta SRAC: Support. This is a housekeeping proposal that would benefit subsistence users.

Western Interior Alaska SRAC: Support.

Seward Peninsula SRAC: Support. The Council agrees with simplifying and clarifying wording for accumulations of harvest limits. This proposal does not affect the Seward Peninsula Region.

Northwest Arctic SRAC: Oppose. The Council expressed concerns about the State management program in relation to the Federal program.

Eastern Interior Alaska SRAC: Support. This proposal is housekeeping and would clarify current regulations.

North Slope SRAC: Support. This proposal does not change Federal subsistence regulations for the North Slope Region concerning accumulation of harvest limits or the timeframe for harvest limits.

BOARD ACTION/JUSTIFICATION: **Adopted**, as recommended by nine of the Councils. This action will simplify the regulations.

## NORTH SLOPE REGION

### Proposals WP10-106/107

DESCRIPTION: Proposals WP10-106/107, submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, seeks to shorten the Unit 26 wolf hunting season and lower the harvest limit.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION: Oppose. The Council would like to keep Unit 26 wolf hunting regulations as they are (15 wolves harvest limit, August 10—April 30 season).

BOARD ACTION/JUSTIFICATION: **Rejected**. These proposals were on the consensus agenda.

## CROSSOVER PROPOSAL

### Proposal WP10-67

DESCRIPTION: Proposal WP10-67, submitted by the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, requests changes in harvest season and limits for moose in Unit 24B.

#### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Western Interior Alaska SRAC: Support with modification as described in the OSM conclusion with further modification to align with the State's language which would remove the five-inch (half ear-length) requirement and would stipulate a harvest limit of one antlered bull.

North Slope SRAC: No action taken. The Council deferred to the Western Interior Alaska council. The North Slope and Anaktuvuk Pass are not affected to any extent by this proposal. The Council felt that this proposal would be best addressed by the Western Interior Alaska council.

BOARD ACTION/JUSTIFICATION: **Adopted with modification**, as recommended by the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. This action will provide harvest opportunity and align Federal and State regulations. The regulation will read:

***Unit 24B—Moose***

***Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and BLM lands – 1 antlered bull. A federal registration permit is required for the Sep. 26 – Oct. 1 period.***

***A Federal registration permit is required for the Dec. 15 – Apr. 15 season for the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and BLM lands that are within the Koyukuk River drainage upstream of the Henshaw Creek drainage and upstream of and including the Bonanza Creek drainage.***

***Federal public lands in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area, as described in Federal regulations, are closed to taking of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users of Unit 24, Koyukuk, and Galena hunting under these regulations***