

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Materials

SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Egan Center
Anchorage, Alaska
March 9, 2016
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: 1-866-820-9854 then when prompted enter the passcode: 4801802

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your concerns and knowledge. Please fill out a comment form to be recognized by the Council chair. Time limits may be set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep the meeting on schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: These are estimated times and the agenda is subject to change. Contact staff for the current schedule. Evening sessions are at the call of the chair.

AGENDA

*Asterisk identifies action item.

- 1. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (*Secretary*)..... SP-3
- 2. **Invocation**
- 3. **Call to Order** (*Chair*)
- 4. **Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 5. **Review and Adopt Agenda*** (*Chair*) SP-1
- 6. **Election of Officers**
 - Chair (*DFO*)
 - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
 - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. **Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** (*Chair*) SP-4
- 8. **Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 9. **Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
- 10. **Old Business** (*Chair*)
 - a. NPS Proposed Rule on Subsistence Collections*218

b. WP16-45 Changes in Hunt Area for Caribou in Unit 22E UPDATE

11. New Business (Chair)

- a. WSA 16-01 – Close Caribou Hunting in Unit 23 to non-Federally Qualified Users
- b. Call for Federal Fish and Shellfish Regulatory Proposals * (*OSM Fisheries*)225
- c. Identify Priority Information Needs for FRMP* (*OSM Fisheries*)
- d. Approve FY2015 Annual Report* (*Council Coordinator*)..... SP-13

12. Agency Reports

Unless a special report is requested by the Council, all agencies should be prepared to only provide written reports for this meeting.

13. Future Meeting Dates*

- Confirm date and location of Fall 2016 meeting235
- Select date and location for Winter 2017 meeting236

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (Chair)

To teleconference into the meeting, call the toll free number: 1-866-820-9854, then when prompted enter the passcode: 4801802

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to Karen Deatherage, 907-786-3564, Email: karen_deatherage@fws.gov, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 20, 2016.

REGION 7
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Apptd Term Expires	Member Name Community
1	2014 2018	Theodore Katcheak Stebbins
2	1995 2018	Peter G. Buck Secretary White Mountain
3	2010 2016	Louis H. Green, Jr. Chair Nome
4	2010 2016	Tom L. Gray Nome
5	2014 2017	Joseph A. Garnie Teller
6	2014 2017	Amos F. Oxereok Koyuk
7	2008 2017	Fred D. Eningowuk Shishmaref
8	1994 2018	Elmer K. Seetot, Jr. Brevig Mission
9	2012 2018	Charles F. Saccheus Elim
10	2015 2018	Ronald D. Kirk Stebbins

SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Old St. Joe's Hall, Nome

October 14-15, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Roll call, quorum established with seven members present (Theodore Katcheak, Amos Oxereok, Tim Smith, Joseph Garnie, Elmer Seetot, Tom Gray and Charles Saccheus). Fred Eningwok called in on 10/15. Absent: Louis Green (*excused*) and Peter Buck (*excused*).

Welcome and Introductions

Agency present:

Karen Deatherage, OSM, Anchorage
Robbin LaVine, OSM, Anchorage
Orville Lind, OSM, Anchorage
Chris McKee, OSM, Anchorage
Suzanne Worker, OSM, Anchorage
Ken Adkisson, NPS, Nome
Bud Rice, NPS, Anchorage
Jeanette Koelsch, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
Glenn Chen, BIA, Anchorage
Rosalee Grant, BIA, Juneau
Bruce Seppi, BLM, Anchorage
Tom Sparks, BLM, Nome
Tony Gorn, ADF&G, Nome
Carmen Dagget, ADF&G, Kotzebue
Drew Crawford, ADF&G (telephone)
Doug Damberg, USFWS (telephone)

Tribes and Public Present

Brandon Ahmasuk, Kawerak, Inc., Nome
Jacob Martin, Nome Eskimo Community, Nome

Agenda

ADF&G requested to have Tony Gorn report today due to field work. Deatherage requested to move Wildlife Proposals 37, 43 & 45 to tomorrow to allow for Eningowok's participation. Gray moved to approved agenda as revised. Seconded by Seetot. The motion passed unanimously.

Minute approval

Oxereok requested a correction to his first name on page 1. A correction was made to page 10, 4th sentence from bottom to strike out the number 2. Third paragraph under NPS should read "related" not elated on page 13, second line, third word. Katcheak moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Seetot. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Service Awards

Tim Smith & Tom Gray were presented Length of Service Awards by Chris McKee, OSM, for five and ten years respectively.

Council Member Reports

Elmer Seetot. Last year wasn't able to make this due to weather. We were able to get caribou off Davidson Landing area in April. Closest ever. Berry crops are hit and miss because of dry conditions. Kept wolves in check within Imuruk Basin. Salmon has been plentiful – 35k red salmon in Salmon Creek.

Tom Gray

Echoed Elmer's comments on Davidson Landing caribou. Concerned about the regulations and what we can and can't do with caribou. I sit on caribou committee – we'll have a meeting in December. Son got a moose. Season went quick with quotas put out fast. Crabbing was excellent. Concerned about bear population because seeing lots of small bears but no big ones. Think bear population has taken a dive. Fish population is awesome. Beluga hunting has been a struggle. Overall, it's been a good year.

Amos Oxereok

Lots of game out there, we got our share of walrus. Moved to Koyuk from Wales after spring and took my first seal. Went to Unalakleet and got six silvers. Heard they had a near record year for silvers. In Koyuk I had fresh caribou, moose and beluga. Just returned from Diomedea where there were really poor ice conditions for hunting. Got salmonberries from my sisters in Wales. This is my second year here, I'm honored to be on this Council.

Theodore Katcheak

Very good summer except for walrus hunting. Plenty of kings, silvers, chums and belugas. Lots of migratory birds, moose and salmonberries.

Charles Saccheus

There are lots of beluga, and they have different DNA and travel great distances. Smart animals, I tag them at Point Lay and Bristol Bay. Radios on ring seals show they go to Greenland. No one got a moose but I got a reindeer – thought it was a caribou. I don't believe ring seals are declining, I always see 10-40 seals in front of Elim. Crabbing was good during the winter, salmon run was pretty good, skyrocketing silvers. Didn't have as many salmonberries, but other berries abundant.

Joseph Garnie

Thanked council for opportunity to help community. Born and raised in Teller. Better salmon season this year but not compared to years past. King salmon are extinct in Teller. Concerned about bycatch issues. Community felt robbed of moose hunting with short season. Reindeer herd is pretty non-existent due to management or whatever. I'm here and hope to make a difference.

Tim Smith.

Has followed Pilgram River red salmon run and Glacier Lake run for many years. Better but not

like it used to be. Lake fertilization works though there may not be agreement on that. We've had first decent run since 2007. Very concerned about moose, muskox and reindeer populations. Beluga and herring seem really abundant. Collared a bunch of reindeer – when they left their range either people or predators are getting them.

Agency Reports

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Tony Gorn, Unit 22 biologist in Nome provided area updates. Table 1 goes over moose hunt reports. Last spring low snow prevented moose survey. Table II shows brown bear harvest with no dramatic changes.

We are in a Tier II musk ox situation. Gorn is proud of joint management by the state and Federal government. The muskox survey is huge – it takes about 6 weeks to finish it and largest in state. He conducted a 6 week survey in five days due to epic weather. A concise survey shows stable populations but a big shift in distribution. More muskox are moving to Unit 22A with fewer in 22E. 22E shows a low recruitment of 9%. There are no Tier II permits for that area. There is no muskox season in 22A but could be in the future.

A preliminary estimate for Seward Peninsula brown bears was just produced. A detailed report will be distributed in next couple months. Gorn is very concerned biologically about Proposal WP17-47. He has seen modest increases in moose population since eliminating antlerless moose season. There is still a low moose density despite more moose in 2014 with 40/100 bull-cow ratio. Antlerless hunts are powerful tools to lower moose density. There is zero information that says to have an antlerless hunt in 22E. Moose move back and forth between 22D and 22E. Its plausible that population hasn't really increased in 22E. Garnie expressed concern over a moose operation in American River, especially because Teller only got two moose. Gorn suggested looking at a situation similar to Golovin/White Mountain where some of the quota was preserved for a winter hunt and run it through the Norton Sound Advisory Committee for consideration by the Board of Game. Gray discussed a possible Tier II permit for moose around Nome. Gorn explained that the ANS is satisfied for Unit 22 so they are not at Tier II right now. Seetot stated that fire and predators make moose move. Moose are a new addition to the area and we should not micromanage them but let nature do its course.

Deatherage announced that the OSM art contest materials and Council member nomination forms were on the back table, and encouraged participation.

Old Business

Rural Determination

Chris McKee, wildlife division chief at OSM, updated the Council on the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) work session in July and how the Board divided the rural determination process into three phases; namely, 1) the Board voted to adopt the proposed rule as written 2) the Board voted to adopt pre-2007 rural status and 3) the Board voted to direct staff to develop options to determine future non-rural determinations for the Board's consideration. OSM expects to have draft recommendations by the FSB January 2016 meeting.

USFWS Proposed Rule

Doug Damberg, refuge supervisor of Northern Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, presented updates on regulations governing non-subsistence hunting and trapping on wildlife refuges. Damberg stressed that both the USFWS mandate and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) require managing fish and wildlife consistent with the conservation of healthy populations in their natural diversity. Predator control would not be allowed on refuges unless it meets refuge purposes and is based on sound science. The proposed restrictions would not represent a change from current allowable methods in Unit 22. The new rule also includes changes to emergency closures. After public comment and finalization, the rule should be published in April or May, 2016.

Smith, Garnie and Oxereok believe there is a predator problem and more studies need to be done. They would like to see predator control return. Damberg responded that this restricts, but does not eliminate predator hunting on refuges.

Garnie motioned to reintroduce predator control in this region. Seconded by Katcheak. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Wildlife Proposals

WP 16-44

Suzanne Worker, OSM biologist, presented analysis on this proposal to liberalize bear harvest regulations in 22C, create a new hunt area in 22D, and increase harvest limit from 1 to 2 bears year round. There are no recent population estimates for brown bears, though ADF&G believes they are productive. Harvest increased in 22C but averages only one bear per year in 22D southwest.

Amos moved to support WL16-44 as modified by OSM. Seconded by Garnie. Discussion ensued that it would create more opportunity to take bears and better access in spring. Smith discussed predation resulting in no recruitment. Drew Crawford shared ADF&G position to support WP16-44 with modification to retain split season, extend the spring season dates in Unit 22C, revise the hunt descriptor for Unit 22D, require use of Federal registration permit in new Unit 22D hunt, and give in season Federal manager delegated authority to set quotas.

Oxereok moved to amend the motion to support 16-44 to have the split dates but have April 1st and ending May 31st. This was not seconded and died. Garnie moved to amend the motion to a year round season. Seconded by Oxereok. McKee mentioned that the state's regulation would be in conflict with the federal season if this was changed. Motion was passed unanimously.

WP16-46

Worker presented WP16-46 analysis of this proposal to rescind the closure to moose harvest by non-Federally-qualified users in Unit 22E. Moose population exceeds management goals and harvest is relatively low. OSM's preliminary recommendation is to support WP16-46. Crawford stated that ADF&G's preliminary recommendation was to support WP16-46. There was no motion to take action on this proposal.

WP 16-47

Worker presented WP16-47 analysis of this proposal to create an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 22E. The population is stable but growth is slow and cannot support an antlerless hunt. OSM's position is to oppose WP16-47. Crawford stated that ADF&G's preliminary recommendation was to oppose WP16-47. Population estimates show moose in 22E have decreased 14% annually over the last 3 years. There was no motion to take action on this proposal.

WP 16-33

Worker presented analysis on of this proposal requesting Lower Kalskag be added to the current customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for caribou and moose in Unit 18. Boundary was recently changed but did not update C&T. Crawford stated that ADF&G's preliminary recommendation was to support WP16-33. Garnie moved to support WP16-33. Seconded by Oxereok. The motion passed unanimously.

WP 16-34

Worker presented analysis on this proposal requesting closure of Federal lands west of Mountain Village to harvest of all big game by non-Federally qualified users. The proponent was likely referring to moose hunters. There is concern over unchecked growth of moose population in this area, therefore OSM's preliminary conclusion is to oppose WP16-34. Crawford stated that ADF&G's preliminary recommendation was to oppose WP16-34. No need for most species, and restricting moose harvest may cause long term damage. Katcheak moved to support WP1634. The motion was not seconded and therefore failed.

WP16-35

Worker presented analysis on this proposal requesting use of artificial light as an aid to harvesting denning bears in Unit 18. Proponent claims this is a customary and traditional practice. OSM's preliminary recommendation is to support WP16-35 with a modification to include head lamps or hand-held artificial lights. Garnie moved to support WP16-35 with the OSM modification to include headlamps and artificial lights. Seconded by Oxereok. Five voted in favor, one abstained, so the motion passes.

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP)

Robin LaVine, anthropologist with OSM, presented overview of 2016 FRMP, including the Technical Review Committee rankings for ten proposals in the northwest region. The Council was invited to provide comments on proposal rankings, summaries and the process. The Council expressed concern over lack of funding for Seward Peninsula projects, despite high level of partner opportunities. Comments captured for the FRMP included impacts of increasing beaver populations, algae in Imuruk Basin, changes in salmon returns in Salmon Lake, climate change impacts, lack of salmon in Port Clarence Bay, increases in northern pike, changes in large mammal populations (precipitating higher dependency on marine resources) in Teller, species migration documentation, extinction of king salmon and an overall lack of scientific data in the region.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Smith at 9:00 a.m. October 15, 2015.

New Business

Wildlife Proposals continued ...

Deatherage reviewed yesterday's actions on wildlife proposals, pointing out that the Council had failed to take action on some of its own proposals (WP16-46, WP16-47, WP 16-34) which may be of concern to the Board.

WP16-46

Oxereok moved to support this proposal to rescind the moose closure for Unit 22E. Seconded by Gray. Discussion followed on ADF&G report showing current low density of moose in 22E, and their recommendation that no hunt be established at this time. The Council voted unanimously to oppose and the motion fails.

WP16-47

Smith moved to support this proposal to create an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 22E. Seconded by Gray. Discussion was similar to WP16-46, except Eningowuk said elders from Shishmaref could not find any bulls to hunt in the area. Deatherage read comments from Kawerak Inc. opposing WP16-47 because of lack of data to indicate a need. With a vote of six in opposition and one in support, the motion failed. The Chair noted that although they understood the need for meat for the village, the moose population needs to be preserved.

Gray remarked that a letter from the Council to the traditional council with Gorn's report would be appropriate.

WP 16-34

Smith reintroduced this proposal to close Federal lands and a portion of Unit 18 to harvest of big game by non-Federally qualified users. Drew stated ADF&G's preliminary recommendation was to oppose WP16-34. McKee said the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council opposed WP16-34. Oxereok moved to support WL16-34, seconded by Gray. The motion failed unanimously.

Deatherage asked the Council to revisit the USFWS proposed rule. Yesterday's motion to reinstate predator control was not believed to be relevant to the rule, and the OSM wants to ensure the Council has the opportunity to provide substantive comments. Smith and Oxereok stated that they were against limiting tools to take predators. Gray remarked that the rule was about technology and that rural people were resourceful and used technology to their benefit. Katcheak mentioned that predator control based on traditional methods was needed, not extreme predator control like that in the 1950's. Seetot stated that there is not a need to kill bears other than DLP's because people don't eat it anymore. The Council directed staff to write the letter capturing these and other comments.

WL16-43, 45 and 37

Worker presented analysis on the three proposals related to caribou in Unit 22. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) has been declining for years, peaking in 2003 at 490,000 to 235,000 in 2013. Both adult and calf survival and recruitment have decreased. The Alaska BOG implemented changes July 1 to regulations throughout the range of WACH and the Teshekpuk herds in northern and western Alaska, including creation of new hunt areas, separate bull and cow seasons and prohibitions on calf harvest. WP16-43 does not meet Federal Board criteria because it is intended to protect private property, and is therefore opposed by OSM. WP16-45

shifts the boundary of Unit 22E westward, and is supported by OSM because it provides additional subsistence opportunity. WP16-37 restricts bull cow harvests, prohibits calf harvest and in some areas significantly reduces daily harvest limit. OSM supports WP16-37 with modifications as outlined on page 133 of the meeting book. Worker stressed that there were important inconsistencies between WP16-37 and WP16-45 that the Council needed to address.

A lengthy discussion followed highlighting concerns over harvest dates, area caribou populations, and low (less than 2%) harvest of WACH from Unit 22. The Pilgram River drainage is currently included in Unit 22 remainder but if WP16-37 is adopted, it would become its own hunt area subject to opening by delegated authority to the BLM Anchorage Field Office. Overall, there was concern that dates were being set up that would not allow for harvest when the animals were around but rather were set up to align with state. Worker confirmed that in Unit 22 remainder, there was a to-be-announced season which would allow for harvest when caribou are present.

Crawford's provided ADF&G preliminary recommendations: WP16-37 support with modification to change bag limits related to Unit 26A remainder and B; WP16-43 oppose and WP16-45 neutral. Further recommended "announced seasons" to reduce impacts on reindeer herds in 22E.

Worker shared multiple maps depicting proposed dates and areas. One map showed Trout Creek as a proposed boundary put forth by the Native Village of Shishmaref. Another suggestion was Nuluk River which drew some concern because of a nearby reindeer herd.

Ken Atkisson, NPS indicated the Park Service supported WP16-45 to adjust the boundary of the caribou hunt area to Tin Creek in 22E. They also do not have a problem with extending the boundary to Trout Creek, putting everything east of Trout in the hunt area and omitting everything west. He confirmed that the Ongtowasruk reindeer herd from Wales was viable in the area but that the Weyiouanna herd was not.

Worker continued presenting two additional hunt areas; namely, Pilgram Creek in 22 remainder as well as Golovin Bay and Fish, Niukluk and Libby Rivers area and the impacts of WP16-37 on seasons and bag limits.

Deatherage read written comments from Kawerak supporting WP16-43 with recommendations to change Unit 22A to south of the Golsovia versus Unalakleet River. Kawerak Inc. also supported expanding the boundary in 22E for caribou to Tin Creek. Written comments were also received from the Native Village of Shishmaref to support WP16-45 with a modification to extend the boundary to Trout Creek.

After a lengthy discussion, the following is a list of the Council's actions on these proposals:

WP16-45 proposes to shift the caribou hunt boundary in Unit 22E from the Sanaguich River to Tin Creek. Gray moved to amend the boundary in 22E to Trout Creek per written comments received from the Native Village of Shishmaref. The motion was seconded by Oxereok. The Council believed this would provide more caribou hunting opportunity without conflicting with reindeer herds. The amendment passed unanimously. Gray motioned to support WP16-45 as amended. The motion was seconded by Oxereok and passed unanimously.

WP16-43 proposes to close caribou hunting to protect reindeer in the Upper Adreafsky drainages in Unit 18 and a portion of 22 south of the Unalakleet River. The Council expressed concern that this proposal was outside the jurisdiction of the Board due to private property issues. Garnie moved to adopt WP16-43. The motion was seconded by Oxereok and failed unanimously.

WP16-37 proposes to change caribou harvest regulations in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, 26A and 26B by reducing harvest limits, shortening seasons, creating new hunt areas and prohibiting calf and cows with calf harvests. Gray moved to adopt WP16-37. The motion was seconded by Oxereok.

- Gray moved to amend WP16-37 to change harvest season in 22E to July 1-June 30, either sex, and to move the boundary to Trout Creek. The motion to amend was seconded by Garnie and passed unanimously.
- Gray moved to amend WP16-37 by creating a To Be Announced season (delegated to the BLM office in Anchorage) for the Pilgram River drainage and Unit 22B west of the Niukluk River, with no season or sex restrictions. The motion to amend was seconded by Oxereok and passed unanimously.
- Oxereok moved to amend WP16-37 by making Unit 22A south of the Golsovia River its own hunt area with no sex restrictions and a harvest limit of 5 caribou per day. The motion to amend was seconded by Gray and passed unanimously.
- Oxereok moved to amend WP16-37 by making all of Unit 22 to have a year round season with no sex restrictions and a harvest limit of 5 caribou per day. The motion to amend was seconded by Gray and passed unanimously.
- Smith moved to amend WP16-37 by adopting proposal for Unit 22 only, and Take No Action on the remainder of WP16-37. The motion to amend was seconded by Oxereok and passed unanimously.

The Council believes restrictions on all caribou hunting in Unit 22 should be lifted as a result of the general lack of caribou and small percentage of harvest by subsistence users in the region. The Council also believes that actions taken via amendment to expand some hunt areas will not be in conflict with reindeer herders as caribou hunts will be opened on a To Be Announced basis only when caribou are present in the area. Smith moved to adopt WP16-37 as amended. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

WP16-49/52

Worker presented analysis on proposals WP16-49 and WP16-52 requesting a reduction in the harvest limit in Unit 23 from 15 to 5 caribou per day or 7 per day, respectively. The OSM preliminary recommendation is to take no action on WP16-52 because the issue is covered in WP16-49. Crawford provided ADF&G's preliminary recommendation which was to support WP 16-49 as modified by the OSM and to take no action on WP16-52. Oxereok moved to adopt WP16-49/52 as amended by OSM. Seconded by Katcheak. Council voted unanimously to Take No Action.

Annual Report

The Council decided to include the following items of concern in their 2015 Annual Report: Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, ownership/management of reindeer herds, additional predator prey studies (including Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Seward Peninsula area), food security, federalizing the Yukon River, guided hunting of moose in 22E, climate

change and baseline studies, and extinction of king salmon.

Gray moved to direct staff to prepare a proposal to the Board of Game to close non-resident moose hunting in portions of GMU 22, including the western part of 22D. The motion was seconded by Eningowok and passed unanimously.

Agency Reports

National Park Service

Ken Adkinsson reported on the loss of Fred Tocktoo, staff at Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, who passed away. Fred joined NPS in 1990 and for many years was a major factor in the federal program, working with youth and the Council.

NPS assisted ADF&G with muskox surveys in Unit 23 southwest, sheep surveys in the western Baird Mountains, and the a survey with ADF&G. NPS also worked with ADF&G in Unit 23 Cape Thompson muskoxen population and composition survey.

Bureau of Land Management

Tom Sparks, BLM Manager at the Nome station, reported on the district boundary changes which expanded the BLM Anchorage District up to Kivalina into all of Unit 23. BLM also lost the only position they had in Kotzebue. BLM ran the Unalakleet weir in cooperation with ADF&G and did some Imuruk Basin salmon studies with U.S. Geological Survey. BLM continues to monitor reindeer ranges in the southern part of the peninsula and have received applications for the Rainbow and Graphite mines. BLM authorized ADF&G to run a weir at the Inglutalik River and king salmon egg take in Unalakleet. Sparks also mentioned the new land plan called the Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan, going from Unalakleet south. Bruce Seppi, federal subsistence specialist for BLM in Anchorage, reported on federal muskox permits, a moose census with ADF&G in 22A and muskox surveys. He concluded with a report on the WACH Working Group which will meet December 15-17, 2015 in Anchorage.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Carmen Dagget, Boards Support, reported the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee would be meeting October 27 in Nome. Dagget stated that the deadline for Board of Game proposals is April 29th, 2016. The Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim fisheries meeting is January 12-17 in Fairbanks.

Office of Subsistence Management

Chris McKee gave an update based on the written report in the meeting book.

All Councils Meeting

Deatherage reported on the upcoming All Councils meeting scheduled for the week of March 7, 2016 in Anchorage.

Future Meeting Dates

The Council elected to meet November 1-2, 2016 in Nome, Alaska. Oxereok will announce the meeting on Facebook and Nome Announce.

Closing Comments

Garnie. Happy to be hear and make decision for region, thank you.

Saccheus. We went through a lot of politics. Enjoyed seeing everyone, hope you have a good Thanksgiving, Christmas and holiday and may God bless you all.

Katcheak. Started on the RAC and I was very enthusiastic and young. I helped with successful proposals on moose, bears and caribou. Once again I am always very excited about participating in this advisory council and wish everyone a safe trip home.

Oxereok. Enjoying this Council. Looking forward to getting out into communities and learning about their subsistence and hunting stories, learning more about the area and bringing their concerns to our council meetings. Honored to be here.

Seetot. Thanked staff for patience. Weather is changed, be careful out in the villages. Meetings are publicized at least one to two weeks in advance. Seen a lot of changes since 1995, seeing less people at meetings because of money.

Smith. Believe we are getting better at meetings and are no longer professional hunters and fishermen. Spending too much time at meetings complaining about not having enough resources. We are also outclassed by commercial fishing industry and others. Good meeting, thanks everyone for attending.

Eningowok. Thanked Council for honoring request from Shishmaref hunting area. Concerned about food security. Had to attend AFN so couldn't be at meeting.

Oxereok motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Katcheak.

The Council adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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

October 15, 2015

/s/

Karen Deatherage, DFO
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

/s/

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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



**Seward Peninsula Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council**

Louis Green Jr. Chair
P.O. Box 1890 Nome, Alaska 99762



RAC SP15056.KD

Mr. Tim Towarak, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Towarak:

The Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) submits this fiscal year 2015 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) under the provisions of Section 805(a)(3)(D) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). At its public meeting in Nome on October 14-15, 2015, the Council identified concerns and recommendations for its FY2015 Annual Report to the Board. The report was finalized and approved by the Council at its winter 2016 meeting in Anchorage.

There are large areas of the Seward Peninsula Region that are not Federal public lands within the Board's jurisdiction. This highlights the necessity for close cooperation between the Board, the Council, Federal land managers, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and other landowners for implementation of management practices that protect the use of these subsistence resources. The Council looks forward to the Board's continued engagement, consideration, guidance and support on the topics listed below.

1. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP)

The Council appreciated the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) presentation on the FRMP at its October 14-15, 2015 meeting in Nome. OSM staff agreed to submit our concerns and recommendations to the FRMP program lead. The Council stressed its frustration over the lack of federal land in the area available for project approval, despite the fact that resources across jurisdictions are needed for subsistence. Migratory species such as caribou and fish should receive funding for research for migratory patterns on the Seward Peninsula, wherever they occur.

Recommendations: The Council recommends the FRMP adopt an ecosystem approach for funding approval, and would also appreciate OSM staff assistance with identifying areas or

Mr. Towarak

subjects with the required Federal nexus so that they can be incorporated into the region's Priority Information Needs for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

2. Ownership/Management of Reindeer Herds

The Council would like the Board to know that reindeer herds have become a critical subsistence resource for residents on the Seward Peninsula, particularly given the continued downward spiral of ungulate populations such as musk ox, caribou, and moose. The Council needs clarification about who is responsible for managing reindeer herds in the region and believes the Federal government made a promise to keep herds going for the local people. The communities of Saint Michael and Stebbins have community herds and would like for the Board to recognize these herds as subsistence resources. There used to be as many as 35,000 reindeer but locals now believe current populations are between 5,000-10,000 animals. Communities do not have the resources to count reindeer but would like a census to determine the current population of the Stebbins/St. Michael and Katcheak herds. The Council has heard from many communities that food security is a major issue and with some assistance, reindeer herds could alleviate some of these concerns.

3. Federalizing the Yukon River

Rural residents of the Stebbins have a customary and traditional use determination for Yukon River salmon. The Council is greatly concerned about current management of Chinook Salmon on the Yukon River, and would like the fisheries system to be federalized similar to how it was for the Kuskokwim River in 2014 and 2015. Food security is an inherent guarantee of Title VIII of ANILCA and the federal government has an obligation to ensure that subsistence needs are met for the communities that depend on the salmon.

4. Guided Hunting of Moose in Unit 22E

The ADF&G area biologist Tony Gorn reported that moose in Unit 22E are stabilized and reproducing, but still at very low densities. Mr. Gorn indicated that research shows moose migrating back and forth between Units 22D and 22E. The Council is very concerned about non-resident hunting of moose being allowed in this region, particularly given the shortage of moose in communities such as Teller. The Council has requested that OSM staff prepare a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game for its Interior Alaska cycle to shut down non-resident hunting in the western portion of Unit 22D.

5. Climate Change and Baseline Studies

The Council is alarmed by changing weather and water temperatures, impacts on salmon populations and the current lack of comparative baseline data. Communities have reported sightings of dead and floating salmon, which could be caused by increased water temperatures. The Council is troubled that few data exist on disease and invasive species, extreme population shifts such as the crowding of sockeye in Salmon Lake, and the overall health of the ecosystem.

Mr. Towarak

6. Extirpation of Chinook Salmon

The Council believes that Chinook Salmon have now been extirpated in some parts of the region, particularly near Teller. The Council is interested in how Chinook Salmon might be restored to the region through a formal reintroduction program.

Thank you for the opportunity for this Council to assist the Federal Subsistence Management Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on Federal public lands and waters. We look forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users of the Seward Peninsula Region. Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me through Karen Deatherage, Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management at (907) 786-3564.

Sincerely,

Louis H. Green, Jr.
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM
2016-2017 Meeting Cycle
PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526**

<p>BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS Game Management Unit (GMU) ___ 22 D remainder and 22E ___ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hunting <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping Other _____</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonresident</p>
<p>Which meeting would you like to submit your proposal to? <input type="checkbox"/> Interior and Northeast Region (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arctic/Western Region (GMUs 18, 22, 23, and 26A)</p>
<p>Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal book along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing items.</p>
<p>1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC: 85.045 Regulation Book Page No: 114</p>
<p>2. What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Subsistence users in GMU’s 22D remainder and 22E are finding it increasingly difficult to harvest moose. In 2013 and 2014, a total of only 4 moose were caught by subsistence users from the Village of Teller. During that same time, a total of 3 moose were caught by subsistence users in Shishmaref. Harvest data show that a total of 44 moose were taken by non-resident hunters from GMU 22D remainder and GMU 22E in 2013-2015. ADFG reported on moose populations in GMU 22 at the October 14-15, 2015 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting in Nome. Moose populations in the area are considered stable with recent incremental increases in GMU 22E and decreases in GMU 22D remainder. Moose densities remain extremely low in these areas, at 0.5 moose per square mile. ADFG believes it is plausible that moose migrate between Units 22D and 22E, which may reflect a redistribution of the herds versus any increases or decreases in population.</p>

3. What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? (Please provide draft regulatory language, if possible.)

Eliminate non-resident moose hunting in GMU 22D remainder and 22E until moose density increases and the relationship between herd migration and population growth between GMU subunits is better understood. Draft regulatory language would read:

Moose In areas indicated by a federal restrictions apply, see page 8.
In bag limit, "moose" means an animal of either sex; "bull" means a male moose.

R	22D remainder	One bull	HT	Aug 10-Sept
R		Or One bull	HT	Oct 1-Nov 30
R		One antlered bull	HT	Dec 1-Jan 31
N		[ONE BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON AT LEAST ONE SIDE BY PERMIT AVAILABLE ONLINE OR IN PERSON AT NOME ADF&G BEGINNING JULY 24. HARVEST QUOTA TO BE ANNOUNCED. SEASON CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER WHEN UP TO 3 BULLS ARE TAKEN.]	[RM855]	[Sept 1-Sept 14] No open season
R	22E	One bull	HT	Aug 1-Dec 31
R		Or One antlered bull	HT	Jan 1-Mar 15
N		[ONE BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON AT LEAST ONE SIDE BY PERMIT AVAILABLE ONLINE OR IN PERSON AT NOME ADF&G BEGINNING JULY 24. HARVEST QUOTA TO BE ANNOUNCED. SEASON CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER WHEN UP TO 13 BULLS ARE TAKEN.]	[RM855]	[Sept 1-Sept 14] No open season

Submitted By: Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Individual or Group

c/o Office of Subsistence Mgmt.

1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 121 Anchorage, AK 99503
Address City, State ZIP Code

907-786-3888 subsistence@fws.gov
Home Phone Work Phone Email

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
C/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

RAC 15059.KD

JAN 26 2016

Mr. Mitchell R. Ellis
Regional Refuge Chief
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 225
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *Proposed Rule on Hunting in National Wildlife Refuge Lands in Alaska*. The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters of the Seward Peninsula Region, including the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

The Council was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter recognize the Council's authority to initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands within the region. The Council provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

The Council received an update on the proposed rule from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel at its public meeting held on October 14-15, 2015 in Nome. There were differing comments from Council members on predator management, hunting technology and traditional knowledge. The majority of Council members believe there are too many predators in the region, which are having a negative impact on subsistence resources. Some Council members believed the rule was about technology, trusted that rural people were resourceful and used technology to their benefit, and were opposed to any restrictions on the tools used to hunt predators. Others stated that predator control should be based on traditional methods as needed, not extreme control. One remarked that there was no need to kill bears other than in defense of life and/or property, and that rural residents no longer eat bear.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment. The Council looks forward to continued opportunities to share knowledge and concerns regarding management decisions affecting rural

Mr. Ellis

subsistence users and resources in the Seward Peninsula Region. Please contact Karen Deatherage, Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management, at (907) 786-3564 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "T" and "G".

Tom Gray

cc: Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Interagency Staff Committee
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Ame Howard, Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Administrative Record

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
C/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

RAC SP15060.KD

JAN 26 2016

Morris Kiyutelluk
Village President
Native Village of Shishmaref
Shishmaref IRA Council
P.O. Box 72110
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

Dear Mr. Kiyutelluk:

I am writing on behalf of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to inform you of the Council's action on Wildlife Proposal WP16-47 at its public meeting held in Nome on October 14-15, 2015.

The Council was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter recognize the Council's authority to initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands within the region. The council provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

During its October meeting in Nome, the Council received briefings on numerous Federal wildlife regulatory proposals affecting the Seward Peninsula Region. Among those was WP16-47, which proposed to establish an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 22E. The Council voted 6-1 to recommend that the Federal Subsistence Board reject the proposal.

The Council would like to share with you the justification for its action on WP16-47. Last February, the Council voted to submit a proposal (copy attached) to the Federal Subsistence Board to establish an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 22E. The Council submitted the proposal based upon moose population information at that time, and due to concerns over the lack of bull moose available to Village of Shishmaref residents. At its October meeting, the Council was provided an extensive report from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) area biologist, Tony Gorn. Mr. Gorn's report, entitled *2014 22D and 22E Moose Population Survey*

Mr. Kiyutelluk

Summary, is attached for your reference. The report showed that although moose populations in Unit 22E appear to be stabilizing, they are still at very low densities. The report also showed that moose in Unit 22E appear to be migrating between Units 22D and 22E. The Council was concerned that the harvest of cow moose during a time of minimal growth would be detrimental to the recovery of the population, and therefore opposed WP16-47 based upon the new information provided by Mr. Gorn. This is not, however, the end of the proposal. The Federal Subsistence Board will consider this Council's recommendation at its regulatory meeting on April 11-15, 2016, in Anchorage. The Board may or may not accept the Council's recommendation based on criteria set forth in ANILCA Section 805.

The Council will continue to monitor the status of moose in Unit 22E and will support a hunt in the future when the population is at a higher density. The Council also voted to submit a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game to close non-resident moose hunting in portions of GMU22, including the western part of 22D. However, that proposal will not be considered until the Board of Game meeting scheduled for the winter 2016/2017 cycle.

The Council shares the concerns of Shishmaref residents regarding the shortage of moose resources for village subsistence hunters, and will continue to monitor the situation and act upon any potential solutions. Please feel free to share any concerns or questions you may have with the proposal or other subsistence issues with Council members or our Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage, at the Office of Subsistence Management, (907) 786-3564. We truly appreciate your participation.

Sincerely,



Tom Gray

cc: Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Interagency Staff Committee
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Amee Howard, Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Administrative Record

WP16-47

Wildlife Proposals
 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council
 Tim Smith, Co-chair,
 P.O. Box 747
 Nome, AK 99762
 907-443-5352
 timsmith@gci.net

Seward Peninsula Management Area: 22 Season and Bag: Yes Method and Means: No

1. What regulations do you wish to change?

Moose

Unit 22E—1 antlered bull. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations	Jan. 1-31. Aug. 1- Mar. 15.
--	-----------------------------------

2. How should the new regulation read?

Moose

Unit 22E—1 antlered bull.	Aug. 1 – Mar. 15
<i>Unit 22E—1 moose (except calves or a cow accompanied by a calf).</i>	<i>Jul.15 - Dec 31</i>

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

To provide more harvest opportunities for subsistence users.

4. What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Little as Moose population has been increasing slightly and no cows with calves will be taken.

5. How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This proposal if adopted will provide Federal subsistence users more opportunity to obtain moose in the area.

6. How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

The proposal if passed could impact current sport/commercial moose hunters.



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of
Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Northwest

103 East Front Street
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, Alaska 99762-1148
Main: 907.443.2271
Fax: 907.443.5893

TO: R5 Staff/Cooperating Agencies (BLM/NPS)

DATE: July 23, 2014

FROM: Unit 22 staff

SUBJECT: Unit 22 GSPE survey results

PHONE NO: 907-443-8189

THRU: Brian Taras, Biometrician

2014 Unit 22D and 22E Moose Population Survey Summary

ADF&G staff completed a moose population survey in Unit 22D February 24-March 5, 2014 and in Unit 22E March 6-March 21, 2014. Poor weather resulted in several delays during both surveys. Survey participants included ADF&G staff: Steve Machida (Pilot C-185), Peter Bente (Observer), Jim Dau (Pilot PA-18), Tony Gorn (Pilot PA-12), Brandon Saito (Observer), Letty Hughes (Observer), Bill Dunker (Observer), Meghan Nedwick (Observer), Esther Henry (Observer), Carmen Daggett (Observer), Kate Persons (Observer) and Pete Rob (Observer). Austin Ahmasuk (Observer) and Randy Myers (Observer) were volunteers for the project. Marci Johnson (Observer) represented the National Park Service. The charter pilots hired for the survey were Andy Greenblatt (PA-18 and C-185), Jesse Cummings (PA-18), and Eric Sieh (PA-18 and C-206). BLM contributed aviation fuel for a portion of the survey.

METHODS

Survey Design: Separate surveys were planned for Units 22D and 22E. In previous years, search units (SU) were randomly sampled from 22D and 22E combined and estimates of observable moose for each unit were obtained by defining appropriate analysis areas. A much larger than expected variance for Unit 22E in the 2011 survey led to the realization that differences in the distribution in moose between the units rendered it inappropriate to combine them in a single survey. Technically, the assumption of 2nd-order stationarity, required for the spatial statistical analysis, had been violated. When analyzed as analysis areas, the spatial correlations are estimated from the entire data set (separately for each stratum) and applied to each analysis area. In this way, the stronger spatial correlations in Unit 22D were inappropriately applied to Unit 22E leading to aberrant results. Analysis areas are effective for estimating abundance of areas embedded within a larger region of relatively consistent moose distribution (by stratum). However, when a large region is divided into relatively large adjacent areas (e.g., adjacent units), it will likely be more appropriate to survey each separately.

Thirty (30) intensively surveyed high stratum SU and 15 intensively surveyed low stratum SU were randomly selected for SCFS. The north or south half-section (3.19 mi^2) of each selected SU was randomly selected prior to the survey. Selected search units were then opportunistically sampled to meet our survey objective. SCFS were to be initiated within 2 hours of completing the intensive survey and the pilot/observer team conducting the SCFS was instructed to search either the north or south half of the SU at a search intensity of between 9 and 12 min/mi^2 . Initially, one pilot observer team conducted all of the SCFS, but later (see Results and Discussion), SCFS were completed by each individual pilot observer team immediately after they completed the intensive survey in a SU selected for SCFS. In such instances individual pilot observer teams did not receive instructions to conduct a SCFS in a SU until after the completion of the intensive survey.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Observable Moose Abundance for Unit 22D: The population survey estimate for all of Unit 22D (2881 mi^2) is 1106 ($0.38 \text{ moose}/\text{mi}^2$) observable moose ($\pm 9\%$ at 90% C.L.) Re-allocation of sampling effort from the low stratum to the high stratum and an overall increase in sampling effort appeared to increase precision around the estimate relative to previous surveys. This represents a 13% annual rate of decline between the 2011 and 2014 (Table 1), though inference to the population is confounded due to the lack of sightability correction, which precludes valid statistical evaluation of population trend. The proportion of short yearlings was 14%, which is similar to the 11% found in 2011. Pilot and observer teams conducted intensive surveys in 277 SU of which 82% (226 of 277 SUs) were in the high stratum. We observed 694 moose ($0.55 \text{ moose}/\text{mi}^2$) in high stratum SU and 28 moose ($0.1 \text{ moose}/\text{mi}^2$) in 16 of the 52 low stratum SU selected to be intensively surveyed. The stratification seemed accurate as evident by the low number of moose found in low strata SU.

Survey conditions in Unit 22D were poor; barren tundra with little snow cover and a lack of fresh snow was common throughout the unit during the survey. These conditions likely reduced the sightability of moose and facilitated movement, particularly in historical wintering areas with high moose densities (lower Kuzitrin River). We compared the survey time (min/SU) of intensive surveys in 2014 to those of a similar survey, with noticeably different snow conditions, completed in 2011. During the 2014 survey, pilot observer teams averaged 23 min/SU in high stratum SU, and 17 min/SU in low stratum SU. During the 2011 survey, snow conditions were better, snow cover was complete and more uniform throughout the survey area. Pilot/observer teams averaged 13 min/SU in high stratum SU, and 9 min/SU in low stratum SU. Overall, pilot/observer teams spent 77% more time in high stratum SU in 2014 than they did in 2011. Search intensity (min/mi^2) was also compared between the two survey years. In flat terrain Kellie and DeLong (2006) recommend a search intensity of 3 min/mi^2 (15 minutes). Unit 22D pilot/observer teams averaged 4.4 min/mi^2 in 2014 and 2.2 min/mi^2 in 2011.

During the 2014 survey, pilot/observer teams were required to pay special attention to areas bordering a SU selected to be intensively surveyed in the event the SU was also selected for an SCFS. In such instances, an understanding of moose movement in and around intensively surveyed SU was needed to rectify the results of the 2 surveys in order to estimate a SCF. This in conjunction with poor survey conditions, which decreased sightability, likely resulted in an increase in search intensity and survey time. Consequently, pilot/observer teams met the recommended search intensity rate during the 2014 survey. Snow conditions should be a high consideration for future Unit 22 surveys because it has a major influence on moose sightability (Gasaway et al.

(0.14 moose/mi²) in high stratum SU and 5 moose (0.002 moose/mi²) in low stratum SUs. The stratification seemed accurate as evident by the low number of moose found in low strata SUs.

Table 2. Unit 22E historical survey data

Area/Type	Year	Estimated Number of Moose	Calves/100 Adults	Percent Short-Yearlings
Unit 22E/GSPE	2014	701	16	13
Unit 22E/GSPE	2011	669	11	10
Unit 22E/GSPE	2006	587	22	18
Unit 22E/GSPE	2003	504	23	16
Unit 22E/ Riparian Survey	2001	169	8	7
Unit 22E/ Riparian Survey	1996	196	20	16
Unit 22E/ Riparian Survey	1991	226	9	8

SCF estimate and Total Moose Abundance for the Unit 22D:

A sightability Correction Factors (SCF) of 1.19 (SE = 0.180, n=24) and 1.33 (SE=0, n=9) was estimated for Unit 22D high and low stratum respectively. A standard error equal to zero (low stratum estimate) is not a reasonable estimate of uncertainty for an SCF but instead, was an artifact of only a single SU contributing moose to the calculations. That said, even a fairly large SE (e.g., 0.35) would contribute to a <1 percentage point increase in the relative precision of the estimate of total moose. Therefore, using SE=0 in the calculations likely resulted in negligible bias. By first applying each SCF to the estimate of observable moose in their respective stratum then combining stratum estimates we obtain an estimate of total moose in 22D equal to 1334 (+/-24% at 90% CI) (Figure 4). The decrease in relative precision from 9% to 24% is due to the uncertainty in the SCF.

We reviewed daily track logs from survey flights, data sheet comments, and discussed survey results with pilot and observer teams to determine that 43 moose were observed during the SCF surveys that were observable during the intensive surveys. In comparison, 35 moose were observed during the intensive surveys. No moose were observed in 63% of the SU selected for SCF surveys. In every SU in which the SCFS found 0 moose, the intensive survey also found 0 moose.

The intensive survey search intensity of SU resampled during a SCFS (n=33) averaged 4.3 min/mi² (range: 1.8 to 9.3 min/mi²). SCFS completed in the same SU had an average search intensity of 9.5 min/mi² (range: 5.1 to 21.2 min/mi²). SCF surveys began an average of 39 min after the completion of the intensive surveys. The longest elapsed time between the end of the standard survey and the start of the SCF survey was 2hrs 1min.

After careful review we decided to omit one SCFS (SU 1183) from our analysis. SU 1183 was located along the main stem of the Kuzitrin River in an area where high numbers of moose have been documented during past surveys. During the intensive survey, 31 moose were observed within the SU as well as a high number of moose, not adequately documented (Personal Communication, Tony Gorn), along the boundary in adjacent SU. The intensive survey pilot/observer team reported moose running throughout the unit which made counting moose difficult during the 45 minute survey. Fifty-eight minutes elapsed before the start of the SCFS, during which a total of 48 moose were observed. After careful review of survey data, flight logs and waypoints we were not able to rectify moose observations, and ultimately were not comfortable including SU 1183 in the SCF estimate because: 1) review of intensive survey and SCF flights were not able to rectify moose movement in and around SU 1183, and 2) SU 1184, located directly East of SU 1183, was intensively surveyed and 36 moose were found, but was not selected as a SCF unit and raised additional concern of the possibility of moose movement in the

Figure 1 – Estimated sample sizes to achieve an estimate of observable moose with a relative precision of 0.15 at the 95% confidence and the optimal allocation of surveyed samples units (SUs) between the low and high strata.

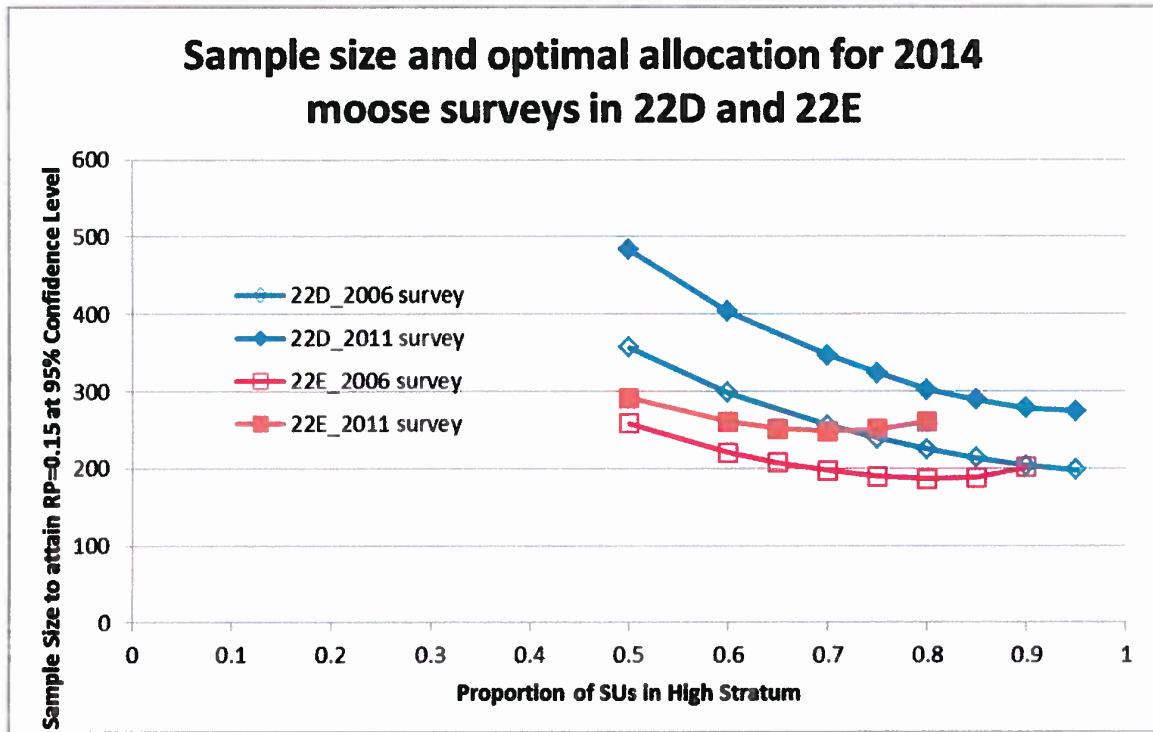
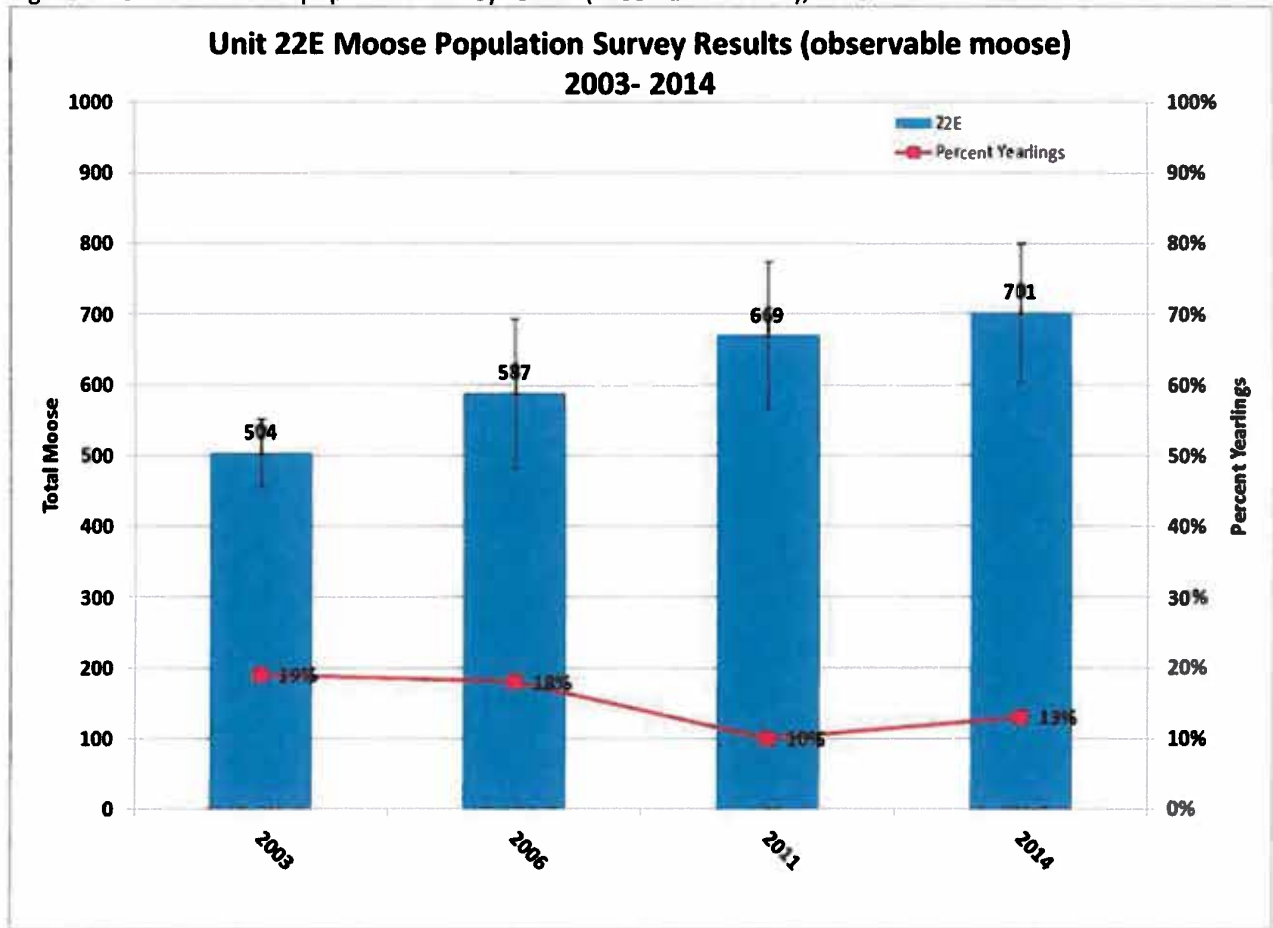


Figure 3 - Unit 22E Moose population survey results (observable moose), 2003-2014



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

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)), and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the Region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the Region.
4. **Description of Duties.** The Council has authority to perform the following duties:
 - a. Recommend the initiation of, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decisionmaking process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the Region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.

- (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
 - e. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
 - f. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
 - g. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$140,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.0 staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director – Subsistence, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:
 - Approve or call all of the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings,
 - Prepare and approve all meeting agendas,
 - Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings,
 - Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and
 - Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will be inactive 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless prior to that date it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

Ten members who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are residents of the Region represented by the Council. To ensure that each Council represents a diversity of interests, the Federal Subsistence Board in their nomination recommendations to the Secretary will strive to ensure that seven of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the Region and three of the members (30 percent) represent commercial and sport interests within the Region. The portion of membership representing commercial and sport interests must include, where possible, at least one representative from the sport community and one representative from the commercial community.

The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members based on the recommendations from the Federal Subsistence Board and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

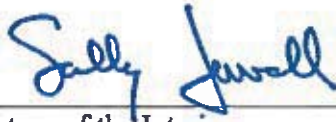
Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Council members will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for a 1-year term.

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter in which the member has a direct financial interest in a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department.
14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information and conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

NOV 20 2015

Date Signed

DEC 03 2015

Date Filed