

SEWARD PENINSULA Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council



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Muskoxen, Nome, Alaska.

Meeting Materials

February 15–16, 2011

Nome

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**SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
AURORA INN CONFERENCE ROOM
NOME, ALASKA**

February 15–16, 2010

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day or until meeting is concludes

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.

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. **Call to Order** (*Acting Chair*)
- 2. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (*Secretary*)..... 4
- 3. **Welcome and Introductions** (*Acting Chair*)
- 4. **Elect Officers**
 - A. Chair (*Coordinator*)
 - B. Vice-chair (*new Chair presiding*)
 - C. Secretary (*new Chair presiding*)
- 5. **Review and Adopt Draft Agenda** (*Chair*) 1
- 6. **Review and Approve Minutes of October 13, 2010 Meeting** (*Chair*) 5
- 7. **Wildlife Closure Review and Council Recommendations** (*Cole Brown, OSM*) 19
 - A. Closure Review Briefing
 - B. Closure Policy
 - C. WCR10-10—Unit 22B — Muskoxen
 - D. WCR10-11—Unit 22B West of Darby Mountains — Moose
 - E. WCR10-12—Unit 22B West of Darby Mountains — Moose
 - F. WCR10-13—Unit 22D within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim River drainages — Moose
 - G. WCR10-14—Unit 22D west of the Tisuk River drainages and Canyon Creek — Moose
 - H. WCR10-16—Unit 22E — Moose
- 8. **Call for Proposals to Change Federal Subsistence Wildlife Regulations** (*Chair*)
(*Proposal Deadline is March 24, 2011*)

9. Review and Finalize Draft 2010 Annual Report (Coordinator)

10. Council Charter Review (Coordinator)..... 44

11. Agency and Organization Reports

- A. Office of Subsistence Management
 - 1. Travel procedures update (Coordinator)
 - 2. Secretarial Program Review Update and Actions Needed (Pete Probasco, OSM)
 - a. Letter from Secretary to Federal Subsistence Board Chair Tim Towarak.....47
 - b. Federal Subsistence Board Action Items:
 - i. Expansion of Board to include two new members representing rural Alaskan subsistence users (review and comment)
 - ii. Deference to Councils on items other than matters of “take” (informational, no action needed at this time)
 - iii. Review of Memorandum of Understanding51
 - a. Briefing document
 - b. Memorandum of Understanding (review and comment)
 - iv. Customary and traditional use determinations (input from Councils)
 - a. Is current process working for you?
 - b. If not, how or what would you change?
 - v. Rural determinations (informational, no action needed at this time)
 - vi. Executive session policy (informational, no action needed at this time)
 - vii. Tribal consultation — outline of process to date
 - a. Letter from Tim Towarak to all Council members
 - viii. Other?
 - 3. Salmon bycatch in the Groundfish Fisheries
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- E. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Tony Gorn)
- F. Organizations
- G. Other

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- A. Confirm Fall 2011 Meeting Date and Location
- B. Select Winter 2012 Meeting Date and Location

13. Other Business

14. Closing comments

15. Adjourn

If you have any questions regarding this agenda or need additional information, please contact Alex Nick, toll free at 1-800-621-5804 ext. 257 or 543-1037; by fax at 907-543-4413; or email to alex_nick@fws.gov.

Teleconferencing is available upon request. You must call Alex Nick at 1-800-621-5804 ext 257, 907-543-1037 or the Office of Subsistence Management, at 1-800-478-1456, 786-3888 or 786-3676, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to receive this service. Please state which agenda topic interests you and whether you wish to testify regarding it.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting, Computer Aided Real-time Translation (CART) or other accommodation needs to Alex Nick no later than Tuesday, February 7, 2011. Call 1-800-621-5804 ext 257, fax 907-543-4413, or email alex_nick@fws.gov

If you need alternative formats or services because of a disability, please contact the Diversity and Civil Rights Manager at (907)786-3328 (Voice), via e-mail at douglas_mills@fws.gov, or via Alaska Relay (dial 7-1-1 from anywhere in Alaska or 1-800-770-8255 from out-of-state) for hearing impaired individuals with your request by close of business Tuesday, February 7, 2011.

REGION 7—SEWARD PENINSULA REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Seat	Yr Apptd <i>Term Expires</i>	Member Name & Community
1	2007 2013	Anthony Martin Keyes Jr. Wales
2	1995 2013	Peter Garfield Buck Secretary White Mountain
3	2010 2013	Louis H. Green Jr. Nome
4	2010 2013	Tom L. Gray Nome
5	2008 2011	R. Weaver Ivanoff Chair Unalakleet
6	2005 2011	Peter P. Martin Sr. Stebbins
7	2008 2011	Fred D. Eningowuk Shishmaref
8	1994 2012	Elmer K. Seetot Jr. Brevig Mission
9	2005 2012	Michael H. Quinn Vice-Chair Nome
10	2010 2012	Timothy Edwin Smith Nome

Draft
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Minutes of October 13, 2010 Meeting
Aurora Inn
Nome, Alaska

Meeting called to order by Ralph W. Weaver, Chair

Roll call by Alex Nick, Council Coordinator

Members present:

Ralph W. Weaver, Unalakleet
Mike Quinn, Nome
Peter G. Buck, White Mountain
Elmer K. Seetot, Jr., Brevig Mission
Fred D. Eningowuk, Shishmaref
Anthony M. Keyes, Jr., Wales
Peter M. Martin, Sr., Stebbins

Meeting Participants:

Pete Probasco, OSM; Alex Nick, OSM; Helen Armstrong, OSM; Don Riverd, OSM; Ken Adkisson, NPS; Fred Tocktoo, NPS; Tina Hile, Court Reporter; Janet Pomrenke, NPS; Joni Sweetman, BSFA; John Linderman, ADF&G; Steve Kessler, Forest Service; Charlie Lean, Director of the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation's Fisheries Research and Development Program; Roy Ashenfelter; Tom sparks, BLM; Pat Pourchot, Department of the Interior; Tony Gorn, ADF&G; Letty Hughes, ADF&G; Nikki Rob, ADF&G Subsistence; Mike Sloan, Kawerak fisheries biologist; Jerry Trigg, Nome Eskimo Community;

Welcome Remarks:

Ralph Ivanoff, Chair, provided welcome remarks and said that he'd like to welcome everybody for coming to Nome and for those who are from out of town and those from Nome who come to the Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee meeting he appreciates their realization of the importance of the meeting. While he went through the packet he noticed there's a lot of work that's been done, both done by the State and the Federal and Office of Subsistence Management staff, he appreciates the work that's been done. The Council work book is very extensive and it's thorough and he appreciates the diligent work staff did. And he welcomed the Regional Advisory Committee members from out of town as well and he is glad members made it in just in time considering the inclement weather.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association was added to the agenda with Ms. Jo Sweetman as a presenter upon request.

Motion

Peter Martin, Sr. moved seconded by Michael Quinn to adopt agenda as revised. Motion carried.

Review and Adopt Draft Minutes from October 13, 2010

Member Fred D. Eningowuk requested in the minutes of the last meeting that his D be added because there is another Fred Eningowuk in the area. So his name will show as Fred D. Eningowuk in these and future minutes of the meeting.

Motion

Peter Martin, Sr. moved seconded by Michael Quinn to approve minutes from March 9 and 10, 2010 meeting as revised.

Motion carried.

Council Member Reports

- Mr. Quinn: He's got not much to report from the subregion as local people have not brought up anything of concern on the Federal management of the resources. There's some dissatisfaction with the State management of the resources as far as fisheries are concerned since most of the last period has been spent fishing, people are working to improve things in the region where things needs to be improved.
- Mr. Keyes: He said that they are starting to have some problems with bears in his region, bears started to accumulate and grow at a certain pace and nobody's really done any bear hunting in the subregion. One day's count while riding on a four- wheeler about eight bears was observed in one day and another 15 bears the next day. So bear population in the subregion is getting a little too big for comfort and something needs to be done about that.
- Mr. Eningowuk: He's been hearing from his community about the bears being observed. There are too many bears in the area and the local people would like something to be done about that to deal with them.
- Mr. Martin: Stebbins had a good spring hunting season and they,ve enjoyed some good fishing as well. There was good fall moose hunt enjoyed by hunters and at this point and time they're going after some migratory birds. And for the first time since a long time ago there were a lot of snow geese in the area.
- Mr. Seetot: with regards to fishing in area the first few fish caught by residents of Brevig Mission, that is from Brevig Mission to Nuk which is a spit, they caught some fish and when fish are cooked the fish smelled like petroleum products, that was pretty much the first run, maybe the first two weeks of the season and those were variety of chum species at least four to five were caught in the Brevig area, one from Teller area who noticed the petroleum taste after cooking a salmon. After the first two weeks no one caught fish that tastes like petroleum. So that was a concern by Teller and Brevig Mission for a while and they continued to fish. The majority of the fish harvested from the area were chum salmon. Very few red salmon were caught and very few silver salmon were caught by the gillnet fisherman along the coastal area. Regarding migratory birds, snow geese were still around last week. Usually the snow geese are gone by the third or fourth week in month of September. So everything's been showing some changes like two to four weeks later than normal.
- Mr. Buck: Fishing was satisfactory but in some areas it wasn't that good. And as Elmer said earlier the seasons are changing really fast for the area. These things are happening in the area and it was noticed by locals that the swallows came earlier and left earlier,

about two weeks ahead of schedule. So concerned local people are going to observe these things and see what's going to happen to the fish species and game species in the area.

- Mr. Ivanoff: He said in regards to the fish smelling like petroleum in the first few weeks in Brevig Mission to Nuk area, there is possibility to get together with staff and the Office of Subsistence Management and discuss Fishery Monitoring Program proposals for 2012 and Council could work with one of the agencies in monitoring program and take some samples of the fish for the next two or three years to see if indeed some contaminants are present in the local fish species. This is salmon related topic and there are some proposals that might be a way to take a look at what kind of contamination are present in the region.

2011-2013 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Proposals

Council opposed FP11-01: *Requests that all gillnets (subsistence and commercial) with grater than 6-inch stretch mesh be restricted to not more than 35 meshes in depth in Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage*

Council opposed FP11-06: *Would restrict the depth of 7.5 inch stretch mesh gillnets to 20 meshes in depth in Yukon River District 4 and 5*

Don Rivard presented analysis for these two proposals. Some of the Council's concern was use of smaller mesh size gear that could eliminate smaller salmon with potential to grow larger. Other concerns were limitations of gillnets in the Yukon River due to currents and width of the Yukon River

Motion

Michael Quinn made a motion seconded by Anthony Keyes to adopt proposals FP11-01/06. Motion failed 0-7.

There is potential impact on subsistence users should these proposals are adopted. Lot of expenses will be incurred in the entire Yukon River on gear change.

Council opposed FP11-02: *Requests that the Federal Public waters of the Yukon River be closed to subsistence and commercial fishing from the river mouth to the Canadian border during the first pulse and second pulse if necessary of the Chinook salmon run. These rolling closures would correspond to the periods of the Chinook salmon migration when stocks returning to Canadian waters constitute the majority of the run. No harvest on these stocks would be allowed for at least 12 years or until such time as this stock's abundance and escapement quality (age/sex/length) is restored to a level that provides sustained yields to support historic commercial and subsistence fisheries.*

Don Rivard presented analysis for proposal FP11-02. Some of the Council's concerns were that subsistence fisherman should be allowed to harvest first and second pulses of Chinook run. And 12 year subsistence closure would not allow subsistence fishers to harvest any of the surplus run when available to harvest.

Motion

Michael Quinn moved seconded by Peter Buck and Anthony Keyes to adopt proposal FP11-02. Motion failed 0-7.

There have been fragments of management approach impacting subsistence salmon fishers. Yukon River subsistence fisherman were dissatisfied last year and they felt very restricted when fishing restrictions were imposed.

Council took no action on FP11-03: *Requests that Federal public waters of Yukon River District 5-D be further subdivided into three Subdivisions to provide managers additional flexibility to more precisely regulate harvest while conserving the Chinook salmon run that spawns in the upper Yukon River*

Don Rivard presented analysis for proposal FP11-03. Council's concern was that there is hardly anything they could do about this proposal because it is outside of the region.

Motion

Michael Quinn moved seconded by Peter Buck the council take no action on this proposal.

Motion carried.

Proposed area is far upriver in the Yukon River and it does not affect the Seward Peninsula region.

Council took no action on FP11-04: *Requests the use of fish wheels be prohibited for the harvest of salmon in District 4 and 5 of the Yukon Area, to allow more fish to escape to the spawning grounds.*

Don Rivard presented analysis of proposal FP11-04. Council's concern is doing away with use of fishwheel to harvest fish would be like taking away something that is customary and traditional method to harvest fish.

Motion

Michael Quinn moved seconded by Peter Martin and Anthony Keyes to take no action on this proposal.

It would be rude to take away harvest opportunity by use of fish wheels. It would be unnecessary to adopt this proposal.

Council opposed FP11-05: *Has two parts. It requests that the Federal Subsistence Board preclude customary trade of salmon in Yukon River District 4 and 5, and it requests that the Board preclude the use of salmon for dog food in Yukon river District 4 and 5, with the exception of whole Chinook salmon caught incidentally during a subsistence chum salmon fishery in the Koyukuk River drainage*

Ms. Helen Armstrong presented the analysis for proposal FP11-05. Council was concerned about restricting Customary Trade in districts 4 and 5 while allowing Customary Trade in districts 1, 2, and 3. Council posed couple of questions. How would State of Alaska's staff define customary trade since Alaska became State in 1959? Who within the state government keeps records of customary trade? What about customary trade activities before the statehood? Customary Trade in Alaska existed prior to 1959 and Alaska Territorial government regulated resources followed by the state regulations. Council wants subsistence fishers to benefit from legally harvested fish. If something is done about customary trade, it should apply Yukon River drainagewide.

Motion

Michael Quinn moved seconded by Peter Buck to adopt proposal FP11-05.
Motion failed 0-7.

There is constant opposition to the customary trade by subsistence users in the Yukon River. Council agrees with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional Advisory Council justifications to oppose the proposal. This proposal would only restrict customary trade in District 4 and 5.

Council took no action on FP11-07: *Requests that the use of drift gillnets be prohibited for the harvest of salmon in Districts 4 and 5 of the Yukon Area, to allow more fish to escape to the spawning grounds. Both Federal and State regulations do not allow the use of drift gillnets for the harvest of salmon in District 5. Therefore, the proposal only applies to the use of drift gillnets for the harvest of salmon by Federally-qualified users in the Federal public waters of District 4.*

Don Rivard presented proposal FP11-07. Council's concerns were that there are pockets of management areas and no drift fishery between Ruby and Galena as a result of that. Council wondered if that's the way map of the proposed area is drawn upon State enforcement wishes. There was a time when fishwheels were not traditional method for subsistence. Now fishwheels are becoming traditional fish harvest method.

Motion

Michael Quinn moved seconded by Anthony Keyes the Council take no action on this proposal.

Motion carried.

There are specific areas for use of drift gillnets in the area and along the Yukon River for subsistence fishing.

Council took no action on FP11-08: *Requests that customary trade in the Yukon River Fisheries Management Area be prohibited in any year when Chinook salmon runs are sufficient to fully satisfy subsistence harvest needs and subsistence fisheries are restricted. As submitted, the prohibition would only affect customary trade between rural residents.*

Ms. Helen Armstrong presented summary of analysis for proposal FP11-08. Council needed clarification on Chinook and other salmon possible restrictions. Council indicated regardless of restrictions, people's wishes are to taste salmon and are willing to buy some fish from other rural residents. Council indicated before statehood, some Native people who were less fortunate subsistence fishing bought fish from other rural residents. Customary trade tradition was passed on to younger generations from elders and has gone on since immemorial times. Taking this Native tradition away would cause unrest for some rural residents regardless of what new laws require. When one family is affected, entire village can be affected by new laws on customary trade. Council appears to be knowledgeable about modern fish biological information, traditional knowledge about fish biology, and predators from spawning to adult fish.

Motion

Michael Quinn moved seconded by Peter Buck to take no action on this proposal.

Motion carried.

Council supports the idea to establish a working group to deal with this issue because working group recommendations could work.

Council opposed FP11-09: *Requests that the Federal Subsistence board limit the customary trade of Chinook salmon in the Yukon River Management Area and requires a customary trade recordkeeping form. The proposal also requests that the Board impose a geographic constraint to the customary trade of Chinook salmon caught in the Yukon River Management Area; such trade, including the delivery of fish to a purchaser, should only occur in the Yukon River Management Area.*

Ms. Helen Armstrong presented summary of analysis for proposals FP11-09. Council needed clarification on Section 27. (C) (11). Council also needed clarification on state's comment relating to enforcement of customary trade. Council is aware that there is a problem with enforcement of violations such as illegal customary trade because of budget shortfalls to deal with the issue. Culturally prepared Native food will always remain with Natives. Customary trade between rural residents occurs in every small village contrary to existing Federal and State regulations. Problem with recordkeeping is expected to be ongoing because this is one way some local people support their family. Native people don't keep records of subsistence harvests and what they share with other rural resident. To keep records would cause embarrassing outcome because you would be required to provide your name, driver's license, birth date, local people are not used to doing things like that.

Motion

Elmer Seetot, Jr. moved seconded by Fred D. Eningowuk to adopt proposal FP11-09.

Motion failed 0-7.

Restricting customary trade and record-keeping is not working any where else including Bristol Bay region.

The Seward Peninsula Council also supports the three Yukon Councils creating a working group to work together to resolve these issues.

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program – Review and Make Recommendations on Priority Needs for 2012 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

The Seward Peninsula Council voted to make following recommendations with additions to the Northern Region following priority information needs:

Add Seward Peninsula to the first bullet that says "Baseline harvest assessment. . ." Spawning distribution, run timing, and stock structure of the Norton Sound non-salmon species. biological information and staff needs to further discuss this before this is included for all fish species harvested by the Shishmaref residents.

Public comment:

Charlie Lean, director of the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation's Fisheries Research and Development Program, provided comment stating that he strongly suggested that the non-salmon species are important to Seward Peninsula region, that Federal waters include Dolly Vardens on the Iguupuk, burbot in many rivers or also known as lush or lingcod. And Cisco whitefish is becoming an issue in the adjacent RAC on the lower Yukon as well as other forms of whitefish that have some commercial value and there is potential research on those

species in the near future not just as subsistence species but including commercial nature. It would behoove all of subsistence users to know more about numbers and historic use patterns and what potential conflicts are on those species. Speaking with Ms. Melinda Reynolds with the Park Service that works as a marine ecologist if he has her title correct and Merlin, a biologist that works with BLM, both interested in those species on the Federal public lands and waters. Mr. Lean also is interested on those fresh water species including sheefish.

Council is concerned that whenever any species has commercial harvest interests such as crab fishing, the species numbers could lead toward decrease of species numbers causing less subsistence harvests.

Motion

Michael Quinn moved seconded by Peter buck to approve priority information needs for 2012 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

Motion carried.

Federal public land surrounds the community of Shishmaref.

Council Business

Ralph Ivanoff stated that he didn't know the Council has responsibility to submit its annual reports until last time Council met. He spoke with Mr. Don Rivard with Office of Subsistence Management and get an idea what regional issues could be included in the annual report. Any issues can be identified for Council's annual report and that is what he understood. So the Council may include any subsistence resource issue or ask for something to be done about them using this venue.

After discussions of possible annual report topics, following topics were identified and agreed upon to be drafted by the Council Coordinator.

- Federal involvement on fisheries research projects in Seward Peninsula region
- Bear problems or bear population control
- Research on subsistence fisheries why petroleum taste is present in early fishery harvests within part of Seward Peninsula region
- Streamlining Council nominations process

Federal Management Program Review Update

Motion

Mr. Michael Quinn made a motion seconded by Elmer Seetot, Jr. to suspend the rules and allow Mr. Pat Purchot give update on Federal Management Program review.

Motion carried.

Mr. Purchot update Council stating the Secretary initiated a review of the Federal Subsistence Program almost a year ago, and the announcement during the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage last year was made. The review of the program was conducted out of the Secretary's office, primarily out of Mr. Purchot's office in Anchorage. Purchot and his staff went throughout the state and held meetings in about 13 different communities and with approximately 45 different organizations, solicited input and comments from variety of people interested in subsistence and heard from about 115 different individual's comments. Information

was placed on a web site and initiated even more comments on the review. Review was wrapped up and got done about the same time the Gulf oil spill happened. There was a big gap and as most of the Department of Interior's attention was diverted to the Gulf. At the end of August 2010 a press release went out with findings and the actions recommended for the subsistence review. It was a summary document and then since then a public report with additional information about how the review was conducted and some of the recommendations and the findings was sent out to all of the Regional Advisory Councils and all the interested people who commented on the review. The Secretary intends that the Federal Subsistence Board put together regulations to increase the Federal Subsistence Board by two public members representing subsistence users. Number of comments were heard and testimonies that the Board is primarily made up of bureaucrats and there's a lot of truth to that and that was the original plan when it looked like the Federal program was going to be short-lived, just last a little while until the State of Alaska could amend the constitution and regain management for subsistence resources. Obviously that was 20 years ago and it doesn't look like the State of Alaska will regain subsistence program. So it looks like this is a chance to broaden the Board out a little bit more to include more subsistence users. That would require adopting regulations to add subsistence user members and it will take months to do that, public review period of the regulations and then the regulations would be finalized and the Secretary would advertise and make two additional appointments to the Federal Subsistence Board. That is intended and recognized in the action item that the Regional Advisory Councils would provide input into that process, both in the regulatory process to create the positions and to allow comment period and make suggestions and nominations for the additional members of the Federal Subsistence Board. The second thing that affects the Board, we heard a lot of testimony and particularly from the Regional Advisory Council Chairs when we met twice with the Federal Regional Advisory Council Chairs and heard a lot of testimony about the lack of deference to the Regional Advisory Councils not for takings, the actual regulations resulting or involving takings, but also it was feeling the Regional Advisory Councils should be given deference for other things affecting the subsistence program. Regional Advisory Councils have offered comments on from time to time and the feeling was that the Regional Advisory Councils should be given deference for all things that are directly related with subsistence regulations and management. The Secretary is instructing the Federal Subsistence Board to give deference to the Regional Advisory Councils for all things that are related to subsistence management. The Secretary also included for specific mention to include Regional Advisory Councils input on a review of some of the existing guidelines and procedures for determination of rural, non-rural, which is going to come up again with the new census, again including the Regional Advisory Councils in the review of customary and traditional use and some of those guidelines that are in regulation and the procedures for determining those uses. The Secretary has asked the Board to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Alaska, which has been quite of controversial. In that review the Secretary asked the Board specifically to consult with the Regional Advisory Councils on reviewing MOU to see if it's needed, whether it needs improvement or changes and with the idea of making sure that the Federal authorities are protected in that MOU. The Council asked questions and answers were given by Mr. Pourchot.

Agency Reports/Updates

Office of Subsistence Management(OSM) Briefing

Bear Laws

Helen Armstrong with OSM provided the briefing and stated this is not an action item. The status report of the Brown Bear Working Group and she thanked Peter Buck for attending, the group met for the third time in July of 2010 in Anchorage. All of the Councils except the Western

Interior Council were represented as were State and Federal agencies and this was done in conjunction with Alaska Department of Fish & Game staff. Mr. Larry Van Daele and Ms. Armstrong were chairing the committee and it was done quite cooperatively and was an excellent meeting. As at other meetings the discussion of the meeting focused on the central question that is there is a need to change regulations to sell handicrafts made from brown bear claws. And if that is done can regulations be developed that are non burdensome for subsistence users. After much discussion, the details of which are included in the briefing document, the Working Group came to the consensus in principle that there could be regulations developed that would protect the subsistence user and satisfy existing regulatory frameworks. The Working Group also agreed that the original proposal that was submitted by the State should be rejected and a new proposal be developed. The new proposal will be developed by agency staff and the proposal and a staff analysis will be presented to all Councils at a later date. Once the Councils have provided their input it will be taken up and voted on by the Federal Subsistence Board. A proposal will be drafted and submitted in a wildlife regulatory proposal cycle time period.

Mr. Peter Buck introduced himself and he reported to the Council and audience that he attended bear claw working group and he learned a lot from the meeting. He made recommendations to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff and law enforcement officers, and that people didn't harvest bears that many all over Alaska. He wondered if Kawerak was represented because group talked about the bear claws, artifacts made from bear parts and what could be done about bear parts such as paws, for food products, and including the sale of bear bladder. He suggested to the group why not put all that information on a web site with information about law enforcement officers, agencies that develops the regulations, people that has interests to buy bear claws, or those who buys all of the parts of the bears. After gathering this information, people interested could hold meetings and deal with this issue.

Salmon Bycatch Update

Don Rivard with OSM updated the Council on the response to Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's letter sent to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in June 2010 update on Chinook salmon bycatch management. That's pretty much done now and they're going to be starting the new regulations in January, 2011. The chum salmon bycatch management the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is still dealing with that issue. During its Sitka meeting they finalized the management alternatives for their staff to analyze and copies from that are available. North Pacific Fishery Management Council members and its staff plans to attend five Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings including the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. Rivard suggest the Council reiterate its interest having them come to the meeting and OSM will relay that to North Pacific Fishery Council. And in June of 2011, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council plans to meet in Nome to select the preliminary preferred alternative which must be within the range of alternatives that they identified in June 2010. And in October of 2011, and this is still tentative, they plan to do the final action and select their final preferred alternative which will be provided to the Secretary of Commerce for a decision and then rulemaking process will follow after that. Mr. Rivard read Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for clarification purposes. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is composed of 15 members, 11 voting and 4 non-voting. Seven of the voting members are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce upon the recommendations of the Governors of Alaska and Washington. The Governors must submit three names for each vacancy occurring on the Council and may indicate a preferred choice. The Governor of Alaska nominates candidates for five seats, the Governor of Washington two seats. Each member is appointed to a three year term and may be reappointed, but may not exceed three consecutive terms. There are four mandatory voting

members, they are the leading fishery officials from the states of Alaska, Washington and Oregon and the Alaska Regional Director for the National Marine Fisheries Service. The four non-voting members are the Executive Director of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Regional Director for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Commander of the 17th Coast Guard District and a representative from the U.S. State Department. One option for rural Tribal organizations is to let the Governor of Alaska know, and this is kind of what Chris said, directly of their interest in serving on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Federal Permits

Ms. Helen Armstrong update Council very briefly on the Federal permits and said OSM staff are all excited about it in OSM office because staff can see so much and do so much for wildlife only right now, staff are moving towards doing fisheries management and then staff are hoping to move towards web based reporting for those people who have access to computers that people are entering a new age of technology. That's all and this is just for Council's information.

National Park Service

Ken Adkisson with the National Park Service, and will combine his presentation with Ms. Jeanette Pomrenke, Park Superintendent. He briefly reviewed some of NPS activities for the year including their plans for the upcoming year, especially as related to wildlife. Ms. Jeanette Pomrenke has some material she wants to share with the Council in terms of Nationwide Park Service initiative to revise some regulations related to the gathering of plants, minerals and other things by tribal members for traditional and cultural purposes. In terms of the activities related to the program their wildlife efforts especially are integrated with a larger Park Service program known as the Inventory and Monitoring Program. And agency's four Arctic parks are really integrated with the Arctic Network which provides and manages Inventory and Monitoring Program. There's a great deal of exchange both in terms of funding and staffing that goes on to accomplish those. In general the Arctic Network is charged with developing first of all an inventory of resources and this is accomplished and they are moving on to the monitoring stage. That's done through the identification of a whole series of vital signs. Many of these are larger system drivers like weather, climate, ice cover, land cover, soils, vegetation, things like that do affect many of our wildlife and fishery resources. The identifications signs specifically related to various animal species were already done. Key identifications for NPS are muskox and dall sheep, moose, and brown bear. And the way they approach that is in some cases the Inventory Program funds and largely handles certain aspects of that under a protocol system where they may concentrate on abundance and distribution of the species. A lot of the other specie's population information that NPS would like to have for better management could be gathered. So in the future Council probably will hear more about how all of that is working. There's a handout with several with pages which kind of lays out the diversity of project activities that NPS been engaged with in 2010 throughout the four Arctic Parks which includes Bering Land Bridge, the three up around Kotzebue and then the Gates of the Arctic National Park. These conservation units are all part of the Inventory and Monitoring Program. NPS looks at what's been done with dall sheep and also on the back page a list of vital signs. Mostly resource briefs give contact points you can contact, contact the Park Service in Nome. Mr. Adkisson went on and updated Council on other briefings like development of protocol, caribou projects, GPS/GIS collaring projects, Caribou Working Groups, and population surveys including projects Park Service is involved with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Adkisson's update was quite lengthy.

Ms. Jeanette Pomreke, Park Service Superintendent added that in front of Council is a handout that talks about tribal consultation meetings to consider new regulations allowing gathering in National Parks by Federally recognized Alaskan Tribes for traditional purposes. The National

Park Service is considering changes to current regulations to allow Tribal members to continue and renew cultural traditions on National Park Service lands. The proposed regulation change would only affect plants and minerals to be used for traditional purposes. Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments, requires Federal agencies to consult with tribal governments when developing regulation that may affect them. The National Park Service has met with tribal leaders in the lower 48 states and is beginning to meet with Federally recognized tribal leaders in Alaska to consult on a government to government basis about how the current regulations found at 36 CFR 2.1 could be changed to address tribal needs. Changes are not intended to address subsistence fishing and hunting practices which are covered by other regulation under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, but focus primarily on the use and the gathering of plants, minerals and other non-wildlife or fisheries natural resources. At consultation meetings Tribal leaders will be asked one, to help identify the kinds of traditional purposes that can be served by gathering plants and minerals in National Parks and two, suggest mutually acceptable process to manage the program such as who might be eligible to gather, how gathering can be monitored and managed by the National Park Service and Tribal governments. At these meetings the National Park Service will discuss the framework and process for any proposed regulatory changes. Written comments can be sent to the Superintendent of the National Park unit that the Tribe has an association with or through further discussion with the National Park Service staff. So the National Park Service will be scheduling consultation, there will be a letter sent out to the three prime communities are Shishmaref, Wales and Deering for Tribal consultation, talking about this issue. Ms. Pomrenke will be sending out a letter, if other Tribes in Nome would like a letter or discussion about it I would be happy to also. This does not include any other Federal public lands, no BLM.

Bureau of Land Management

Tom Sparks with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nome Field Station which is part of the Anchorage Field Office, with same field manager and the same district manager provided an update. Sparks said Brian Bourdon is with him at the local office for about a year and six months or so. Mr. Bourdon is going to move to Anchorage, as he took a realty position at the Anchorage Field Office. BLM lost the local hire in Unalakleet, Fred Jay left the organization and joined Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC). BLM had an announcement out for several months and were unable to fill that position. And I think we're going to attempt to try to fill that again and it may be in a combination with the Nome position. BLM did form an agreement with University of Alaska Anchorage(UAA) as part of the Alaska Native Science Environmental Project Program (ANSEP), the Alaska Native Science and Education Program, try to provide some funding for college students and pre- college students and that was a pretty big step. BLM built four cabins along the Iditarod Trail this last summer, one of them close to Shaktoolik. BLM is involved in the Unalakleet weir and that was a cooperative program with the Native Village of Unalakleet, NSEDC and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. BLM is still involved in the Reindeer Grazing Program, some ranges were looked at this year, the Noiqlik and Gray and ranges were looked at as well as the Julia Lee which is the old Karkarek Herd out of Teller and then some areas on the periphery of McCarty's Marsh as well. There was a student intern here in Nome for the summer that was working with a number of herders to try to develop some range management plans. And there were quite a few programs that were funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Program (ARRA), that's the recovery act that President Obama pushed through. There were two programs here on the peninsula dealing with invasive plants, one study up at Salmon Lake they didn't find any invasive plant species at the campground there. And then there was another one done on the Unalakleet River and in the town of Unalakleet and there were a few invasive species that were found there. And there will be some follow-up with that with the community. With wildlife we continued that 22-A moose hunt. It seems the moose population is getting a little better. Budget-wise agency is looking at some

reductions for FY '11 and '12. As a result, Anchorage Field Office has gone from five realty people to two in the last three years. So whether or not that trend continues we'll see. Some of the things he is directly involved with is the land transfer program with the Native Claims Settlement Act. He hopes three villages will get closed this coming fiscal year and those villages are Koyuk, Unalakleet and Shaktoolik. Koyuk will definitely be first. BLM formed an agreement with the village to address some of their final land entitlements and the community of Nome and are working on closing out that village entitlement. Most of all the Native allotments in the region have been done including the veterans' allotments, there were quite a number that got pounded this last year

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Tony Gorn with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) gave an update and he is Unit 22 area biologist in Nome with his assistant area biologist, Letty Hughes. Back in the late 1990s and early 2000s what agency saw was a real shift in the migration pattern of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. At that time there was really kind of an overview and a rewriting of a lot of the caribou regulations on the Seward Peninsula and in many parts of Unit 22. ADF&G worked very closely with the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee and the Reindeer Herders Association. ADF&G relied heavily upon over 20 years of telemetry data of collared Western Arctic Caribou Herd, collared Western Arctic Herd Caribou. It was because of what was found from historical collaring data and concerns from the Reindeer Herders Association why the caribou season in Unit 22E what it is now. Basically, if the Department look east of Jealousy Creek, that's where up to that point caribou were known to migrate, caribou were abundant at least part of the year and just as importantly reindeer were absent. At that time on the other side of Jealousy Creek, is where the reindeer herders ask that the Department don't have a caribou season. And then the common understanding was is that if Western Arctic Caribou Herd does push that far to the west the Department would open the season using an emergency order. In the southern portion of Unit 22A with reference to reindeer herding and brown bear hunting, basically hunters have two options. At this time the bag limit in that part of Unit 22 is two brown bears per year. Should a hunter or anyone else is out herding deer you are able every regulatory year, July 1st to June 30th, harvest two brown bears with no permit required but hunter must possess a valid hunting license and bears must be sealed within 30 days after harvest. Another bear could be harvested in defense of life and property and must be reported to ADF&G. Last spring, for the first time ever agency changed the methodology how muskox is counted on the Seward Peninsula. The Department of Fish and Game worked with a biometrician from the National Park Service in Fairbanks on basically using a distance sampling method that is primarily used in Alaska to count sheep. Agency did what was called the minimum count sampling method for counting muskox. Agency did that from 1970 all the way to 2007 and it's an acceptable method as there's a lot of merit to it. It appears that the Seward Peninsula muskox population is beginning to stabilize. But there were two noteworthy findings in this last year's count. For the first time ever agency expanded the count area off of the Seward Peninsula. Agency counted a new portion of Unit 23 Southwest which is the Tag and east of that country going up into Units 24 and 21. And then agency also counted the Northern portion of 22A and which basically went from north of the Unalakleet River into the Nulato Hills and the agency had never done this before. And Mr. Gorn needed Council to do as RAC members is to talk to the people in Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, and Koyukuk and really get a sense of what it is the residents want to see happen with muskox in the area. In that northern portion of Unit 22A agency found a little over 100 muskox and agency need to know what the people in that area want to do with those animals. Mr. Gorn is going to ask the same thing of the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee, the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee and the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group. This is the third year agency deployed radio collars on the Seward Peninsula muskox and obtained three years of data. The agency want to get a sense of out of this

collaring project are what are natural mortality rates for free-ranging wild muskoxen. And the first year agency found 9 percent, the second year 4 percent rate and this year 23 percent. The natural mortality rate on those animals is a little bit higher but it's just really important that agency keeps pushing with this project and increase samples more refined and the data will become all that much more valuable.

Ms. Letty Hughes with the Alaska Department of fish and Game update Council on the Seward Peninsula muskox projects. Ms. Hughes also update Council regarding animal census surveys and brown bear numbers in the Seward Peninsula region.

Organizations

Gerry Trigg, the travel resource specialist for Nome Eskimo Community made very brief update on Nome Eskimo Community. He said Eskimo Community's 2,400 Tribal members, and could probably add the 3,500 citizens of Nome, needs help. And he said that he don't believe this Committee can help them. But if Council could just take this information, put it in the back of their mind and when they find agencies that might be able to help them, send them on their our way. And the help they need is to find a way to get meat and fish and potatoes onto their tribal members' tables.

Next Meetings

Winter 2011 Meeting

The Council discussed its winter 2011 meeting which was originally scheduled To be held on March 15-16, 2011 in Nome, Alaska. Ms. Helen Armstrong informed Council last fall Council asked to hold its meeting during Iditarod. Hotel indicated at that time that they don't rent meeting room during Iditarod only as lodging room and don't take reservations over telephone during that time. Ms. Armstrong reported to council the hotel blocks out lodging reservations from March 13-23rd. After brief discussion Council choose February 15-16, 2011 in Nome, Alaska.

Fall 2011 Meeting

Alex Nick informed the Council that Northwest Arctic and North Slope Regional Advisory Councils schedule a bi-council meeting on August 23-24, 2011 in Anchorage. Alex Nick informed the Council that two councils invited Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to join them if possible. Pete Probasco informed Council that in order for tri-council meeting to go forward it has to be issue driven. Probasco needs to explore with his coordinators what issue is to justify to meet as bi-councils or tri-councils. Probasco said he would get with the coordinators from Northwest Arctic and North Slope and report to the councils during winter 2011 meeting. In the meantime SPSRAC is to pick a date outside of the two RAC's fall 2011 meeting date. After a brief discussion, SPSRAC choose September 21-22, 2011 meeting date in Nome, Alaska.

Adjourn

Motion

Fred D. Eningowuk made a motion seconded by Anthony M. Keyes, Jr. to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

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

Alex Nick, DFO
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Date

Ralph Weaver Ivanoff, Chair
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Date

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."

**POLICY ON CLOSURES TO HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING
ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS IN ALASKA**

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Adopted August 29, 2007

PURPOSE

This policy clarifies the internal management of the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) and provides transparency to the public regarding the process for addressing Federal closures (closures) to hunting, trapping, and fishing on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska. It also provides a process for periodic review of regulatory closures. This policy recognizes the unique status of the Regional Advisory Councils and does not diminish their role in any way. This policy is intended only to clarify existing practices under the current statute and regulations; it does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the United States, its agencies, officers, or employees, or any other person.

INTRODUCTION

Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) establishes a priority for the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and waters for non-wasteful subsistence uses over the taking of fish and wildlife on such lands for other purposes (ANILCA Section 804). When necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife or to continue subsistence uses of such populations, the Federal Subsistence Board is authorized to restrict or to close the taking of fish and wildlife by subsistence and non-subsistence users on Federal public lands and waters (ANILCA Sections 804 and 815(3)). The Board may also close Federal public lands and waters to any taking of fish and wildlife for reasons of public safety, administration or to assure the continued viability of such population (ANILCA Section 816(b)).

BOARD AUTHORITIES

- ANILCA Sections 804, 814, 815(3), and 816.
- 50 CFR Part 100 and 36 CFR Part 242, Section .10(d)(4).

POLICY

The decision to close Federal public lands or waters to Federally qualified or non-Federally qualified subsistence users is an important decision that will be made as set forth in Title VIII of ANILCA. The Board will not restrict the taking of fish and wildlife by users on Federal public lands (other than national parks and park monuments) unless necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife resources, or to continue subsistence uses of those populations, or for public safety or administrative reasons, or "pursuant to other applicable law." Any individual or organization may propose a closure. Proposed closures of Federal public lands and waters will be analyzed to determine whether such restrictions are necessary to assure conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife resources or to provide a meaningful preference for qualified subsistence users. The analysis will identify

the availability and effectiveness of other management options that could avoid or minimize the degree of restriction to subsistence and non-subsistence users.

Like other Board decisions, closure actions are subject to change during the yearly regulatory cycle. In addition, closures will be periodically re-evaluated to determine whether the circumstances necessitating the original closure still exist and warrant continuation of the restriction. When a closure is no longer needed, actions to remove it will be initiated as soon as practicable. The Office of Subsistence Management will maintain a list of all closures.

Decision Making

The Board will:

- Proceed on a case - by - case basis to address each particular situation regarding closures. In those cases for which conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife resources allows, the Board will authorize non-wasteful subsistence taking.
- Follow the statutory standard of "customary and traditional uses." Need is not the standard. Established use of one species may not be diminished solely because another species is available. These established uses have both physical and cultural components, and each is protected against all unnecessary regulatory interference.
- Base its actions on substantial evidence contained within the administrative record, and on the best available information; complete certainty is not required.
- Consider the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils, with due deference (ANILCA § 805 (c)).
- Consider comments and recommendations from the State of Alaska and the public (ANILCA § 816 (b)).

Conditions for Establishing or Retaining Closures

The Board will adopt closures to hunting, trapping or fishing by non-Federally qualified users or Federally qualified subsistence users when one or more of the following conditions are met:

- Closures are necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife:
 - a) When a fish or wildlife population is not sufficient to provide for both Federally qualified subsistence users and other users, use by non-Federally qualified users may be reduced or prohibited, or
 - b) When a fish or wildlife population is insufficient to sustain all subsistence uses, the available resources shall be apportioned among subsistence users according to their:

- 1) Customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood,
 - 2) Local residency, and
 - 3) Availability of alternative resources, or
- c) When a fish or wildlife population is insufficient to sustain any use, all uses must be prohibited.
- Closures are necessary to ensure the continuation of subsistence uses by Federally qualified subsistence users.
 - Closures are necessary for public safety.
 - Closures are necessary for administrative reasons.
 - Closures are necessary “pursuant to other applicable law.”

Considerations in Deciding on Closures

When acting upon proposals recommending closure of Federal public lands and waters to hunting, trapping, or fishing, the Board may take the following into consideration to the extent feasible:

- The biological history (data set) of the fish stock or wildlife population.
- The extent of affected lands and waters necessary to accomplish the objective of the closure.
- The current status and trend of the fish stock or wildlife population in question.
- The current and historical subsistence and non-subsistence harvest, including descriptions of harvest amounts, effort levels, user groups, and success levels.
- Pertinent traditional ecological knowledge.
- Information provided by the affected Regional Advisory Councils and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- Relevant State and Federal management plans and their level of success as well as any relationship to other Federal or State laws or programs.
- Other Federal and State regulatory options that would conserve healthy populations and provide a meaningful preference for subsistence, but would be less restrictive than closures.

Closure Policy

- The potential adverse and beneficial impacts of any proposed closure on affected fish and wildlife populations and uses of lands and waters both inside and outside the closed area.
- Other issues that influence the effectiveness and impact of any closure.

Reviews of Closures

A closure should be removed as soon as practicable when conditions that originally justified the closure have changed to such an extent that the closure is no longer necessary. A Regional Council, a State or Federal agency, or a member of the public may submit, during the normal proposal period, a proposal requesting the opening or closing of an area. A closure may also be implemented, adjusted, or lifted based on a Special Action request according to the criteria in 50 CFR 100.19 and 36 CFR 242.19.

To ensure that closures do not remain in place longer than necessary, all future closures will be reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board no more than three years from the establishment of the closure and at least every three years thereafter. Existing closures in place at the time this policy is implemented will be reviewed on a three-year rotational schedule, with at least one - third of the closures reviewed each year.

Closure reviews will consist of a written summary of the history and original justification for the closure and a current evaluation of the relevant considerations listed above. Except in some situations which may require immediate action through the Special Action process, closure review analyses will be presented to the affected Regional Council(s) during the normal regulatory proposal process in the form of proposals to retain, modify or rescind individual closures.

/S/ Mike R. Fleagle

Chair, Federal Subsistence Board

/S/ Thomas O. Melius

Board Member, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

/S/ Niles Cesar

Board Member, Bureau of Indian Affairs

/S/ Denny Bschor

Board Member, U.S. Forest Service

/S/ Marcia Blaszak

Board Member, National Park Service

/S/ T. P. Lonnie

Board Member, Bureau of Land Management

**FEDERAL WILDLIFE CLOSURE REVIEW
WCR10-10**

Closure Location: Muskox – Unit 22B

Current Federal Regulation:

1 bull by Federal permit or State permit. Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the BLM Nome Field Office, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands and ADF&G. Aug. 1–Mar. 15

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users.

Closure Dates: Aug. 1–Mar. 15

Current State Regulations:

Unit 22B that portion east of the Darby Mtns., including drainages of Kwiniuk, Tubutulik, Koyuk and Inglutalik rivers — Muskox

<i>Residents: One bull by permit available in person at license vendors in Unit 22B. Quota to be announced. Season will be closed by emergency order when quota is filled.</i>	<i>All skulls require trophy destruction if skull removed from Unit 22</i>	Permit <i>RX105</i>	Open Season <i>Aug 1–Mar 15</i>
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Unit 22B remainder — Muskox

<i>Residents: One bull by permit available in person at license vendors in Unit 22B. Quota to be announced. Season will be closed by emergency order when quota is filled.</i>	<i>All skulls require trophy destruction if skull removed from Unit 22</i>	Permit <i>RX105</i>	Open Season <i>Jan 1–Mar 15</i>
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Regulatory Year Initiated: 2001

Proposal number of initial closure and any subsequent proposals: Proposal 88 (1998) proposed establishing a muskox season in Unit 22B to only Federally qualified subsistence users. However, the proposal was rejected by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board). In 2001, the Board adopted Proposal WP01-35, which established a muskox season only for Federally qualified subsistence users in Unit 22B.

Justification for original closure (Section 815(3) criteria): Proposal WP01-35 was the result of a multi-year, cooperative effort of the Seward Peninsula Muskox cooperators Group (Cooperators Group) to establish a muskox harvest system that would be biologically sound in its management and provide for continued subsistence uses of the population. In order to meet these criteria, the Board closed Federal public lands in Unit 22B to non-Federally qualified hunters during the Aug. 1–Mar. 15 season. This has been a successful cooperative effort. Muskox management on the Seward Peninsula has been guided by recommendations from the Cooperators Group. The Cooperators Group is composed of residents

of Seward Peninsula communities, staff from the ADF&G, NPS, BLM, FWS, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Kawaerak Inc., the Reindeer Herders Association, Northwest Alaska Native Association, and representatives from other interested groups and organizations. The Cooperators Group has been involved with muskox management since the 1990s and as the muskox population on the Peninsula has grown, it has provided guidance for liberalizing harvest regulations under both Federal and State jurisdictions. The Cooperators Group was also responsible for developing the Seward Peninsula Cooperative Muskox Management Plan. The harvest rates, division and distribution of the permits, seasons, and harvest limits have all been developed cooperatively.

Regional Advisory Councils recommendation for original closure:

Proposal 88 (1998) — Seward Peninsula Regional Council – Oppose because there are no muskox on Federal public lands within Unit 22B. Subsequent to this proposal, the muskox population expanded into Unit 22B.

WP01-35 — Seward Peninsula Regional Council – Support to increase subsistence opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users.

WP01-35 — Northwest Arctic Regional Council – Support (no reason given)

State recommendation for original closure:

Proposal 88 (1998) — Oppose because there are no muskox on Federal public lands within Unit 22B and the muskox Cooperators Group opposed muskox hunting in Unit 22B.

WP01-35 — Support to establish a muskox hunt in Unit 22B because muskox are established in Unit 22B.

Other significant comments presented when the Board adopted the original closure: None

Current resource abundance related to management objective: The current size and continued growth of the Unit 22B muskox population is meeting the State’s management goals.

The following management goals form the basis of the cooperative interagency management plan for Seward Peninsula muskoxen developed from 1992 through 1994 and follow the guidelines of the ADF&G Muskox Management Policies (Gorn 2007).

- Allow for continued growth and range expansion of the Seward Peninsula muskox population
- Provide for a limited harvest in a manner consistent with the existing State and Federal laws by following the goals/objectives endorsed by the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group and the Seward Peninsula Cooperative Muskox Management Plan
- Manage muskox along the Nome road systems of Units 22B and 22C for viewing, education, and other nonconsumptive uses.
- Work with local reindeer herding interests to minimize conflicts between reindeer and muskox
- Protect and maintain the habitats and other components of the ecosystem upon which muskox depend

- Encourage cooperation and sharing of information among agencies and users of the resource in developing and executing management and research programs

Resource population trend: By 2010, the Seward Peninsula muskox population increased to an estimated 3,120 animals (**Figure 1**; Gorn 2010, pers. comm.). In Unit 22B, muskox are well established west and east of the Darby Mountains. In this area, the population increased from three in 1992 to about 541 animals by 2010 (**Figure 2**; Gorn 2007, Gorn 2010 pers. comm.). As the Seward Peninsula muskox population grew, they moved into Unit 22B and areas to the east (Gorn 2007). Due to movements and expansions within the Seward Peninsula area, harvest limits have been adjusted accordingly for Unit 22B (Gorn 2010, pers. comm.).

The ratios of mature bulls (4 years or older):100 cows has decreased from over 50 mature bulls:100 cows in 2002 to less than 40 mature bulls:100 cows in 2009 (**Figure 3**). The decline in mature bull ratios along with the tendency for hunters to select for mature bulls over younger bulls can lead to a reduced harvest quota in order to help ensure healthy muskox ratios (Gorn 2010, pers. comm.).

The optimal bull:cow ratio for maximizing production is unknown and the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group has not recommended guidelines for managing bull:cow ratios (Gorn 2007). Higher bull:cow ratios may be appropriate adjacent to areas where expansion is desired or lower bull:cow ratios might be adequate in areas to maximize harvest (Gorn 2007).

Harvest trend and/or hunting effort: Unit 22B muskox harvest has varied from 9 to 20 bulls and the quota has been set at 16 bulls for years 2005–2009 (**Table 1**). The majority of the harvest during years 2005–2009 was by Federally qualified subsistence hunters, during the same time period there were four muskox harvested by non-Federally qualified users; one in 2005 and one in 2006 from Unalakleet residents, and two in 2007 from a Unalakleet and Shaktoolik resident (ADF&G 2010). For Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains, rural residents of Unit 22B and 22C are qualified for hunting muskox. For Unit 22B remainder, rural residents of Unit 22B are qualified for hunting muskox. Unalakleet and Shaktoolik residents are in Unit 22A and therefore not Federally qualified to hunt muskox in Unit 22B.

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

- maintain status quo**
 initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the closure
 other recommendation

Justification: Federal public lands should remain closed to non-Federally qualified users for the conservation of a healthy population and to allow the continuation of subsistence uses of muskox (Section 815(3)). Although the muskox population within the Seward Peninsula and in Unit 22B continues to grow, the number harvested is still tightly managed with a quota system and the majority of the harvest has been taken by Federally qualified subsistence hunters and some by residents of Unakleet and Shaktoolik. Therefore, there is not enough of a harvestable surplus to support non-Federally qualified hunters beyond what is being harvested by Federally qualified subsistence hunters.

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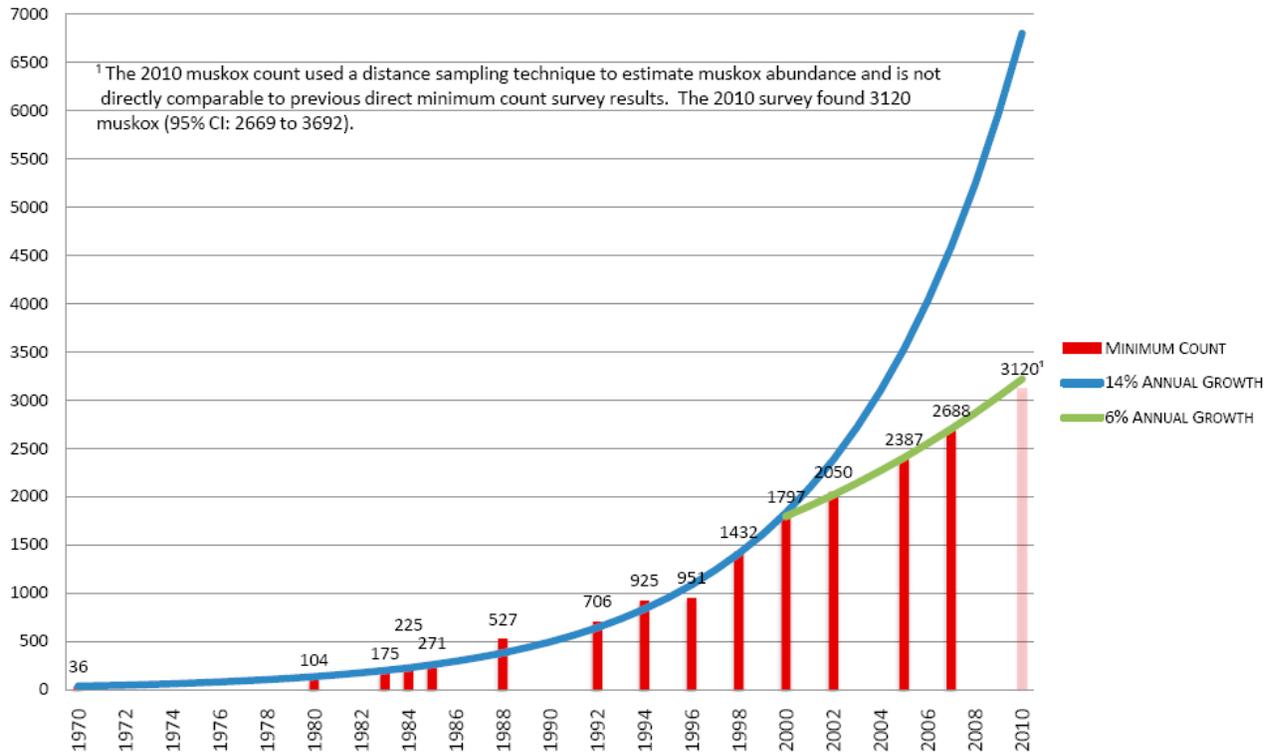


Figure 1. Seward Peninsula muskox counts, 1970–2010 (Gorn 2010, pers. comm.)

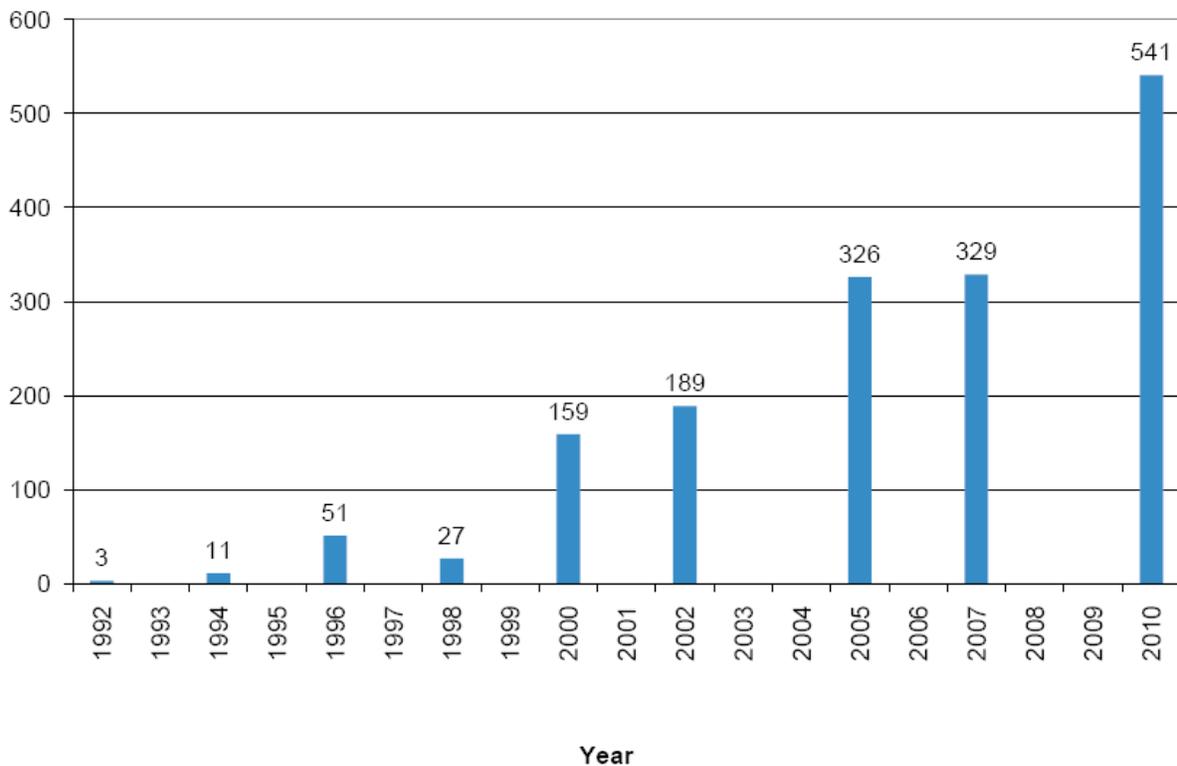


Figure 2. Unit 22B Muskox census counts, 1992-2010 (Gorn 2010, pers. comm.)

Table 1. Unit 22B muskox harvest, 2005–2009 (Gorn 2010, pers. comm.).

Year	Hunt Area	Quota	No. of State Permits Filled Bull	No. of State Permits Filled Cows	No. of Federal Permits Filled Bulls	No. of Federal Permits Filled Cows	Total Bull Harvest	Total Cow Harvest	Total Harvest
2005	22B	16	10	0	0	0	10	0	10
2006	22B	16	15	0	0	2	17	2	17
2007	22B	16	20	0	0	0	20	0	20
2008	RX105 East	5	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
2008	RX105 East	11	6	0	1	0	7	0	7
2009	RX105 West	5	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	3	0	3
2009	RX105 West	11	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	11	0	11

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**FEDERAL WILDLIFE CLOSURE REVIEW
WCR10-11 AND WCR10-12**

Closure Location: Moose — Unit 22B—West of the Darby Mountains

Current Federal Regulations:

WCR10-11

Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains—1 bull by State Registration Permit. Quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the BLM Anchorage Field Office Manager, in consultation with NPS and ADF&G. Sept. 1–Sept. 14

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users.

WCR10-12

Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains—1 bull by either Federal or State Registration Permit. Quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the BLM Anchorage Field Office Manager, in consultation with NPS and ADF&G. Jan. 1–Jan. 31

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose, except by residents of White Mountain and Golovin.

Closure Dates:

WCR10-11: Sept. 1–Sept. 14 Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users

WCR10-12: Jan. 1–Jan. 31 Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose, except by residents of White Mountain and Golovin

Current State Regulations:

Unit 22B remainder —Moose

	<i>Permit/Ticket Required</i>	<i>Open Season</i>
<i>Residents: One bull by permit available online or in person at in Nome ADF&G or at license vendors in Teller, White Mountain, and Golovin beginning July 26. Season closed by emergency order when 15 bulls are taken.</i>	<i>RM840</i>	<i>Sept 1–Sept 14</i>

Residents: One antlered bull by permit available in person at license vendors in White Mountain and Golovin beginning Dec. 1. Season closed by emergency order when 8 bulls are taken.

RM849

Jan 1–Jan 31

Nonresidents:

no open season

Regulatory Year Initiated:

WCR10-11: 2003–04

WCR10-12: 2002–03

Proposal number of initial closure and any subsequent proposals:

WCR10-11 — WP02-34, WSA04-01, WSA04-02, WP05-14a, WP06-40

WCR10-12 — WP02-34, WP02-35, WSA04-01, WSA04-02, WP05-15

Adoption of Proposal WP02-34 by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) in 2002 revised the moose seasons, harvest limit, and restricted harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users in Unit 22B, 22D, and 22E.

In 2004, Special Actions WSA04-01 and WSA04-02 were submitted to make adjustments to the moose harvest quotas in Unit 22B—west of the Darby Mountains for both the fall and winter seasons. Special Action WSA04-01 was adopted by the Board to reduce the combined fall Federal/State harvest quota to 23 moose. Special Action WSA04-02 also was adopted by the Board to reduce the total Federal/State harvest for both the August/September and January seasons to 30 moose. In 2005, the Board adopted WP05-14a which placed the changes made by WSA04-01 and WSA04-02 into permanent regulation. In 2006, the Board adopted Proposal WP06-40, which removed the quota numbers from the regulations and delegated authority to the Anchorage BLM Field Office Manger, in consultation with NPS and the ADF&G to announce any needed closures and quotas.

The Board adopted Proposal WP02-35 to restrict the winter moose harvest in Unit 22B — west of the Darby Mountains to only residents of White Mountain and Golovin. This reduced the pool of Federally qualified subsistence users that are eligible to hunt moose on Federal public lands and was necessary because of the small number of moose available for harvest relative to the number of subsistence users with a customary and traditional use determination to harvest moose (Section 804 of ANILCA).

The Board adopted Proposal WP05-15 to allow the winter harvest quota to remain flexible and give authority for quota announcements and closures to the area Field Office Manager of the BLM, in consultation with NPS and ADF&G.

Justification for original closure (Section 815(3) criteria): In 2002, the Board adopted Proposal WP02-34 to revise the moose and harvest limit, and to restrict harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users for the conservation of a declining moose population.

Regional Advisory Council recommendation for original closure: WP02-34 — Supported with modification to describe Unit 22B Remainder as Unit 22B — east of the Darby Mountains. The Council

felt that this proposal, with their recommended modification, would provide sufficient opportunity for subsistence users while taking the most conservative approach to managing the moose population.

State recommendation for original closure: Supported as modified by OSM to revise the moose season, harvest limit, and restrict harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users.

Other significant comments presented when the Board adopted the original closure: None

Current resource abundance related to management objective: The ADF&G management objective for moose in Unit 22B West (within the affected area) is to maintain the population at 1,000–1,200 moose (Gorn 2008). The most recent Unit 22B West population estimate is 570 moose ($\pm 26\%$ at 90% CI) based on surveys in February 25–March 1, 2010 (Gorn 2010, pers. comm.). This estimate indicates that the ADF&G objective is not being met. Calf to cow ratios were 10 calves:100 adults and the density was 0.23 moose/mi².

Resource population trend: Before 1930, few moose were observed on the Seward Peninsula (Gorn 2008). The population rapidly grew in the 1960s through the early 1980s, and peaked in the mid-1980s. In 1987, the moose population was estimated at 1,894 moose (**Table 1**). Severe winters and insufficient browse thereafter lead to a decline in the population to 476 moose in 1999. Since then, the population increased to about 570 moose in 2010.

Habitat is no longer believed to be a major limiting factor at current population levels; however, brown bear predation on calves is thought to be a significant factor suppressing Unit 22 moose populations (Gorn 2008). Brown bear densities may have increased over the last decade and recruitment rates have been generally low. Analysis of 1996–1998 study results on calf survival indicated that 71% of the calves died within a month and up to 75% had died by three months (Gorn 2008). The last two surveys from 2004 and 2010 indicated 10 calves:100 adults (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Unit 22B West census results (Gorn 2008, Gorn 2010, pers comm.).

Year	Estimated Number of Moose	Calves/100 Adults
1987	1894	13
1992	698	16
1999	476	6
2004	586	10
2010	570	10

Harvest trend and/or hunting effort: Moose harvest within the affected area has remained relatively stable for years 2003–2008 (**Table 2**). The reported fall harvest has ranged from 17–41 moose and the reported winter harvest has ranged from 4–7 moose for years 2003–2008. Local residents of Unit 22 have accounted for 69%–74% of the moose harvested between 1994–2004 and 78%–90% between 2005–2007 (Gorn 2008).

Table 2. Unit 22B moose harvest during Fall (RM840 and RM847) and Winter (RM849) registration hunts, 2003–2008 (ADF&G 2010).

Year	Fall Harvest	Winter Harvest	Total Harvest
	(RM840 and RM847)	(RM849)	
2003	41 (33)	7 (5)	48 (38)
2004	27 (25)	7 (6)	34 (31)
2005	17 (15)	6 (5)	23 (20)
2006	18 (15)	4 (4)	22 (19)
2007	18 (14)	5 (5)	23 (19)
2008	19 (18)	6 (4)	25 (22)
2009	23 (21)	5 (4)	28 (25)

Harvest by Federally qualified subsistence users for the Fall and by residents of Golovin and White Mountain for the Winter are in parentheses.

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

- maintain the closure**
- initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the closure**
- other recommendation**

Justification: The Unit 22B moose population, west of the Darby Mountains, continues to be low and at a low density. There are no indications that there has been any increase in the moose population to justify non-subsistence harvest. The population is still below ADF&G management objectives and the harvest is generally taken by local residents hunting under a quota. Therefore, Federal public lands should remain closed to non-Federally qualified users for the conservation of a healthy population and to allow the continuation of subsistence uses of moose (Section 815(3)) for the fall and winter hunts.

The winter hunt should remain open to the harvest of moose by residents of White Mountain and Golovin. The Federal closure during the winter hunt will help ensure the continuation of subsistence uses of moose (Section 815(3)) for residents of these communities due to the continued small number of moose available for harvest relative to the number of subsistence users with a customary and traditional use determination (Section 804 of ANILCA). Residents of White Mountain and Golovin are the primary users of moose in Unit 22B West of the Darby Mountains and moose are a primary food source (FSB 2002).

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**FEDERAL WILDLIFE CLOSURE REVIEW
WCR10-13**

Closure Location: Moose —Unit 22D—that portion within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim river drainages.

Current Federal Regulation:

Unit 22D — that portion within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim river drainages — 1 bull by State Registration Permit. Quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the BLM Anchorage Field Office Manager, in consultation with NPS and ADF&G. Sept. 1–Sept. 14

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose, except by residents of Units 22C and 22D.

Closure Dates: Sept. 1–Sept. 14 except by Federally qualified subsistence residents of Units 22C and 22D.

Current State Regulations:

Unit 22D

	<i>Permit/Ticket Required</i>	<i>Open Season</i>
<i>Residents: One bull by permit available online or in person in Nome ADF&G or at license vendors in Teller, White Mountain, and Golovin beginning July 26. Season closed by emergency order when 58 bulls are taken.</i>	<i>RM840</i>	<i>Sept 1–Sept 14</i>
<i>Residents: One antlered bull by permit available in person at license vendors in White Mountain and Golovin beginning Dec. 1. Season closed by emergency order when 8 bulls are taken.</i>	<i>RM849</i>	<i>Jan 1–Jan 31</i>
<i>Nonresidents:</i>		<i>No open season</i>

Regulatory Year Initiated: 2002–03

Proposal number of initial closure and any subsequent proposals: WP02-34, WP02-35

In 2005, Special Action WSA05-01 was adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) to reduce the harvest season from Aug. 20 – Sept. 30 to Sept. 1 – Sept. 14 due to conservation concerns resulting from harvests which exceeded the joint State/Federal harvest quota for the Kuzitrin River drainage of Unit 22D in 2003 and 2004, despite seasons being closed early by Emergency Order/Special Action. In 2006, the Board adopted Proposal WP06-40 which placed into permanent regulations the season adopted in Special Action WSA 05-01. Proposal WP06-40 also removed the quota numbers from the regulations and gave delegated authority to the Anchorage Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office Manager, in consultation with National Park Service (NPS), and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to announce any needed closures and quotas.

Justification for original closure (Section 815(3) criteria): The Board adopted WP02-34 revising the moose season, harvest limit, and restricting harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users for the conservation of a declining moose population and to provide Federally qualified subsistence users with an opportunity to harvest moose on Federal public lands in Unit 22D. The Board also adopted Proposal WP02-35, which further restricted moose harvest to rural residents of Unit 22C and 22D based on an ANILCA Section 804 analysis.

Council recommendation for original closure: The council supported WP02-34 and WP02-35 with modification. The Council stated that the modified proposals would provide sufficient opportunity for subsistence users while taking the most conservative approach to managing the moose population.

State recommendation for original closure:

The State supported the conclusion as modified to revise the moose season, harvest limit, and restrict harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users, and supported the conclusions of the 804 analysis to give a priority to rural residents of Unit 22C and 22D to hunt moose in the Kougarok, Kuzitrin, and Pilgrim River drainages.

Other significant comments presented when the Board adopted the original closure: None

Current resource abundance related to management objective: State management goals for moose in Unit 22 are to complete censuses in the 5 subunits of Unit 22 on a 3-year rotational basis to estimate moose abundance. Population estimates of moose in Unit 22D in 2006 were 1565 moose (90% C.I. \pm 22.8%; range 1208–1922 moose) which is below the ADF&G management goal of increasing and stabilizing the total Unit 22D population to 2000–2500 moose (Gorn 2008). In 2006, the Kuzitrin River drainage population estimate was 966 moose (90% C.I. \pm 28.9%; range 687–1246 moose (**Table 1**)). In fall 2008, sex and age composition surveys classified 174 moose and found 33 bulls:100 cows and 10 calves:100 cows. ADF&G plans to conduct sex and age composition surveys in the fall of 2010 and population surveys in spring 2011 (Gorn 2010, personal communication).

Resource population trend: Historically, moose immigrated into the Seward Peninsula in the late 1930s and by the late 1960s became a resident species due to suitable habitat in Unit 22. Moose populations increased during the 1970s and peaked between 7,000 and 10,000 animals during the 1980s (Gorn 2008). Density independent factors, specifically severe winters, were believed to have caused the population to decrease during the early 1990s (Nelson 1995).

ADF&G conducts spring recruitment surveys to determine population estimates, calf:adult ratios and calf recruitment rates for specific river drainages within Unit 22. Within the Kuzitrin River drainage in March 2006, ADF&G estimated 966 moose (90% C.I. \pm 28.9%; range 687–1246 moose), 18 calves:100 adults (\pm 27.3 at 90% CI) and 15% recruitment (**Table 1**). In March 2009, ADF&G completed spring recruitment trend counts in eastern Unit 22D, including portions of the Kuzitrin, Kougarok, and Pilgrim river drainages and classified 700 moose and found 7 calves:100 adults and 6% recruitment.

In fall 2008, sex and age composition surveys classified 174 moose and found 33 bulls:100 cows and 10 calves:100 cows. ADF&G plans to conduct sex and age composition surveys in the fall of 2010 and population surveys in spring 2011 (Gorn 2010, personal communication).

Table 1. Spring recruitment trend survey results within Unit 22D for the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim river drainages (Gorn 2008, Gorn 2010, pers comm.).

Year	Estimated Number of Moose	Density (moose/mi ²)	Calves/100 Adults	Calf Recruitment Rate
1993	1096	1.10	16	n/a
1997	1251	0.70	23	n/a
2002	1028	0.63	13	11%
2006	966	0.51	18	15%

Harvest trend and/or hunter effort: Moose harvest within the affected area has remained relatively stable for years 2004-2008 with the fall harvest between 34 – 44 moose (**Table 2**). Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose by non-Federally qualified subsistence users only for the fall season. The state offers a winter season which was intended to allow non-Federally qualified users the opportunity to harvest moose not taken in the fall hunt (Gorn 2010, pers. comm.); therefore an understanding of the total harvest that exists for both the state and Federal hunts is necessary to determine the impact from harvest. The state fall season is closed by emergency order when 58 bulls are harvested and the harvest quota for this portion of Unit 22D is not consistently filled.

Table 2. Unit 22D that portion within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim river drainages. Moose harvest fall registration hunt (RM840) and winter registration hunt (RM849) 2004–2009 (ADF&G 2010).

Year	Fall Harvest by Federally qualified subsistence users (RM840)	Total Fall Harvest state and Federal users (RM840)	Winter Harvest Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 (RM849)
2004	39	43	0
2005	34	36	0
2006	33	39	3
2007	40	47	0
2008	35	38	1
2009	34	44	8

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

- maintain the closure**
- initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the closure**
- other recommendation**

Justification:

The Unit 22D moose population, that portion within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim river drainages, appears to be stabilizing. The population is still below ADF&G management objectives and the harvest is generally by local residents. The 2008 bull:cow ratio of 33 bulls:100 cows (n=174) (Gorn 2010, personal communication) is much improved from the 2005 bull:cow ratio of 20 bulls:100 cows (n=145) (Gorn 2008) which may be attributed to the reduction in moose harvest due to the closure and due to the harvest

quota that is in place; however the calf:cow ratio in 2008 of 10:calves:100 cows (Gorn 2010, personal communication) is still a concern making recruitment too low to increase the population size. According to Federal Aid report in 2009, the spring recruitment trend survey for the eastern Unit 22D, including portions of the KKP classified 700 moose and found 7 calves:100 adults and 6% recruitment. Due to harvest quotas, shorter seasons and a Federal closure to all users except Federally qualified users of Units 22C and 22D the moose population has stabilized. Therefore, Federal public lands should remain closed to non-Federally qualified users for the conservation of a healthy population and to allow the continuation of subsistence uses of moose (Section 815(3)).

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**FEDERAL WILDLIFE CLOSURE REVIEW
WCR10-14**

Closure Location: Moose —Unit 22D—that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek.

Current Federal Regulation:

*Unit 22D —that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek —1 bull by Federal registration permit. Dec. 1 – Dec. 31
Quotas and any needed closures will be announced by the BLM Anchorage Field Office Manager, in consultation with NPS and ADF&G.*

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose, except by residents of Units 22C and 22D.

Closure Dates: Dec. 1–Dec. 31.

Current State Regulations:

	<i>Permit/Ticket Required</i>	<i>Open Season</i>
<i>Residents: One bull by permit available online or in person at in Nome ADF&G or at license vendors in Teller, White Mountain, and Golovin beginning July 26. Season closed by emergency order when 58 bulls are taken.</i>	<i>RM840</i>	<i>Sept 1–Sept 14</i>
<i>Residents: One antlered bull by permit available in person at license vendors in White Mountain and Golovin beginning Dec. 1.</i>	<i>RM849</i>	<i>Jan 1–Jan 31</i>
<i>Nonresidents:</i>		<i>no open season</i>

Regulatory Year Initiated: 2002–2003

Proposal number of initial closure and any subsequent proposals:

WP02-34, WP02-35, WP 06-40

Justification for original closure (Section 815(3) criteria): At its May 2002 meeting, the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) adopted WP02-34 to revise the moose season, harvest limit, and restrict harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users for the conservation of a declining moose population and to provide Federally qualified subsistence users with an opportunity to harvest moose on Federal public lands in Unit 22D. The Board also adopted WP02-35, which further restricted moose harvest to the rural residents of Unit 22C and 22D based on an ANILCA Section 804 analysis.

In 2005, WSA05-01 was adopted by the Board to reduce the harvest season from Aug. 20 – Sept. 30 to Sept. 1 – Sept. 14 due to conservation concerns resulting from overharvest of the joint State/Federal harvest quotas occurring in Unit 22D in 2003 and 2004 despite seasons being closed early by Emergency Order/Special Action. In 2006, the Board adopted WP06-40, which placed into permanent regulations the

shortened season adopted in WSA05-01. This proposal also removed the moose harvest quota numbers from the regulations and granted delegated authority to the Anchorage Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office Manger, in consultation with National Park Service (NPS), and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to announce any needed closures and quotas.

Council recommendation for original closure:

The council supported WP02-34 and WP02-35 with modification. The Council stated that the modified proposals would provide sufficient opportunity for subsistence users while taking the most conservative approach to managing the moose population.

State recommendation for original closure:

WP02-34 —Support with modification.

WP02-35 —Support with modification.

Other significant comments presented when the Board adopted the original closure: None

Current resource abundance related to management objective: State management goals for moose in Unit 22 are to complete censuses in the 5 subunits of Unit 22 on a 3-year rotational basis to estimate moose abundance. Specific survey data is not available for this portion of Unit 22D (that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek) but for only Unit 22D as a whole. The most recent population estimate of moose in Unit 22D is from 2006 and is 1565 moose (90% C.I. ± 22.8%; range 1208–1922 moose) which is below the ADF&G management goal of increasing and stabilizing the total Unit 22D population to 2000–2500 moose (Gorn 2008). In fall 2008, sex and age composition surveys classified 174 moose and found 33 bulls:100 cows and 10 calves:100 cows within all of Unit 22D and not specifically for Unit 22D Southwest. ADF&G does not have specific population objectives for Tisuk River drainage due to very poor moose habitat (Gorn 2010, personal communication). ADF&G plans to conduct sex and age composition surveys within Unit 22D in the fall of 2010 and population surveys in spring 2011 (Gorn 2010, personal communication).

Resource population trend: Historically, moose immigrated into the Seward Peninsula in the late 1930s and by the late 1960s became a resident species due to suitable habitat in Unit 22. Moose populations increased during the 1970s and peaked between 7,000 and 10,000 animals during the 1980s (Gorn 2008). Density independent factors were believed to have caused the population to decrease during the early 1990s with several severe winters during that time period (Nelson 1995). Populations within Unit 22 have never recovered to the peak levels of the 1980s with brown bear predation on moose calves being speculated as the main limiting factor (Gorn 2008). Current survey efforts by ADF&G combine the Tisuk River drainage with the Kougarok, Kuzitrin, and Pilgrim river drainages with the focus on the latter due to the Tisuk River drainage having such poor moose habitat (Gorn 2010, personal communication).

Harvest trend and/or hunter effort: There has been no reported harvest under the Federal permit system for this portion of Unit 22D.

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

- maintain the closure**
- initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the closure**
- other recommendation**

Justification for the OSM recommendation:

The moose population for this portion of Unit 22D continues to exist in low numbers and at a low density. While there is little data regarding the portion west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek, there are no indications that there has been any increases in the moose population to justify non-subsistence harvest; therefore the closure should be maintained.

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**FEDERAL WILDLIFE CLOSURE REVIEW
WCR10-16**

Closure Location: Unit 22E —Moose

Current Federal Regulation:

Unit 22E —1 antlered bull

Aug. 1 – March 15

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of moose except by Federally qualified subsistence users.

Closure Dates: Aug. 1 – March 15.

Current State Regulations:

Unit 22E — Moose

	<i>Permit/Ticket Required</i>	<i>Open Season</i>
<i>Residents: One bull</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Aug 1 – Dec 31</i>
<i>Residents: One antlered bull</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Jan. 1 – Jan. 31</i>
<i>Nonresidents — 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 Aug. 3. Harvest must be reported within three days of kill. Season closed by emergency order when 10 bulls are taken</i>	<i>RM853</i>	<i>Sept. 1 – Sept. 14</i>

Regulatory Year Initiated: 2002–2003

Proposal Number of initial closure and any subsequent proposals: WP02-34

Justification for original closure (Section 815(3) criteria): Federal public lands were closed by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) due to conservation concerns for the declining moose population and to provide Federally qualified subsistence users an opportunity to harvest the limited number of moose on Federal public lands in the affected area of Unit 22E. The Board adopted WP02-34 which narrowed the moose season, revised the harvest to bull only, and restricted the harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users within Units 22D and 22E based on conservation concerns for the moose population and to provide for the continuation of subsistence uses of moose on Federal public lands in the units.

Council recommendation for original closure: The Council supported WP02-34 as modified by staff, stating that the modified proposal would provide sufficient opportunity for subsistence users while taking the most conservative approach to preserving the moose population.

State recommendation for original closure: The State supported WP02-34 as modified by Federal staff to revise the moose season, harvest limit, and restrict harvest to Federally qualified subsistence users in Units 22D and 22E.

Other significant comments presented when the Board adopted the original closure: None

Current resource abundance related to management objective: State management goals for moose in Unit 22 are to complete censuses in the 5 subunits of Unit 22 on a 3-year rotational basis to estimate moose abundance. ADF&G plans to conduct population surveys for Unit 22E in spring 2011 (Gorn 2010, personal communication). The most current population estimates of moose in Unit 22E were conducted in 2006 and estimated 587 moose (90% C.I. \pm 18.2%; range 420–778 moose) which is well-above the ADF&G management goal of 200–250 moose; however, a sex and age composition survey has not been completed and is not scheduled until fall 2010 and a population survey is scheduled for spring 2011 (Gorn 2010, personal communication). The recruitment rate was 18% with 22 calves:100 adults (90% C.I. \pm 23.5%); (ADF&G 2006).

Resource population trend: Moose migrated into the Seward Peninsula in the late 1930s and by the late 1960s became a resident species due to suitable habitat in Unit 22. Moose populations increased during the 1970s and peaked between 7,000 and 10,000 animals during the 1980s (Gorn 2008). Density independent factors, specifically severe winters, were believed to have caused the population to decrease during the early 1990s (Nelson 1995). Populations within Unit 22 have never recovered to the peak levels of the 1980s. Brown bear predation on calves is thought to be the main limiting factor on Unit 22 moose populations (Gorn 2008). ADF&G estimates the current moose population in Unit 22E remains well above the management goal of 200–250 animals (Gorn 2008), but more recent composition surveys must be completed (**Table 1**).

Between 1996 and 2001 moose censuses show a population decline of 2.8% annually (**Table 1**). In March 2003, the aerial census estimated approximately 504 moose within 22E, which showed a drastic increase in the population since 2001 (**Table 1**). However, the 2003 census used a spatial census technique to stratify habitat areas likely to support moose and is not directly comparable to previous population estimates, which were minimum direct counts during surveys of riparian habitat. In addition, it is probable that the observed increase is due to scarcity of snow cover during the winter, which enabled moose to remain in summer range in Unit 22E rather than migrate to winter drainages in Unit 22D, as had been shown during past radiocollar studies conducted in the 1980s (Gorn 2008). In 2006, the moose population was estimated at 587 animals; no more recent surveys have been conducted.

Table 1. Seward Peninsula moose census results, Unit 22E, 1991–2006 (ADF&G 2008 and Gorn 2008)

Year	Unit 22E	Total % change from previous census in Unit 22E only	% Average Annual rate of increase in Unit 22E
1991	226	n/a	n/a
1996	196	-13.3%	-2.6%
2001	169	-13.8%	-2.7%
2003*	504	+198%	+99%
2006	587	+16.5%	+5.5%

* Change in survey technique and scarcity of snow cover allowing moose to remain in summer habitat in Unit 22E rather than migrating to winter drainages in Unit 22D, may have caused the extremely large rate of increase.

Harvest trend and/or hunter effort: Although moose have been present in Unit 22 for a relatively short time, they rapidly became an extremely important food source for many Seward Peninsula residents

(Persons 2000). Gravel roads and navigable rivers provide easy access to suitable moose habitat in the fall and early winter, and snow machines provide access during the winter season.

The annual harvest in Unit 22E has been relatively low (**Table 2**) and hunter effort typically occurs in the first general harvest season between August and December. Between 2004 and 2008, the combined average annual hunter success for State and Federal hunters has been approximately 42% in Unit 22E. Access by road or river and the use of ATVs and other off-road vehicles allows harvest prior to snowfall, although use of ATV and other off-road vehicles is not allowed on NPS administered lands.

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

- maintain the closure
- initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the closure
- other recommendation

Table 2: Results of State and Federal moose hunts in Unit 22E from 2004–2008 (ADFG 2010 and FWS 2010)

Year	General harvest	General harvest	# of State hunters reported ¹	Total State Bull Harvest	Federal subsistence harvest	# of Federal hunters reported	Total Federal Bull Harvest
	Aug 1– Dec 31	Jan 1 – Jan 31			Aug. 1 – Dec. 31		
2004	9	0	14	9	0	1	0
2005	9	0	21	9	0	0	0
2006	6	1	23	7	1	1	1
2007	16	0	40	16	0	0	0
2008	14	0	34	14	0	0	0

¹ Actual number of hunters who hunted

Justification

In 2010 the Federal moose season was extended an additional 3 months until March 15 and the effects on the moose population in Unit 22E are not known yet. Even though the harvest of moose by Federally qualified subsistence users has historically been small, the new Federal extended season could result in a higher harvest. ADF&G is scheduled to conduct age/sex composition surveys in fall 2010 and population surveys in spring 2011 which will provide more current information on the moose population. There is little known habitat to support large moose populations in Unit 22E and density-independent factors such as severe winters, as was seen in the late 1990s, could reduce the population dramatically. Therefore, it is recommended that a proposal be submitted to lift the closure. After the spring 2011 surveys are completed the proposal can be analyzed to determine if the population is still above management goals and warrants the removal of the closure on Federal lands.

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Van Ballenberghe, V. 1983. Growth and development of moose antlers in Alaska. Pages 37–48 in R.D. Brown, editor. Antler development in Cervidae. Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Kingsville, Texas.

UPDATE ON TRAVEL PROCEDURES

Travel Arrangements

All Federal agencies are required to make all travel arrangements through the Travel Control Center. All council member travel arrangements must be made by OSM staff. If you amend your travel yourself, you will not receive any per diem for travel time after the amended ticket is issued and you may be liable for the cost of airfare.

Therefore, any changes to your travel absolutely must be made through your coordinator. If you are unable to contact your coordinator, call Durand Tyler at 907-786-3888 or 1-800-478-1456 or Ann Wilkinson at 907-786-3676.

Travel Vouchers

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service nationwide is preparing to initiate new software for the Federal financial and business management system at the start of fiscal year 2012) (October 1, 2011), which will extend the time when OSM cannot make purchases or payments. There are two ways this might affect you directly: 1) Members who make a last minute decision to attend a council meeting may not receive a travel advance, and 2) travel vouchers for the fall 2011 council meetings will be sent out later than usual.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHARTER

1. **Official Designation:** Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
2. **Objectives and Scope of Activity:** The objective of the Council is to provide an administrative structure that enables residents of the region who have personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife and of subsistence uses of those resources on public lands in the region.
3. **Period of Time Necessary for the Council's Activities and Termination Date:** The Council is expected to exist into the foreseeable future. Its continuation is, however, subject to rechartering every biennial anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of December 2, 1980. The Council will take no action unless the charter filing requirements of section 9 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act have been met.
4. **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.
5. **Support Services:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, provides administrative support for the activities of the Council.
6. **Duties of the Council:** The Council possesses the authority to perform the following duties:
 - a. Initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decision making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the region.

2

(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.

The Council will perform its duties in conformity with the Regional Advisory Council Operations Manual.

7. **Estimated Operating Costs:** Annual operating costs of the Council are estimated at \$125,000 which includes three-quarters person-year of staff support.

8. **Meetings:** The Council may meet each year at the call of the Council, Council Chair, Federal Subsistence Board Chair, or Designated Federal Officer with the advance approval of the Federal Subsistence Board Chair and the Designated Federal Officer, who will also approve the agenda.

9. **Membership:** The Council's membership is 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 a diversity of interests is represented, the Department of the Interior will comply with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Section 5(b)(2) as expressed by the U. S. District Court in Safari Club International versus Demientieff in the amended order dated August 7, 2006.

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

Vacancy: Whenever a vacancy occurs among Council members appointed under paragraph 9, the Secretary will appoint an individual in accordance with paragraph 9 to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the applicable term.

Terms of Office: Except as provided herein, each member of the Council will serve a 3-year term with the term ending on December 2 of the appropriate year unless a member of the Council resigns prior to the expiration of the 3-year term or he/she is removed for cause by the Secretary upon recommendation of the Federal Subsistence Board. Members will be notified of their appointment in writing. If resigning prior to the expiration of a term, members will provide a written resignation.

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

Removal of Members: If a Council member appointed under paragraph 9 has two consecutive unexcused absences of regularly scheduled meetings, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board may recommend that the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture remove that individual. A member may also be removed due to misconduct.

Compensation: Members of the Council will receive no compensation as members. Members will, however, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in government service are allowed such expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

10. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.

11. **Designated Federal Officer or Employee:** Pursuant to Section 10(e) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Designated Federal Officer will be the Federal Regional Coordinator or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director - Subsistence, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

12. **Authority:** The Council is reestablished by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)).

/S/ Ken Salazar

Secretary of the Interior

NOV 20 2009

Date Signed

DEC 3 2009

Date Filed



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC 17 2010

Mr. Tim Towarak
Chair, Federal Subsistence Board
P. O. Box 89
Unalakleet, Alaska 99684

Dear Mr. Towarak:

First, I want to thank you for your service on the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB). I recognize that your work represents a significant commitment of time and energy to a task that is complex and often controversial.

Under the terms of Title VIII of ANILCA, we have a duty to provide an effective program that serves rural residents of Alaska. In October 2009, at the Alaska Federation of Natives convention, I announced a review of the Federal subsistence program to ensure that the program is best serving rural Alaskans and that the letter and spirit of Title VIII are being met. That review, conducted through my Alaska Affairs office, included meetings with stakeholder groups and individuals throughout Alaska as well as Federal, State, and local officials. Following an analysis of the wide variety of comments, concerns, and suggestions expressed, a number of recommendations for programmatic changes were presented for consideration. On August 31, 2010, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and I announced our decision to pursue a number of those recommendations to provide a more responsive, more effective subsistence program. A copy of the press release is enclosed for your information.

A number of these proposed actions are best accomplished by the FSB. With concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, I respectfully request that the FSB initiate the following actions at the earliest practical time:

1. Develop a proposed regulation to increase the membership on the FSB to include two additional public members representing subsistence users;
2. As a matter of policy, expand deference to appropriate Regional Advisory Council (RAC) recommendations in addition to the "takings" decisions of the Board provided for under Section 805(c) of ANILCA, subject to the three exceptions found in that Section;
3. Review, with RAC input, the December 2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State to determine either the need for the MOU or the need for potential changes to clarify federal authorities in regard to the subsistence program;

4. Review, with RAC input, and present recommendations for changes to Federal subsistence procedural and structural regulations (Parts A&B of the CFRs) adopted from the State in order to ensure Federal authorities are fully reflected and in accord with subsistence priorities provided for in Title VIII;
5. Review, with RAC input, the customary and traditional use determination process and present recommendations for regulatory changes;
6. Review, with RAC input, rural/nonrural determination process and present recommendations for regulatory changes;
7. Review the Board's written policy on executive sessions and minimize the use of executive sessions to those cases specifically prescribed;
8. At the request of the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and under Departmental procedures, review and submit recommendations for Departmental consideration of the annual budget for the Federal subsistence program;
9. Ensure the Secretaries are informed when non-Department rule-making entities develop regulations that may adversely affect subsistence users;
10. To the extent practicable, utilize contracting and use of ANILCA Section 809 cooperative agreements with local tribes and other entities in the Board's review and approval of proposals for fulfilling subsistence program elements; and
11. Prepare and submit a status report on these actions to me, with a copy to the Secretary of Agriculture, within a year of this letter.

Again, thank you for your service. I look forward to further recommendations the FSB may have to strengthen our subsistence management program.

An identical letter is being sent to Mr. Tim Towarak, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board.

Sincerely,

/S/ Ken Salazar

Ken Salazar

Enclosure



www.doi.gov

News Release

Tim Towarak Appointed Chairman of Alaska's Federal Subsistence Board; Will Lead Board Revitalization Initiative

Comprehensive Review of Subsistence Program Calls for Board Action to Strengthen Rural Representation, Regional Advisory Councils

08/31/2010

Contact: Kate Kelly (DOI) 202-208-6416
USDA Office of Communications 202-270-4623

ANCHORAGE – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today announced the appointment of Tim Towarak as the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board in Alaska. Towarak, an Alaska Native and a life-long resident of the rural village of Unalakleet, Alaska, is president of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

“Tim has participated in subsistence activities all his life and has demonstrated a keen understanding of the needs of rural residents of Alaska as well as the workings of government and the private sectors,” said Secretary Salazar, whose department recently completed a review of the subsistence program management. “With his experience and understanding, he is uniquely qualified to lead the Board in carrying out improvements that will strengthen its role in managing fish and wildlife on the public lands in Alaska.”

Secretary Vilsack commended Towarak, saying “We are confident Tim can lead the Board's revitalization initiative. The federal subsistence management program embodies key USDA roles and priorities, including sustaining livelihoods of rural families, ensuring access to healthy and affordable food, providing jobs in rural communities, sustaining culture and traditional ways of life, and strengthening relationships with Alaska Native tribes.”

The Federal Subsistence Board manages the fish and wildlife harvest for rural residents who depend on these resources for their lives and livelihoods. The board includes the Alaska Directors for the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Alaska Regional Forester for the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The Board works through Regional Advisory Councils.

The program review proposed several administrative and regulatory changes to strengthen the program and make it more responsive to the concerns of those who rely on it for their subsistence needs. One proposal calls for adding two rural Alaskans to the Board, which allows additional regional representation and increases stakeholder input in the decision-making process. This change would be open to public comment through the rule-making process.

The Secretaries also are asking the new Chair and the Board to ensure that the Regional Advisory Councils are given the full authorities in the rule-making process that they are granted in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and that the board take on greater responsibilities for budget preparation as well as hiring and evaluating the director of the Office of Subsistence Management.

The Board also is being requested to evaluate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) it negotiated in 2008 with the State of Alaska to ensure it does not constrain federal subsistence management responsibilities. This evaluation will include all parties, including the Regional Advisory Councils.

Reviewers also received recommendations for statutory changes to better meet the goals of ANILCA and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. While these proposals are acknowledged, they fall outside the authorities of the Secretaries but will be forwarded to concerned Members of Congress and the relevant committees with oversight of the statutes.

Additional changes to the subsistence program may follow. Secretary Salazar has asked his Policy, Management and Budget team at Interior to conduct a professional management review of the Office of Subsistence Management to ensure that the organizational structure created nearly 20 years ago, and the budgets they live with, meet the increasingly complex research and management demands that have accrued through nearly two decades of court decisions and resource allocation challenges.

Additionally, the USDA Forest Service's Washington Office recently reviewed its Alaska Region's portion of the program. Recommendations based on that review are being evaluated and will be integrated with Interior's findings for consideration by both Departments.

Under Title VIII of ANILCA, rural residents of Alaska are given priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on federal lands. The State of Alaska managed for the rural resident subsistence priority until a 1989 Alaska Supreme Court decision ruled the priority conflicted with the state's constitution. The Interior and Agriculture departments began managing the subsistence priority for wildlife on federal lands in 1992. Six years later, following a federal court ruling, federal management for subsistence fisheries in certain waters within or adjacent to federal lands was added to the responsibilities of the Interior and Agriculture departments.

The federal subsistence management structure was crafted as a temporary DOI/USDA program to meet the requirements of ANILCA until the state could amend its constitution and comply with Title VIII of that law. This DOI/USDA review was predicated on the assumption that the state is no longer attempting to regain management authority for the ANILCA subsistence priority, and that federal management will continue for the foreseeable future.

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**BRIEFING
ON
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

In his letter to the Federal Subsistence Board following the program review, the Secretary specifically directed the Federal Subsistence Board to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Regional Advisory Councils, and determine either the need for the MOU or the need for potential changes to clarify Federal authorities in regard to the subsistence program. Consistent with that direction, the Federal Subsistence Board is seeking input from the Regional Councils on the MOU during the winter 2011 meeting cycle.

BACKGROUND

When the Federal subsistence program expanded into subsistence fisheries management in 1999, both Federal and State entities believed that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would help with the coordination of subsistence management between Federal and State Programs. As a result, an MOA was negotiated between a state and federal team that included Regional Advisory Council representatives. It was initialed by all parties in April 2000. The 2008 MOU, which is based in large part on the MOA, was developed by a team of state and federal officials over a period of about one year and was signed in December 2008. FACA concerns precluded RAC members from being on the development team.

The purpose of the MOU "...is to provide a foundation and direction for coordinated interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands..." while allowing the Federal and State agencies to continue to act in accordance with their respective statutory authorities. Signatories include the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board and its members, consisting of the Alaska Regional and State Directors of BLM, BIA, NPS, USFWS, and USDA Forest Service); the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Chairs of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game.

KEY POINTS

- The MOU helps to address the necessity of having some degree of communication and coordination between the State and Federal governments in order to aid in effective management of fish and wildlife resources in Alaska.
- Several sections of Title VIII expressly require the Secretaries to communicate and/or consult with State representatives on certain issues relating to subsistence uses by rural Alaskans (e.g., ANILCA §§ 802(3), 805(a), 810(a), 812, and 816(b).
- The MOU was carefully reviewed by the Federal team and legal counsel to ensure that provisions of Federal law and the Board's obligations to rural residents as defined in Title VIII of ANILCA continue to be maintained.
- The body of the MOU contains several references to State law, prompting some observers to express concern that in signing the MOU, the Board undermined its obligation under Title VIII to provide for a subsistence priority for rural Alaskans on Federal public lands.

- However, the Board's authority, charge, and obligation to rural residents come only from Title VIII and any other applicable federal statutes: the MOU will not, and cannot, change that.
- Three protocols targeted at specific issues were developed under the guidance of the MOA/ MOU: *Subsistence Management Information sharing Protocol, April 2002, Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Protocol, April 2002, and the Memorandum of Understanding: Review and Development of Scientifically Based Salmon Escapement Goals, June 2005. These protocols facilitate management, as well as the exchange and sharing of data between the Federal and State agencies.*
- Other key guiding principles of the MOU include: avoiding duplication of research, monitoring, and management; involving subsistence and other users in fish and wildlife management planning efforts; and promoting clear and enforceable hunting, fishing and trapping regulations.

ACTION NEEDED

- Regional Councils and State Advisory Committees are being asked to review the MOU and offer specific comments about the wording of the document and how it might be improved. Regional Council and State Advisory Committee members are welcome to offer their general opinion of the MOU as well.

NEXT STEPS

- The Federal Subsistence Board's review period is now open and will go until May 1, 2011.
- The Federal Subsistence Board will review all comments in the summer of 2011 and determine what the next steps should be. Because the MOU involves other parties, there will need to be discussion with those parties also.

Submit comments to:
Gary Goldberg
Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

or

via E-mail to
Gary_Goldberg@fws.gov_

or

via fax at 907-786-3898

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

for

Coordinated Interagency Fish and Wildlife Management for Subsistence Uses on Federal
Public Lands in Alaska

between the

Federal Subsistence Board

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of
Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Secretarial appointed Chair)

and

State of Alaska

(Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Alaska Board of Fisheries and
Alaska Board of Game (State Boards))

I. PREAMBLE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska establishes guidelines to coordinate in managing subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands in Alaska.

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, under its laws and regulations, is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of the fish and wildlife resources of the State of Alaska on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses, such as providing a priority for subsistence harvest and use of fish and wildlife (where such uses are customary and traditional), and implements its program through the State Boards and the ADF&G, providing for public participation through Advisory Committees authorized in the State's laws and regulations (Alaska Statutes Title 16; Alaska Administrative Code Title 5) and through Alaska Administrative Procedure Act;

WHEREAS, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior (Secretaries), by authority of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and other laws of Congress, regulations, and policies, are responsible for ensuring that the taking on Federal public lands of fish and wildlife for nonwasteful subsistence uses, as defined in ANILCA §803, shall be accorded priority over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for other purposes as provided for in ANILCA §804; and that the Secretaries are responsible for protecting and providing the opportunity for rural residents of Alaska to engage in a subsistence way of life on Federal public lands in Alaska, consistent with the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife; and these lands are defined in ANILCA §102 and Federal regulation (36 CFR Part 242 and 50 CFR Part 100); and that the Secretaries implement this priority through the Federal Subsistence Board, providing for public participation through Regional Advisory Councils authorized by ANILCA §805 and Federal regulations (above); and,

WHEREAS, ANILCA, Title VIII, authorizes the Secretaries to enter into cooperative agreements in order to accomplish the purposes and policies of Title VIII, and the State of Alaska and the Federal Subsistence Board believe it is in the best interests of the fish and wildlife resources and the public to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding;

THEREFORE, the signatories endorse coordination of State and Federal regulatory processes and the collection and exchange of data and information relative to fish and wildlife populations and their use necessary for subsistence management on Federal public lands. This MOU forms the basis for such cooperation and coordination among the parties with regard to subsistence management of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands.

II. PURPOSES

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a foundation and direction for coordinated interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands, consistent with specific State and Federal authorities as stated above, that will protect and promote the sustained health of fish and wildlife populations, ensure conservation and stability in fish and wildlife management, and include meaningful public involvement. The signatories hereby enter this MOU to establish guidelines for subsequent agreements and protocols to implement coordinated management of fish and wildlife resources used for subsistence purposes on Federal public lands in Alaska.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1) Ensure conservation of fish and wildlife resources while providing for continued uses of fish and wildlife, including a priority for subsistence uses, through interagency subsistence management and regulatory programs that promote coordination, cooperation, and exchange of information between State and Federal agencies, regulatory bodies, Regional Advisory Councils and/or State Advisory Committees, state and local organizations, tribes and/or other Alaska Native organizations, and other entities;
- 2) Use the best available scientific and cultural information and local traditional knowledge for decisions regarding fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands;
- 3) Avoid duplication in research, monitoring, and management;
- 4) Involve subsistence and other users in the fisheries and wildlife management planning processes;
- 5) Promote stability in fish and wildlife management and minimize unnecessary disruption to subsistence and other uses of fish and wildlife resources; and
- 6) Promote clear and enforceable hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations.

**IV. THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD AND STATE OF ALASKA
MUTUALLY AGREE:**

- 1) To cooperate and coordinate their respective research, monitoring, regulatory, and management actions to help ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife populations for subsistence use on federal public lands.
- 2) To recognize that State and Federal historical and current harvest and population data and information and cultural information are important components of successful implementation of Federal responsibilities under ANILCA Title VIII.
- 3) To provide a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources and to allow for other uses of fish and wildlife resources when harvestable surpluses are sufficient, consistent with ANILCA and Alaska Statute 16.05.258.
- 4) To recognize that cooperative funding agreements implementing the provisions of this MOU may be negotiated when necessary and as authorized by ANILCA §809 and other appropriate statutory authorities. Federal funding agreements for cooperative research and monitoring studies of subsistence resources with organizations representing local subsistence users and others will be an important component of information gathering and management programs.
- 5) To recognize that State and Federal scientific standards for conservation of fish and wildlife populations are generally compatible. When differences interpreting data are identified, the involved agencies should appoint representatives to seek resolution of the differences.
- 6) To cooperatively pursue the development of information to clarify state and federal regulations for the public.
- 7) To recognize that the signatories may establish protocols or other procedures that address data collection and information management, data analysis and review, in-season fisheries and wildlife management, and other key activities and issues jointly agreed upon that affect subsistence uses on Federal public lands. (See Appendix)
- 8) To provide an opportunity, through interagency Federal-State technical committees, for appropriate scientific staff, along with Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committee representatives, subsistence users, and other members of the public to discuss and review data analyses associated with proposal analyses and resource and harvest assessment and monitoring.
- 9) To designate liaisons for policy communications and, as appropriate, to identify local agency representatives for efficient day-to-day communication, field operations, and data retrieval between State and Federal programs.
- 10) To provide adequate opportunity for the appropriate Federal and State agencies to review analyses and justifications associated with special actions and emergency orders affecting subsistence uses on Federal public lands, prior to implementing such actions. Where possible and as required, State and Federal agencies will provide advance notice to

Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committee representatives and other interested members of the public before issuing special actions or emergency orders. Where conservation of the resource or continuation of subsistence uses is of immediate concern, the review shall not delay timely management action.

11) To cooperatively review existing and proposed State fish and wildlife management plans and Federal subsistence management plans that affect subsistence uses on Federal public lands, providing an opportunity for Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committee representatives and other public to participate. Consider State fish and wildlife management plans as the initial basis for any management actions so long as they provide for subsistence priorities under State and Federal law. Procedures for management plan reviews and revisions will be developed by the respective Federal and State Boards in a protocol.

12) To use the State's harvest reporting and assessment systems supplemented by information from other sources to monitor subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. In some cases, Federal subsistence seasons, harvest limits, or data needs may necessitate separate Federal subsistence permits and harvest reports.

13) To ensure that local residents and other users will have meaningful involvement in subsistence wildlife and fisheries regulatory processes that affect subsistence uses on Federal public lands.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1) No member of, or Delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this document, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.

2) This MOU is complementary to and is not intended to replace, except as specifically regards Federal responsibility for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands, the Master Memoranda of Understanding between the individual Federal agencies and ADF&G. Supplemental protocols to this document may be developed to promote further interaction and coordination among the parties.

3) Nothing herein is intended to conflict with Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

4) Policy and position statements relating specifically to this MOU may be made only by mutual consent of the parties.

5) Nothing in this MOU is intended to enlarge or diminish each party's existing responsibilities and authorities, if any, for management of fish and wildlife.

6) Upon signing, the parties shall each designate an individual and an alternate to serve as the principal contact or liaison for implementation of this MOU.

7) This MOU becomes effective upon signing by all signatories and will remain in force until such time as the Secretary of the Interior determines that the State of Alaska has implemented a subsistence management program in compliance with Title VIII of

ANILCA, or, signatories terminate their participation in this MOU by providing 60 days written notice. Termination of participation by one signatory has no impact on this MOU's effectiveness between the remaining signatories.

8) The signatories will meet annually, or more frequently if necessary, to review coordinated programs established under this MOU and to consider modifications to this MOU that would further improve interagency working relationships. Documentation of the review and consideration of any modifications within the scope of this understanding shall be made by mutual consent of the signatories, in writing, signed and dated by all parties. If no review is conducted, this MOU will expire 5 years after the most recent review was conducted.

9) Nothing in this document shall be construed as obligating the signatories to expend funds or involving the United States or the State of Alaska in any contract or other obligations for the future payment of money, except as may be negotiated in future cooperative funding agreements.

10) This MOU establishes guidelines and mutual management goals by which the signatories shall coordinate, but does not create legally enforceable obligations or rights.

11) This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures.

12) This MOU does not restrict the signatories from participating in similar agreements with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

SIGNATORIES

In WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below.

/S/ Denby Lloyd

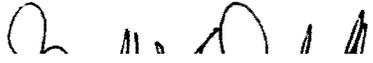
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Date: 7 Nov. 08

/S/ John Jenson

Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Date: Nov 3 2008

/S/ Cliff Judkin

Chair
Alaska Board of Game
Date: 11/09/08


/S/ Geoff Haskett

Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Date:

/S/ Denny Bschor

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
Date: 12/17/08

/S/ Sue Masica

Regional Director
National Park Service
Date: 12.12.08

/S/ T. P. Lonnie

State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Date: 12-18-08

/S/ Niles Cesar

~~Regional~~ Area Director

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Date: 12-15-08

/S/ Mike R. Fleagle

Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
Date: 12/5/08

APPENDIX

SCOPE FOR PROTOCOLS AND/OR PROCEDURES

- 1) Joint technical committees or workgroups may be appointed to develop protocols and/or procedures.
- 2) Individual protocols and/or procedures should:
 - a. Be developed by an interagency committee. The committee shall involve, as appropriate, Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committee representatives and other State/Federal regional or technical experts.
 - b. Identify the subject or topic of the protocol and provide justification.
 - c. Identify the parties to the protocol.
 - d. Identify the process to be used for implementing the protocol.
 - e. Provide for appropriate involvement of Regional Advisory Council and/or State Advisory Committees, tribes and/or other Alaska Native organizations, governmental organizations, and other affected members of the public when implementing protocols.
 - f. Specify technical committee or workgroup memberships.
 - g. Develop a timeline to complete tasks.
 - h. Identify funding obligations of the parties.
 - i. Define the mechanism to be used for review and evaluation.
- 3) Protocols or procedures require concurrence by the signatories of this MOU prior to implementation.

BERING SEA POLLOCK FISHERY CHUM SALMON BYCATCH UPDATE

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is currently evaluating measures to limit chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea commercial pollock fishery. During its meeting in Seattle in early February 2011, the NPFMC is scheduled to conduct a preliminary review of an impact analysis written by staff, which includes several management alternatives. Subsequent steps, leading to new management measures and/or regulations, are listed below:

Recent and Upcoming Actions

- **June–December 2010:** Preparation by NPFMC staff of the analysis for preliminary review.
- **Early February 2011 in Seattle:** NPFMC review of preliminary data/analysis.
- **February–March 2011:** NPFMC members and staff plan to attend 4 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings (YKD, EI WI, BB), give presentations on the proposed chum salmon bycatch management measures and solicit public comments.
- Preparation by NPFMC staff of revised analysis.
- **June 2011 in Nome:** NPFMC to select the preliminary preferred alternative, which must be within the range of alternatives analyzed.
- **October or December 2011 in Anchorage:** NPFMC final action to select final preferred alternative, which will be provided to the Secretary of Commerce for decision. Rule making process will follow.
- **January 2012 (tentative):** Chum salmon management measures implemented in the Bering Sea pollock fishery.

See attached materials from the NPFMC for more details.

June 2010 Council motion:

The Council moves the following suite of alternatives for preliminary analysis of chum salmon bycatch management measures.

C-1(b) Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch

Alternative 1 – Status Quo

Alternative 1 retains the current program of the Chum Salmon Savings Area (SSA) closures triggered by separate non-CDQ and CDQ caps with the fleet’s exemption to these closures per regulations for Amendment 84 and as modified by the Amendment 91 Chinook bycatch action.

Alternative 2 – Hard Cap

Component 1: Hard Cap Formulation (with CDQ allocation of 10.7%)

- a) 50,000
- b) 75,000
- c) 125,000
- d) 200,000
- e) 300,000
- f) 353,000

Component 2: Sector Allocation

Use blend of CDQ/CDQ partner bycatch numbers for historical average calculations.

- a) No sector allocation
- b) Allocations to Inshore, Catcher Processor, Mothership, and CDQ
 - 1) Pro-rata to pollock AFA pollock sector allocation
 - 2) Historical average
 - i. 2007-2009
 - ii. 2005-2009
 - iii. 2000-2009
 - iv. 1997-2009
 - 3) Allocation based on 75% pro-rata and 25% historical
 - 4) Allocation based on 50% pro-rata and 50% historical
 - 5) Allocation based on 25% pro-rata and 75% historical

For Analysis:

CDQ	Inshore CV	Mothership	Offshore CPS
3.4%	81.5%	4.0%	11.1%
6.7%	63.3%	6.5%	23.6% ¹
10.7%	44.77%	8.77%	35.76%

Suboption: Allocate 10.7% to CDQ, remainder divided among other sectors (**see table above**).

Component 3: Sector Transfer

- a) No transfers or rollovers
- b) Allow NMFS-approved transfers between sectors

Suboption: Limit transfers to the following percentage of salmon that is available to the transferring entity at the time of transfer:

¹ Note the actual midpoint is CDQ = 7.05%, CV 63.14%, Mothership 6.39%, CP 23.43% . However as noted by staff during Council deliberation numbers reflected in the table are an existing option as the historical average from 2005-2009 allocated 50:50 pro-rata AFA to historical average by section.

- 1) 50%
- 2) 70%
- 3) 90%
- c) Allow NMFS to roll-over unused bycatch allocation to sectors that are still fishing

Component 4: Cooperative Provision

- a) Allow allocation at the co-op level for the inshore sector, and apply transfer rules (Component 3) at the co-op level for the inshore sector.
 - Suboption: Limit transfers to the following percentage of salmon that is available to the transferring entity at the time of transfer:
 - 1) 50%
 - 2) 70%
 - 3) 90%
- b) Allow NMFS to rollover unused bycatch allocation to inshore cooperatives that are still fishing.

Alternative 3 – Trigger Closure

Component 1: Trigger Cap Formulation

- Cap level
- a) 25,000
 - b) 50,000
 - c) 75,000
 - d) 125,000
 - e) 200,000

Application of Trigger Caps

- a) Apply trigger to all chum bycatch
- b) Apply trigger to all chum bycatch between specific dates

Trigger limit application:

Two options for application of trigger caps for area closure options (applied to caps under consideration)

- 1- Cumulative monthly proportion of cap (left-side of table below)
- 2- Cumulative monthly proportion AND monthly limit (left and right sides of table together. Note monthly limit should evaluate +/- 25% of distribution below)

Option of cumulative versus monthly limit for trigger area closures (assuming a trigger cap of 100,000 fish). Monthly limit based on minimum of monthly cumulative value and 150% of monthly historical proportion.

Month	Cumulative		Monthly limit	
	Cumulative Proportion	Monthly Cumulative	Monthly proportion	Monthly limit
June	10.8%	10,800	10.8%	10,800
July	31.5%	31,500	20.7%	31,050
August	63.6%	63,600	32.1%	48,150
September	92.3%	92,300	28.6%	42,900
October	100.0%	100,000	7.7%	11,550

Component 2: Sector allocation

Use blend of CDQ/CDQ partner bycatch numbers for historical average calculations.

- a) No sector allocation
- b) Allocations to Inshore, Catcher Processor, Mothership, and CDQ
 - 1) Pro-rata to pollock AFA pollock sector allocation
 - 2) Historical average
 - i. 2007-2009
 - ii. 2005-2009
 - iii. 2000-2009
 - iv. 1997-2009
 - 3) Allocation based on 75% pro-rata and 25% historical
 - 4) Allocation based on 50% pro-rata and 50% historical
 - 5) Allocation based on 25% pro-rata and 75% historical

For Analysis:

CDQ	Inshore CV	Mothership	Offshore CPS
3.4%	81.5%	4.0%	11.1%
6.7%	63.3%	6.5%	23.6% ²
10.7%	44.77%	8.77%	35.76%

Suboption: Allocate 10.7% to CDQ, remainder divided among other sectors.

Component 3: Cooperative Provisions

- a) Allow allocation at the co-op level for the inshore sector, and apply transfer rules (Component 3) at the co-op level for the inshore sector.
 - Suboption: Limit transfers to the following percentage of salmon that is available to the transferring entity at the time of transfer:
 - 1) 50%
 - 2) 70%
 - 3) 90%
- b) Allow NMFS to roll-over unused bycatch allocation to cooperatives that are still fishing

Component 4: Area and Timing Options

Groupings of ADFG area closures by month that represent 40%, 50%, 60% of historical bycatch. The analysis should include quantitative analysis of the 50% closure options and qualitative analysis of the 40% and 60% closure options.

Component 5: Timing Option – Dates of Area Closure

- a) Trigger closure when the overall cap level specified under Component 1(a) was attained
- b) Discrete small closures would close when a cap was attained and would close for the time period corresponding to periods of high historical bycatch

Component 6 Rolling Hot Spot (RHS) system – Similar to status quo (with RHS system in regulation), participants in a vessel-level (platform level for Mothership fleet) RHS would be exempt from regulatory triggered closure below.

- 1. A large area trigger closure (encompassing 80% of historical bycatch).

² Note the actual midpoint is CDQ = 7.05%, CV 63.14%, Mothership 6.39%, CP 23.43% . However as noted by staff during Council deliberation numbers reflected in the table are an existing option as the historical average from 2005-2009 allocated 50:50 pro-rata AFA to historical average by section.

Sub-option: RHS regulations would contain an ICA provision that the regulatory trigger closure (as adopted in Component 4 apply to participants with a rate in excess of 200% of the Base Rate

In constructing an ICA under this component, the following aspects should be considered:

- Closures that would address timing & location of bycatch of Western AK chum stocks.

In addition, include the following items in the initial review analysis:

1. Analyze discrete area approach normalized across years (i.e. proportion of salmon caught in an area in a year rather than numbers of salmon);
2. Discuss how Component 6 would be applied;
3. In depth description of the rolling hot spot regulations (Amendment 84), focusing on parameters that could be adjusted if the Council found a need to refine the program to meet objectives under Component 7. Specifically analyze:
 - a. the base rate within the RHS program;
 - b. the options for revising the tier system within the RHS program;
 - c. the Council's options for revising the fine structure within the RHS program. Analysis should include a discussion of the meaningfulness of fines, including histograms of number and magnitude of fines over time as well as a comparison of penalties under the RHS program to agency penalties and enforcement actions for violating area closures.
4. Discussion from NMFS of catch accounting for specific caps for discrete areas, and area aggregations described in Component 5 and for areas within those footprints that may have other shapes that could be defined by geographic coordinates [Component 6(c)] Discussion from NMFS on the ability to trigger a regulatory closure based on relative bycatch within a season (with respect to catch accounting system and enforcement limitations) considering changes in bycatch monitoring under Amendment 91.
5. Contrast a regulatory closure system (Components 5 and 6) to the ICA closure system (Component 7) including data limitations, enforcement, potential level of accountability (i.e., fleet-wide, sector, cooperative, or vessel level).
6. Examine differences between high bycatch years (i.e. 2005) and other years to see what contributes to high rates (i.e. timing/location, including fleet behavior and environmental conditions).
7. Examine past area closures and potential impacts of those closures on historical distribution of bycatch and on bycatch rates (qualitative); include 2008 and 2009 data and contrast bycatch distribution under VRHS versus the Chum Salmon Savings Area.

NOTICE: Chum Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

**The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is
Evaluating Measures to Limit Chum Salmon
Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery**

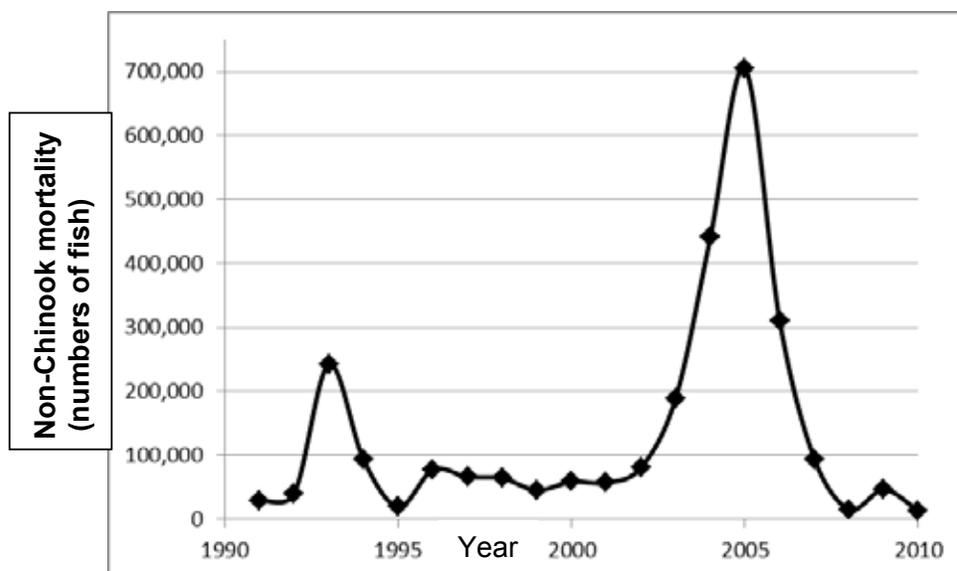


Salmon and pollock are both important fisheries for Alaska. Salmon support large and critically important subsistence, commercial, and recreational fisheries throughout Alaska and elsewhere, and are the basis of a cultural tradition in many parts of the state. At the same time, the commercial pollock fishery produces significant revenue for participants in the fishery, the State of Alaska, and other states. In addition, participation in the fishery (through royalties and employment) is important for the western Alaska Community Development Quota communities.

Salmon are caught unintentionally in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery, and may not be kept by regulation. Despite bycatch control measures implemented in the pollock fishery since the mid-1990s, chum (non-Chinook) salmon bycatch reached a historic high of 704,590 in 2005 (see figure below). Levels since that time have been lower, most recently 13,300 in 2010. Current fishery regulations attempt to control bycatch through fixed area closures, triggered by a cap of 42,000 chum salmon. These are areas with historically high chum salmon bycatch. However, current regulations include an exemption to these fixed area closures for vessels that participate in a program that requires more frequently adjusted closures for vessels with high bycatch rates. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to balance minimizing salmon bycatch, to the extent practicable, with allowing full harvest of the pollock total allowable catch.

Current trends in non-Chinook (chum) salmon bycatch

Salmon bycatch in the groundfish fisheries is grouped as Chinook bycatch and non-Chinook bycatch (comprised of chum, sockeye, pink, and silver salmon species). Over 99% of non-Chinook bycatch is comprised of chum salmon. Chum bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery from 1991 - 2010 is shown below. Chum bycatch is taken almost entirely in the summer/fall ('B') pollock fishery.



Non-Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery, 1991 - 2010

Note: 1991 - 1993 values do not include CDQ fisheries. 2010 data is preliminary.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W 4th Ave, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: (907) 271-2809, Fax: (907) 271-2817, Website: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc>

NOTICE: Chum Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

The Council is considering whether new measures are needed to limit chum salmon bycatch

The Council is beginning the process of considering modifying management measures to limit chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery. The current range of alternatives is on the Council website: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/bycatch/Chumbycatchmotion610.pdf. Measures currently under consideration include:

- caps on the amount of chum salmon bycatch allowed in the pollock fisheries, that when reached, would prevent further harvest of pollock
 - limits under consideration range from annual caps of 50,000 to 353,000 chum salmon (overall for the pollock fishery or divided by processing sector with options for transferable bycatch allocations among sectors or components of sectors).
- Rolling closure of areas where high chum salmon bycatch has historically occurred

Next steps & schedule for action

The Council reviewed a discussion paper in June 2010 on area closure options, as well as the full suite of alternatives for analysis. The Council modified the suite of alternatives at that meeting. The preliminary impact analysis of the current alternatives is scheduled for review at the February 2011 Council meeting, with the draft analysis released to the public in mid-January. The Council's initial review of a comprehensive analysis is scheduled for its June 2011 meeting, in Nome.

The Council's Rural Community Outreach Committee identified this action as an important project for outreach efforts to rural communities. An outreach plan has been developed for the proposed action, available here: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/bycatch/ChumOutreach1010.pdf. The outreach plan includes attending several regional meetings in rural Alaska, in order to explain the proposed action, provide preliminary analysis, and receive direct feedback from rural communities. The majority of these meetings will occur in early 2011. The current analytical schedule is as follows:

<i>May 4, 2010</i>	<i>Community teleconference, prior to Council final review of alternatives.</i>
<i>June 7 – 15, 2010</i>	<i>Council meeting, Sitka. Council review and opportunity to revise alternatives prior to preliminary analysis; review of expanded discussion paper on area closure options; report on community teleconference.</i>
<i>December 2010</i>	<i>Presentation to Yukon River Panel (Anchorage)</i>
<i>June – Dec 2010</i>	<i>Preparation of preliminary review analysis.</i>
<i>Mid-Jan 2011</i>	<i>Preliminary review draft analysis available.</i>
<i>February 2011</i>	<i>Council meeting, Seattle. Council preliminary review of impact analysis.</i>
<i>Feb – March 2011</i>	<i>Rural community outreach meetings on Council preliminary review draft. Potentially 7 regional meetings.</i>
<i>Feb - April 2011</i>	<i>Preparation of revised analysis for initial review.</i>
<i>May 2011</i>	<i>Initial review draft analysis available.</i>
<i>June 2011</i>	<i>Council meeting, Nome. Council initial review of analysis; review of outreach report; Council selection of preliminary preferred alternative.</i>
<i>Oct or Dec 2011</i>	<i>Council meeting, Anchorage. Council takes final action, selects final preferred alternative.</i>

NOTICE: Chum Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

Outreach meetings:

The general components of the outreach plan for the proposed action on chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries include: direct mailings to stakeholders; community outreach meetings; additional outreach (statewide teleconference, radio/newspaper, press releases); and documentation of rural outreach meeting results. The entire outreach plan is provided on the Council website.

The approach for community outreach meetings is to work with established community representatives and Native entities within the affected regions and attend annual or recurring regional meetings, in order to reach a broad group of stakeholders. The timing is such that outreach would occur prior to the Council's selection of a preliminary preferred alternative (tentatively scheduled for June 2011 in Nome). This would allow the public to review and provide comments directly on the preliminary impact analysis, such that changes could be made prior to completion of the final analysis, and allow the Council to receive community input prior to its selection of a preliminary preferred alternative.

In sum, through coordination with the meeting sponsors, the Council has been offered time on the agenda of each of the following regional meetings. All of these meetings are open to the public. The lead Council staff analyst and at least two Council members are scheduled to attend.

Yukon River Panel	Dec 6 - 9, 2010; Anchorage
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Assn annual meeting	Feb 14 – 17, 2011; Mountain Village
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council	Feb 23 – 24, 2011; Mountain Village
Bering Strait Regional Conference (Tentative)	Feb 22 – 24, 2011; Nome
Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council	March 3 – 4, 2011; Fairbanks
Western Interior Regional Advisory Council	March 1 – 2, 2011; Galena
Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council	March 9 – 10, 2011; Naknek
Tanana Chiefs Conference annual meeting	Mar 15 – 19, 2011; Fairbanks
North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting	June 6 – 14, 2011; Nome

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERIES CHINOOK SALMON BYCATCH UPDATE

During its December 2010 meeting, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) identified concerns about Chinook salmon bycatch taken in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries, and directed its staff to initiate two analyses to implement short- and long-term salmon bycatch control measures. In the short-term, focused measures for expedited review and rulemaking have been initiated for the GOA pollock fishery. A longer-term amendment package will address comprehensive salmon bycatch management in the GOA trawl fisheries. A summary of the alternatives:

Western/Central GOA pollock fishery analysis — expedited track

Alternative 1: Status quo

Alternative 2: Establish Chinook salmon bycatch limit for the directed pollock fishery (hard cap, by regulatory area) and increase observer coverage on vessels under 60 feet

Alternative 3: Require membership in a mandatory salmon bycatch control cooperative in order to fish in the directed pollock fishery

GOA trawl fisheries analysis — regular track

Alternative 1: Status quo

Alternative 2: Establish a Chinook salmon bycatch limit for the non-pollock trawl fisheries (hard cap, may be apportioned by area and/or directed fishery)

Alternative 3: Require membership in a mandatory salmon bycatch control cooperative in order to fish in all Western/Central GOA trawl fisheries

Alternative 4: Require full retention of all salmon in all western/central GOA trawl fisheries (includes an option to require electronic monitoring or observers to monitor for discards)

The limit range of Chinook salmon bycatch to be analyzed for the directed pollock fishery includes 15,000, or 22,500, or 30,000 fish, applied to the Western/Central GOA fisheries as a whole. For the non-pollock fisheries, the Chinook salmon bycatch limit range to be analyzed is 5,000, or 7,500, or 10,000 fish.

Upcoming Actions

- **Early February in Seattle:** NPFMC to review workplan and timetable.
- **March/April in Anchorage:** The NPFMC is scheduled to conduct an initial review of the analysis for the Western/Central GOA pollock fishery.
- **June 2011 (tentative) in Nome:** NPFMC final action to select final management measures for the Western/Central GOA pollock fishery.

- The public is invited to provide input and comments at either or both the March and June meetings.
- A draft of the analysis will be made available on the NPFMC website (<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>) at least two weeks before each meeting.
- If the NPFMC takes final action in June, the National Marine Fishery Service will then proceed to rulemaking, and the new management measures would be implemented, at the earliest in mid-2012, in time for the fall pollock fishing season in 2012. For the longer term, more comprehensive bycatch management package for the GOA trawl fisheries, NPFMC staff will begin work on that analysis once they are finished with the pollock fishery analysis, sometime in fall 2011.

See the following pages for the full NPFMC motion.

C-5 GOA Chinook salmon bycatch

Council motion

The Council adopts the following problem statement and moves the following alternatives for initial review.

Problem statement:

Chinook salmon bycatch taken incidentally in GOA groundfish fisheries is a concern, and no salmon bycatch control measures have been implemented to date. Current observer coverage levels and protocols in some GOA groundfish trawl fisheries raise concerns about bycatch estimates and may limit sampling opportunities. Limited information is available on the origin of Chinook salmon taken as bycatch in the GOA; it is thought that the harvests include stocks from Asia, Alaska, British Columbia, and lower-48 origin. Despite management actions by the State of Alaska to reduce Chinook salmon mortality in sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries, minimum Chinook salmon escapement goals in some river systems have not been achieved in recent years. In addition, the level of GOA Chinook salmon bycatch in 2010 has exceeded the incidental take amount in the Biological Opinion for endangered Chinook salmon stocks. The sharp increase in 2010 Chinook bycatch levels in the GOA fisheries require implementing short-term and long-term management measures to reduce salmon bycatch to the extent practicable under National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In the short term, measures focused on the GOA pollock fisheries are expected to provide the greatest savings. In the long term, comprehensive salmon bycatch management in the GOA is needed.

Alternatives for expedited review and rule making:

The below alternatives apply to directed pollock trawl fisheries in the Central and Western GOA.

Alternative 1: Status quo.

Alternative 2: Chinook salmon Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limit and increased monitoring.

Component 1: 30,000 Chinook salmon PSC limit (hard cap).

Option: Apportion limit between Central and Western GOA

- a) proportional to the pollock TAC.
- b) proportional to historic average bycatch rate of Chinook salmon (5 or 10-year average).
- c) proportional to historic average bycatch number of Chinook salmon (5 or 10-year average).

Component 2: Expanded observer coverage.

Extend existing 30% observer coverage requirements for vessels 60'-125' to trawl vessels less than 60' directed fishing for pollock in the Central or Western GOA.

December 12, 2010

Alternative 3: Mandatory salmon bycatch control cooperative membership.

In order to fish in the Central or Western GOA pollock fisheries a vessel must be a member of a salmon bycatch control cooperative for the area where they are participating. Cooperative formation will be annual with a minimum threshold (number of licenses).

Cooperative contractual agreements would include a requirement for vessels to retain all salmon bycatch until vessel or plant observers have an opportunity to determine the number of salmon and collect any scientific data or biological samples. Cooperative contractual agreements would also include measures to control Chinook salmon bycatch, ensure compliance with the contractual full retention requirement, promote gear innovation, salmon hotspot reporting, and monitoring individual vessel bycatch performance.

Annual cooperative reports to the Council would include the contractual agreements and successes and failures for salmon bycatch controls by season and calendar year.

The Council requests staff explore options related to the following aspects of mandatory cooperative formation:

- Minimum number of licenses required to promote meaningful exchange of information and cooperation to avoid bycatch under the current directed fishery management structure. (Minimum threshold for cooperative formation should be set to ensure all eligible licenses have a reasonable opportunity to participate).
- Options to ensure participants outside of a bycatch control cooperative would be subject to regulatory bycatch controls if it is determined mandatory cooperative membership is not possible.
- Appropriate contract elements and reporting requirements.

Alternatives for regular review and rule making track:

The below alternatives apply to non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Central and Western GOA.

Alternative 1: Status quo.

Alternative 2: 10,000 Chinook salmon PSC limit (hard cap).

Option 1: Apportion limit between Central and Western GOA.

Option 2: Apportion limit by directed fishery.

Applies to both options: Apportion proportional to historic average bycatch of Chinook salmon (5 or 10-year average).

Alternative 3: Mandatory salmon bycatch control cooperative membership.

In order to fish in the Central or Western GOA trawl fisheries a vessel must be a member of a salmon bycatch control cooperative for the area where they are participating. Cooperative formation will be annual with a minimum threshold (number of licenses).

Cooperative contractual agreements would include measures to control Chinook salmon bycatch, promote gear innovation, salmon hotspot reporting, and monitoring individual vessel bycatch

December 12, 2010

performance. Annual cooperative reports to the Council would include the contractual agreements and successes and failures for salmon bycatch controls by season and calendar year.

The below alternatives applies to all trawl fisheries in the Central and Western GOA.

Alternative 4: Full retention of salmon.

Vessels will retain all salmon bycatch until the number of salmon has been determined by the vessel or plant observer and the observer's collection of any scientific data or biological samples from the salmon has been completed.

Option: Deploy electronic monitoring or observers to monitor for discards in order to validate salmon census data for use in catch accounting.

The Council also requests staff to provide the following:

- Chinook salmon bycatch rate data for each GOA groundfish fishery by month and area.
- Correlation between bycatch rates and time of day (based on observer data or anecdotal information).
- Correlation between bycatch rates and time of year (based on observer data or anecdotal information).
- Information on the flexibility under Steller sea lion measures to adjust season dates.
- Current trip limit management and implications of lowering GOA pollock trip limits.
- Information on current excluder use, effectiveness of salmon excluders, and deployment of excluders on smaller trawl vessels.
- A discussion of potential benefits, with respect to available bycatch measures and salmon savings, of a cooperative management structure for the GOA pollock fisheries. The discussion should assume a cooperative program for the Central and Western GOA directed pollock catcher vessels. Licenses qualifying for the program would annually form cooperatives that would receive allocations based on the catch histories of members. Catcher vessel cooperatives would be required to associate with a shore-based processor in the GOA, but members may change cooperatives and cooperatives may change processor associations annually without penalty.

OVERVIEW OF THE ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

By: Fred Armstrong, Executive Director, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council AMBCC

Introduction

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was amended to allow the Federal government to regulate an otherwise closed season between March 10 and September 1. The AMBCC was created to provide regulatory recommendations to the Service Regulations Committee.

Background

The AMBCC consists of Alaska Natives, State of Alaska and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service representatives that meet and act on regional regulations. Current partners include:

State of Alaska	Bristol Bay Native Association
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association	Copper River Native Association
Association of Village Council Presidents	Kawerak Inc.
Chugach Regional Resource Commission	Tanana Chiefs Conference
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak	North Slope Borough
Maniilaq Association	

The council recommends regulations based on the customary and traditional lifestyle of indigenous inhabitants located in eligible areas of the state defined in the amendments protocol. The season runs from April 2–August 31 of each year with a 30 day closure prescribed for each region during the principle nesting season. An open and closed list of birds is also published annually as well as methods and means prohibitions.

The public can submit proposals during the open period of November 1 through December 15 annually. The AMBCC acts on regional and statewide proposals at their April regulatory meeting of each year.

All hunters ages 16 and over must have in possession a federal duck stamp when hunting waterfowl.

Law Enforcement will actively enforce all migratory bird regulations promulgated for the spring and summer season in Alaska.

Visit <http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/index.htm> to view the current regulations for the subsistence harvest of migratory birds and find more information on the AMBCC.

Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
(Updated September 2010)

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Proposal Form

The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
***Proposed Change for 2012 Alaska Subsistence Spring/Summer
Migratory Bird Harvest Regulations***

All proposals received by the AMBCC office will be sent to the affected regional management body for their consideration and recommendation. Recommendations will be forwarded to the statewide body for consideration and action. To ensure success of your proposal, please plan on attending your local regional management body meeting to present data or information on your proposal. Proposals received without adequate information may be deferred or rejected.

Proposed by: _____

Name: _____

Organization/Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax Number: _____ E-mail: _____

What problem or issue are you trying to address? (Clearly state the problem to be solved or a situation that should be corrected.)

How should the new regulation read? (Indicate if it is a change to season dates, species of bird/eggs open to hunting, area open to hunting, methods and means, or harvest limits)

To what geographic area does this regulation apply? (Is it a statewide, regional, or local regulation? If it pertains to a local area, please describe where it applies.)

What impact will this regulation have on migratory bird populations?

How will this regulation affect subsistence users?

Why should this regulation be adopted?

Please attach any additional information that supports your proposal.

Fall 2011 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

August 22–October 14, 2011 current as of 10/29/10

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 21	Aug. 22 WINDOW OPENS	Aug. 23 NWA—TBA NS—TBA	Aug. 24	Aug. 25	Aug. 26	Aug. 27
Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3
Sept. 4	Sept. 5 HOLIDAY	Sept. 6	Sept. 7 KA—Cold Bay or King Cove	Sept. 8	Sept. 9	Sept. 10
Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15	Sept. 16	Sept. 17
Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21 SP—Nome	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24
Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27 SE—Wrangell	Sept. 28	Sept. 29 YKD—TBA	Sept. 30 END OF FY2011	Oct. 1
Oct. 2	Oct. 3 SC—Cantwell	Oct. 4 WI—Aniak	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8
Oct. 9	Oct. 10 HOLIDAY	Oct. 11 EI—Tanana	Oct. 12 BB—Dillingham	Oct. 13	Oct. 14 WINDOW CLOSES	Oct. 15

Winter 2012 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

February–March 2012 current as of 01/28/11

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb. 12</i>	<i>Feb. 13</i> <i>Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>	<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i>
<i>Feb. 19</i>	<i>Feb. 20</i> HOLIDAY	<i>Feb. 21</i>	<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Feb. 23</i>	<i>Feb. 24</i>	<i>Feb. 25</i>
<i>Feb. 26</i>	<i>Feb. 27</i>	<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Feb. 29</i>	<i>Mar. 1</i>	<i>Mar. 2</i>	<i>Mar. 3</i>
<i>Mar. 4</i>	<i>Mar. 5</i>	<i>Mar. 6</i>	<i>Mar. 7</i>	<i>Mar. 8</i>	<i>Mar. 9</i>	<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>	<i>Mar. 17</i>
<i>Mar. 18</i>	<i>Mar. 19</i>	<i>Mar. 20</i>	<i>Mar. 21</i>	<i>Mar. 22</i>	<i>Mar. 23</i> <i>Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 24</i>

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD JANUARY 5, 2011 EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Federal Subsistence Board held an executive session on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at which it discussed possible follow-up work on six items that came out of the Secretarial Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
- FSB Members (or their alternates) in attendance at the January 5, 2011 meeting included:
 - Tim Towarak, Chair
 - Sue Masica, NPS
 - Julia Dougan, BLM
 - Kristin K'eit and Gene Virden, BIA
 - Larry Bell, FWS
 - Beth Pendleton, USDA, FS.
- Staff in attendance included:
 - Keith Goltz and Ken Lord, SOL; Jim Ustaciewski, OGC;
 - Pete Probasco, Polly Wheeler, Gary Golberg and Larry Buklis, OSM
 - Nancy Swanton, Sandy Rabinowitch, and Dave Mills, NPS
 - Jerry Berg and Crystal Leonetti, FWS;
 - Glenn Chen and Pat Petrivelli, BIA
 - Dan Sharp, BLM
 - Steve Kessler, USDA FS.
- Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant for Alaska, Secretary of the Interior was also in attendance.

No formal action was taken at the meeting. The Board discussed six items from the Secretarial review, including:

- Developing a proposed regulation to increase the membership on the Federal Subsistence Board to include two additional public members representing subsistence users.
 - OSM and Pat Pourchot developed a proposed rule, it will be published in the Federal Register in mid-February, with a 60 day public comments period.
- As a matter of policy, expand deference to appropriate Regional Advisory Council (RAC) recommendations in addition to the “takings” decisions of the Board provided for under Section 805(c) of ANILCA, subject to the three exceptions found in that Section.
 - The FSB will generally defer to Regional Councils on C&T, but likely not on rural, as the Courts have ruled that rural is an absolute term. The FSB has not yet decided on whether or not it will defer to RACs on the rural process.
- Review, with Regional Council input, the December 2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State to determine either the need for the MOU or the need for potential changes to clarify Federal authorities in regard to the subsistence program.
 - The MOU is being presented to all Councils at the winter 2011 meetings for their review and comment.
- Review, with Regional Advisory Council input, the customary and traditional (C&T) use determination process and present recommendations for regulatory changes.

- RACs are being asked for their general perspectives on the C&T process. That is, are they okay with it, and if not, what in their view should be changed.
- Review, with Regional Advisory Council input, the rural/nonrural determination process and present recommendations for regulatory changes.
 - The FSB will be holding a work session on this process on April 6. No further action will be taken until after that meeting.
- Review the Board's written policy on executive sessions and minimize the use of executive sessions to those specifically prescribed.
 - The Board will minimize the use of executive sessions. It also intends to add a sentence to its guidelines, stating that formal report-outs will be provided following executive sessions. This document represents the first such "report out."

Action Item from Secretarial Review	Status	Next Steps	RAC Involvement
Expand FSB membership			
	Requires change to subpart B regulations Draft has been prepared	Anticipate publication of draft regulation during spring 2011 FSB will make recommendation to Secretaries in May 2011 Nominees will not be solicited until regulations finalized, likely in 2011	Will be asked for comment at Winter 2011 meetings
Expand deference to RACS:			
C&T	FSB generally supportive of expanding deference to RACs on C&T; policy and/or possible rulemaking need to be pursued	Develop interim policy (following 805(c)) for deference on C&T Determine appropriate mechanism (policy, rulemaking/advance notice of intent) for formalizing intent on C&T	Circulate draft for comment - Fall 2011
Rural Determinations	The Courts have found that rural is an absolute term meaning “sparsely populated,” and not subject to interpretation, therefore deference regarding rural determinations would be inappropriate.	Focus on process and criteria for rural/nonrural determinations	RAC chairs invited to April 6, 2011 meeting to understand 2000 census process

Action Item from Secretarial Review	Status	Next Steps	RAC Involvement
Expand deference to RACS (Continued)			
<i>In-Season management</i>	No change for in-season management, will defer as time and conservation allow	Revise inseason delegation of authority letters as needed and provide copies to RACs	Discuss communications improvements/enhancements that flow from delegation of authority letters Close loop if concerns are raised and notify FSB with concerns
Review MOU			
	Overview/briefing at winter 2011 RAC meetings	Receive feedback by May 1, 2011 FSB to review comments during summer 2011 FSB to discuss changes with State Any proposed changes will be brought before the RACs in Fall 2011	Review and discuss MOU at Winter 2011 meetings Provide comments to FSB by May 1, 2011
Review C&T determination process			
	Seek input from RACs as to what changes, if any, are needed Explore and develop possible options for changes	Receive RAC input Refine options (if any) during Summer 2011 Options presented to RACs in Fall 2011	Broad discussion on C&T process at Winter 2011 meetings If needed, review and develop options at Fall 2011 meetings

Action Item from Secretarial Review	Status	Next Steps	RAC Involvement
Review rural/nonrural process			
	Educational work session on April 6, 2011	Need to examine process for considering changes to rural determinations process	Invite RAC chairs to April 6, 2011 work session