**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

# CHARTER

1. **Official Designation:** Western Interior Alaska 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.

(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. Appoint one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with Section 808 of ANILCA.

f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.

g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.

h. 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 $150,000, which includes three-quarters person-year of staff support.

8. **Meetings:** The Council may meet twice 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)).

Ken Salazar

Secretary of the Interior

NOV 20 2009

Date Signed

DEC 3 2009

Date Filed