

# 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

## 2. Fiscal Year

2018

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

## 3b. GSA Committee No.

No.

1534

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

12/04/2017

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

Date

12/04/2019

## 7. Expected Term Date

Date

## 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

## 8b. Specific Termination Authority

## 8c. Actual Term Date

## 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

## 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

## 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

## 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)

## 13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

## 16a. Total Number of Reports

1

## 16b. Report Date

05/23/2018

## 16b. Report Title

Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board

## Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 4 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 4

## Meetings and Dates

### Purpose

The Council met to review and make recommendations on Federal subsistence wildlife regulatory proposals, and discuss subsistence fisheries and wildlife research priorities and other matters related to subsistence fish and wildlife management in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region. The Council received reports from Federal land managers, tribal organizations and other groups engaged in subsistence issues in the region. The Council also received reports from State and Federal biologists on the status of salmon populations on both the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

### Start

### End

10/12/2017 - 10/13/2017

The Council met to review and make recommendations on Federal subsistence fisheries regulatory proposals, develop subsistence fisheries research priorities and discuss other matters related to subsistence fish and wildlife management in the region. The Council received reports from Federal land managers, tribal organizations and other groups engaged in subsistence issues in the region. The Council also received reports from State and Federal biologists on the status of salmon populations on both the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

03/14/2018 - 03/15/2018

This was a followup meeting by teleconference for the Council to review and make recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board on two Kuskokwim River Fisheries Special Actions regarding subsistence Chinook management.

05/03/2018 - 05/03/2018

The Council met to review and make recommendations on Federal subsistence fisheries regulatory proposals and to discuss subsistence fisheries and research priorities and other matters related to subsistence fish and wildlife management in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region. The Council heard reports from Federal land managers, tribal organizations, and other groups engaged in subsistence issues in the region. The Council also received reports from State and Federal biologists on the status of salmon populations on both the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

09/26/2018 - 09/28/2018

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 4**

	<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Next FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$113,429.00	\$116,832.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$36,412.00	\$37,505.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$16,875.00	\$17,381.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$37,148.00	\$38,262.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$203,864.00	\$209,980.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	1.15	1.15

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Council typically meets twice a year. In FY 2018, the Council met four times (the Fall meetings in two consecutive years fell within this FY, which is atypical). They met to hear public comments and comments from other agencies on subsistence issues; make recommendations on Federal subsistence fisheries and wildlife proposals for the Yukon-Kuskokwim region; review information for the development of Federal fisheries regulatory proposals; review inseason fisheries management and tribal consultation guidelines; make recommendations on Fisheries Research Monitoring Program research priorities; and conduct regular Council business. The Council reviewed and approved its FY 2017 Annual Report to the Board.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Members broadly represent geographic, cultural, user, and gender diversity present within the region. This is ensured through a rigorous outreach and recruitment effort and a thorough evaluation and recommendation process. Applicants are evaluated according to the following criteria: they must be a resident of the region in which they applied; have extensive knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife resources; have extensive knowledge of the region's subsistence uses, customs, and traditions; have extensive knowledge of the region's sport, commercial, and other nonsubsistence uses of fish and wildlife

resources; and have evident leadership and communication skills. The applicants, their references, and key contacts within the region are interviewed by panels of Federal agency staff. These panels meet to rate and rank the applicants according to standards set by the Board. This information is considered by the Interagency Staff Committee which makes its recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board then meets to review the applicants and make their recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board recommendations balance points of view represented on the Council with the Council's function, which is to advise the Board on matters pertaining to subsistence. The Board also considers other factors such as geographic representation within the region. The Secretaries must concur on the appointments of the Council. The entire process requires approximately 9 months to complete.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Meetings occur approximately twice each calendar year with additional meetings as needed to address fisheries and wildlife regulatory issues. The Council makes its recommendations on the Federal regulatory change proposals and policy changes for both Federal regulatory cycles. Meetings are held in the region so residents of the region have an opportunity to attend, provide public testimony, and provide local knowledge of the resources for proposed subsistence hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations. On rare occasions, the Council meets outside of the region with other Councils to deal with multi-regional subsistence issues.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act established the Regional Advisory Councils as the public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local committees of the region, and to provide recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding management of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence uses on Federal public lands. The members of the Council and the public participants provide the expertise of subsistence people to the process of forming regulations that govern their lives and to the management of Federal public lands they use for subsistence purposes. The Regional Advisory Council is a vital link between the Federal Subsistence Board and the rural residents who live with the effects of the Board's decisions.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

Not applicable - all meetings are open to the public.

**21. Remarks**

Not applicable

## Designated Federal Officer

Eva Patton Council Coordinator

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Aloysius, Robert	12/03/2009	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Andrew, John	04/30/2014	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Bill, David	12/03/2006	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Brown, William	12/03/2004	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Charles, James	12/03/1997	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Oney, Raymond	01/04/2013	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Peters, Michael	03/25/2014	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Rogers, Alissa	12/11/2017	12/02/2020	Subsistence representative	Representative Member
Smith, Dale	12/11/2017	12/11/2017	Subsistence User	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 9**

## Narrative Description

Since Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, Title VIII has provided for the continuation of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands by rural residents in Alaska. Title VIII required the creation of Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to enable rural residents to have a meaningful role in Federal subsistence management. The Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture subsequently established the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Program is a multi-agency effort that includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the USDA Forest Service. These agencies manage the Federal public lands where subsistence activities take place, including waters running through or next to Federal public lands and limited marine jurisdiction. The Secretaries delegated management authority for subsistence uses in Alaska to the Federal Subsistence Board, which is comprised of the regional directors of the five Federal public land managers in Alaska and a representative appointed by the Secretaries to serve as Chair. The Board is the decisionmaking body that oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The ten Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils provide recommendations and information to the Board, review policies and management plans, provide a public forum, develop proposals, evaluate current and anticipated subsistence needs, appoint members to the National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions, and perform other duties required by the Board. The Councils make recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife harvest regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Councils meet at least twice a year. Council chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to represent

the recommendations of their Councils and provide knowledge and advice to the Board.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

**Outcome Comments**

The Regional Advisory Council provides recommendations and pertinent information to the Board, reviews policies and management plans, provides a public forum, develops proposals, evaluates current and anticipated subsistence needs, appoints members to the National Park Service subsistence resource commissions, and performs other duties required by the Board. The Council makes recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Council meets at least twice a year; however, individual members may represent the Board at any time to serve on a committee or working group. Council chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present the recommendations of the Council and provide knowledge and advice to the Board.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000

### **Cost Savings Comments**

Regional Advisory Council members are volunteers from local areas in Alaska. They provide expert knowledge and advice to the Federal Subsistence Board which the Board cannot otherwise obtain without members' assistance. Without the Regional Advisory Council, the Program would need to greatly increase its staff and research funding. The researchers would then need to seek information from the very people, or similar people, who now make up the Council. The Board adopts a preponderance of the Council's recommendations which may lower resource management costs.

### **What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

457

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

During its FY 2018 fall meeting, the Council provided its recommendations on Federal subsistence wildlife regulatory proposals, made recommendations on customary and traditional use determinations, and discussed and developed recommendations on subsistence fisheries priority information needs and inseason salmon management. The Federal Subsistence Board considered wildlife regulatory recommendations during its meeting in the spring of 2018, voting to adopt or reject proposals in a manner that was consistent with each of this Council's recommendations. The Council approved its FY 2017 Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Council heard resource management updates and reports and provided its comments and recommendations on the draft agency policy changes. The Council reviewed wildlife data for the region, discussed local and traditional knowledge regarding fish and wildlife in the region, and made recommendations on fisheries management strategies and Federal wildlife regulations. The Council received agency reports and public and tribal comments on relevant resource management in the region to inform their recommendations. The Council also met to formally review and make recommendations on Federal subsistence fisheries emergency management Special Action Requests. The fall 2018 meeting will occur in this fiscal year - the Council will make recommendations on fisheries proposals but the Federal Subsistence Board will not meet until January 2019, so those recommendations will not be reflected in the total number of recommendations for this fiscal year.

### **What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

91%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and adopt the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council concerning the taking of fish and wildlife within the region for subsistence uses on federally managed public lands. The Board may choose not to follow a Council recommendation only if it is determined that the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, it violates any of the recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or it would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs.

### **What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

8%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

The Board may choose not to follow a Council recommendation only if it is not supported by substantial evidence, it violates any of the recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or it would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. In some cases the Board may choose to adopt a proposal with an amendment intended to make it more effective or reflect feedback from other Councils in the affected region or the Board may defer action if it determines more information or circumstances would better inform taking action on the proposal.

### **Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board (acting for the Secretary) to inform the Regional Advisory Council when the Board chooses not to adopt a Council recommendation concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. The Board has expanded this to include reporting on those Council recommendations it does adopt and those it adopts with modifications. These actions and their justifications are written in what is referred to as the 805(c) Letter. Board decisions regarding other matters, such as rural determinations, for which the Council makes recommendations are reported to the Council in a less formal manner by the Subsistence Regional Coordinator or the Council Chair.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

**Action Comments**

The Council recommends reorganizing fish and wildlife resource harvest priorities when necessary. The Council also recommends reallocation of fish and wildlife resource harvests based on the agency reports by lifting restrictions limiting the harvests. The Council recommends issuing new fish and wildlife regulations when conservation concerns are in consideration for resource management.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

N/A

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

**Access Comments**

The Council Coordinator provides information upon request from members, agencies, organizations, and private individuals.