

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council

3b. GSA

Committee No.

1536

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

01/18/2024

6. Expected Renewal Date

01/18/2026

7. Expected Term 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

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

2

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

The purpose of this joint, all-council meeting was to bring the ten subsistence Regional Advisory Councils together to discuss issues that are relevant to them all. Discussions and presentations included information from the Federal Subsistence Board and the Secretary of the Interior's office, the councils' regional reports, co-stewardship, and other issues affecting all of the councils, such as salmon and caribou critical decline and youth leaders in subsistence management, among other topics. Council members also received length of service awards and recognition. The all-council meeting was followed by several training sessions and administrative presentations.

03/05/2024 - 03/06/2024

The Council's Winter Council Meeting. In addition to regular Council business, the main purpose of this meeting was to hold election of officers, reconsider a wildlife proposal for Kodiak deer that the Council recommended with modification at their fall meeting, consider submitting any fishery proposals, and to finalize their FY-23 annual report. In addition, volunteer committee was formed to work with OSM to develop Priority Information Needs for Fishery Resource Monitoring Projects. The Council also approved two letters to be sent to the Board, one regarding fishery concerns, and other need for compensation for Council when attending meetings.

03/08/2024 - 03/08/2024

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00

18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council typically meets two times a year to review and make recommendations on a number of matters: rural and non-rural determination, Federal fish and wildlife regulatory proposals, and proposals before the Alaska Board of Game and Board of Fisheries. All meetings are open to the public and provide opportunity for members of the public, Tribes, organizations, and agency representatives to participate in discussions and share information relevant to Federal subsistence management. At these public meetings the Council receives public comments and considers technical information on fish and wildlife populations and subsequently makes recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board encompassing consideration of the scientific data, local knowledge, and experience of subsistence hunters and fishers in the region. The Council drafts correspondence to the Federal Subsistence Board in the form of an Annual Report to bring awareness to subsistence and fish and wildlife conservation concerns in the region. The Council continues to track and participate in subsistence fish and wildlife management issues on the Federal lands within their region, which includes Kodiak, Alaska Maritime, Izembek and westward portion of Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuges in the Kodiak/Aleutians region.

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/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; 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 then 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 its recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board recommendations balance the 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 regarding appointments. The entire process requires approximately 15 months to complete.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the

Committee Meetings?

The Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings normally occur twice each fiscal year with additional meetings as needed to address particular issues. Meetings are held in the region as often as possible so residents of the region have an opportunity to attend these meetings and provide public testimony and local knowledge of the resources for proposed subsistence hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations. The Federal Subsistence Board depends on information gathered at the Council's meetings and on the Council's recommendations to make decisions that directly affect rural residents' food supply and culture. The Council's recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) are not only relevant, but have significant impact on regional residents, because, while the Board may decide not to adopt a Council recommendation regarding the taking of fish and wildlife, it can do so only if such a recommendation fails to meet one or more of the three criteria in Title VIII, Section 805(c) of ANILCA. In FY 2023 the Council met twice. However, unlike other councils, this is the only council that holds a meeting in September, which means the first meeting in FY 2023 was in March 2023 (not the fall of 2022) and the second meeting was in September 2023.

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

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act established the Regional Advisory Councils as the public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local communities 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 in Alaska. 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 whose lives the Board's decisions affect.

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

Not applicable - meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

In FY 2023, the Council made eight recommendations.

Designated Federal Officer

Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough Subsistence Council Coordinator

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Chernoff, Coral	12/02/2014	12/02/2026	subsistence user	Representative Member
Hayden, Natasha	02/28/2019	12/02/2024	subsistence user	Representative Member
Holmes, Patrick	12/21/2001	12/02/2025	retired biologist	Representative Member
Koso, Richard	01/15/2021	12/02/2025	subsistence user	Representative Member
Price, Christopher	12/11/2017	12/02/2026	Chief Executive Officer, Qualanagin Tribe	Representative Member
Richardson, Brett	01/17/2024	12/02/2024	Hotel Manager	Representative Member
Rohrer, Samuel	10/05/2004	12/02/2025	big game and sport fishing guide	Representative Member
Skinner, Rebecca	12/02/2014	12/02/2026	attorney	Representative Member
Trumble, Della	09/05/1997	12/02/2024	subsistence user	Representative Member

Wasley, Jeffrey	01/17/2024	12/02/2025	commercial hunting and fishing guide	Representative Member
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Number of Committee Members Listed: 10

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 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 with 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, and perform other duties required by the Board. The Councils make 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 Councils meet at least twice a year. Council chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Council provides recommendations and information to the Federal Subsistence Board, reviews policies and management plans, provides a public forum, develops proposals, evaluates current and anticipated subsistence needs, 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.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Regional Advisory Council members are all volunteers. They provide expert knowledge and advice to the Federal Subsistence Board which the Board cannot otherwise obtain. Without the Council, the program would need to greatly increase 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. In most fiscal years, the Board adopts a vast majority of the Council's recommendations which may lower resource management costs. Council business requires a broad outreach to the public for comment in a region so vast that it reaches into the eastern hemisphere. As a result, the geographic distribution of this Council makes it the most expensive for travel in the Federal Subsistence Program on a per-member basis.

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

115

Number of Recommendations Comments

In FY 2023, during their winter meeting held March 29-30, 2023, in Kodiak, the Council did not make any recommendations of fishery or wildlife proposals or closure reviews. During their fall meeting held September 19-20, 2023, the Council made eight recommendations, two on wildlife closure reviews and six on wildlife proposals (two regional proposals; two crossover proposals, and two statewide proposals). These recommendations will be reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board during its regulatory meeting in April 2024; therefore, the implementation of these recommendations is not included in the percentages below.

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

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

ANILCA, 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 on public lands. The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under this constraint, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations.

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

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under this constraint, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations. In some cases, the Federal Subsistence Board deferred to the regulatory proposal of another Council from the region affected if there was a difference in a recommendation made by two or more Regional Advisory Councils.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

ANILCA 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 modification. These actions and their justifications are written in what is referred to as the "805(c) Letter." The Board considers recommendations in the Council's annual report and makes a formal reply. Board decisions regarding other matters 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

New subsistence wildlife regulations frequently require the managing agencies to reprioritize staff and other resources. Other recommendations accepted by the Federal Subsistence Board may also require reallocation of agency funds. The Council also makes recommendations regarding fisheries information needed within the region and for annual funding for fisheries research projects related to those needs.

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

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

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

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

There is an extensive effort to announce the public meetings of the Regional Council via news releases, radio public service announcements, website postings, Facebook postings, and newspaper ads. The agenda, meeting materials, and meeting transcripts are available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program website and are mailed upon request to the communities within the region and interested organizations and agencies. The Regional Coordinator has an 800 number to provide easier access for the public and to disseminate the actions of the Regional Council. There are various publications produced to share the actions of the Regional Council. These include, but are not limited to, meeting booklets for their semiannual meetings, newsletters, topic-specific informational letters, brochures, and public handouts.