# 2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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| 1. Department or Agency | 2. Fiscal Year |
|---|---|
| Department of the Interior | 2026 |

| 3. Committee or Subcommittee | 3b. GSA Committee No. |
|---|---|
| Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council | 1536 |

| 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? | 5. Current Charter | 6. Expected Renewal Date | 7. Expected Term Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| No | 01/13/2026 | 01/13/2028 | |

| 8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear? | 8b. Specific Termination Authority | 8c. Actual Term Date |
|---|---|---|
| No | | |

| 9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear | 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate? | 10b. Legislation Pending? |
|---|---|---|
| Continue | Not Applicable | Not Applicable |

**11. Establishment Authority** Statutory (Congress Created)

| 12. Specific Establishment Authority | 13. Effective Date | 14. Commitee Type | 14c. Presidential? |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988) | 12/02/1980 | Continuing | No |

**15. Description of Committee** Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

**16a. Total Number of Reports** 1

| 16b. Report Date | Report Title |
|---|---|
| 04/08/2026 | FY25 Annual Report |

**Number of Committee Reports Listed:** 1

**17a. Open** 2 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 2

**Meetings and Dates**

| Purpose | Start | End |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Council met to elect new officers, review previous meeting minutes, present Council member reports, and consider developing proposals to change the Federal subsistence fish and shellfish regulations on Federal public waters in Alaska for 2027-2029. They also discussed council correspondence and reviewed and approved the Council's FY 2025 annual report. | 03/04/2026 - 03/05/2026 | |
| The purpose of the meeting was for the Council to make recommendations on fisheries proposals and closure reviews for the 2027-2029 regulatory cycle. Council members provided reports about observations and issues in their local regions. The Council formalized the priority information needs for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The Council received a summary the Board's 805(c) Report and the FY 2025 Annual Report reply from the Board. The Council also developed topics for the FY 2026 Annual Report. | 09/15/2026 - 09/16/2026 | |

**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** | $129,355.95 | $135,823.75 |
| **18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants** | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members** | $24,508.45 | $25,733.87 |
| **18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members** | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| **18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff** | $23,257.32 | $24,420.19 |
| **18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants** | $0.00 | $0.00 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)** | $24,337.68 | $25,554.57 |
| **18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)** | $3,679.67 | $3,863.65 |
| **18e. Total Costs** | $205,139.07 | $215,396.03 |
| **19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)** | 1.00 | 1.00 |

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

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 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) receives public comments and considers technical information on fish and wildlife populations and subsequently makes recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board (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 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 the 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 mix 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 meet to rate and rank the applicants. This information is considered by the Interagency Staff Committee, which makes its recommendation to the Board. The Board then meets to review the applicants and makes 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. One member seat is designated as a non-voting seat. A non-voting seat serves a developmental purpose to engage and train the next generation of young leaders, potential future voting Council members, without altering the balance of voting power. In 2025, the Board held its first outreach effort to

recruit applicants for this seat. The applicants for this seat are evaluated according to the following criteria: they must be a resident of the region in which they applied; must be between ages of 18-25; must have participated in subsistence activities, be otherwise knowledgeable in matters related to subsistence resources and uses of fish and wildlife, customs, and traditions in the region or to be engaged in a resource management related field of study; and have evident leadership and communication skills or potential, as well as awareness of Federal and/or State fishing and hunting regulations. The process of evaluating the applicants for this seat is similar to the voting membership applicants. The Secretaries review the Board's recommendations and make the final appointment decisions. The entire process takes approximately 12 months to complete.

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

The Council generally meets twice each calendar year. The Council's recommendations to the 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 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). As much as possible, meetings are held in rural communities to provide the opportunity for personal involvement by those most directly impacted by Federal subsistence management. In FY 2026 the Council met two times, once in Kodiak and once in Unalaska.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this**

**committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**
ANILCA 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 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 modifying/forming regulations that govern their lives and to the management of Federal public lands they use for subsistence purposes. The Council is a vital link between the Board and rural residents whose lives the Board's decisions affect.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**
All meetings are open to the public.

**21. Remarks**
In FY 2026, at the Council's meeting, September 15 - 16, 2026, in Unalaska, AK, the Council made ten fishery regulatory recommendations. Meeting minutes contain detailed information of the meetings held, including, but not limited to, any recommendations and justifications given by the Council.

**Designated Federal Officer**
Leigh Honig 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 | 12/02/2027 | subsistence user | Representative Member |
| Holmes, Patrick | 12/21/2001 | 12/02/2028 | retired biologist | Representative Member |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kalmakoff, Karen | 12/03/2024 | 02/18/2026 | Commercial fisherman/Elder services/ and member of Pauloff Harbor Tribe | Representative Member |
| Richardson, Brett | 01/17/2024 | 12/02/2027 | Hotel Manager | Representative Member |
| Rohrer, Samuel | 10/05/2004 | 12/02/2028 | big game and sport fishing guide | Representative Member |
| Skinner, Rebecca | 12/02/2014 | 12/02/2026 | attorney | Representative Member |
| Smith, Daniel | 12/03/2024 | 11/03/2026 | Fish biologist/ member of Sun'aq Tribe | Representative Member |
| Wasley, Jeffrey | 01/17/2024 | 12/02/2025 | commercial hunting and fishing guide | Representative Member |

**Number of Committee Members Listed:** 9

**Narrative Description**

Since Congress passed the ANILCA 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 DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. 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 Board, which is comprised of the agency heads of the five Federal public land managers in Alaska and a representative appointed by the Secretaries to serve as Chair as well as five public member representatives. The Board is the decision-making 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 | ☐ |
| 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 Council provides recommendations and information to the 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 | ☐ |
| 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 Other | ☐ |

**Cost Savings Comments**

Regional Advisory Council members are all volunteers. They provide expert knowledge and advice to the 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. 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?**

136

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

The Council made ten recommendations regarding fisheries and fishery closures for the 2027-2029 regulatory period to the Federal Subsistence Board (the Board has yet to take action on the proposals): - FP27-02 Unalaska Bay subsistence salmon harvest regulations: Support. - FCR27-06 Unalaska Bay salmon closure review: Take no action. - FP27-03 Summer Lake subsistence salmon harvest regulations: Support. The motion failed, 2-3. - FCR27-05 Summers and Morris lakes salmon closure review: Retain status quo. - FCR27-04 Unalaska Lake salmon closure review: Retain status quo. - FP27-01 McLees Lake subsistence salmon harvest regulations: Support. - FCR27-07 McLees Lake salmon closure review: Take no action. - FP27-04 Kodiak Area salmon customary and traditional use determination: Support as submitted. - FP27-05 Kazakof (Danger) Bay rod and reel only: Support. - FCR27-08 Kodiak and Afognak Area king crab closure review: Retain status quo.

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

93%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Board to consider and adopt the report and recommendations of the 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?**

2%

**% 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 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 Board (acting for the Secretary) to inform the Regional Advisory Councils 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 | ✓ |
| Reallocated resources | ✓ |
| Issued new regulation | |
| Proposed legislation | |
| Approved grants or other payments | |
| Other | ✓ |

**Action Comments**

Modified subsistence regulations may 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 needs 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 | ✓ |
| Online Agency Web Site | ✓ |
| Online Committee Web Site | ✓ |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | ✓ |
| Publications | ✓ |
| Other | ✓ |

**Access Comments**

There is an extensive effort to announce the public meetings of the Regional Advisory Councils via news releases, radio public service announcements, website postings, and Facebook postings. The agenda, meeting materials, and meeting transcripts are available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program website and are mailed or emailed upon request to the communities within the region and interested organizations and

agencies. The Regional Coordinator has a toll-free 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.