

# 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

## 2. Fiscal Year

2018

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

## 3b. GSA Committee No.

1528

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

12/04/2017

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

12/04/2019

## 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)

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

16b. Report Date

03/21/2018

1

## 16b. Report Date

Report Title

FY 2017 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

The Council met to hear members' observations on wildlife and fisheries in the region, to receive public and tribal comments on programs and observations, to review and vote on recommendations for Federal wildlife regulatory proposals, to review and vote on Alaska Board of Game and Fisheries proposals, and to discuss other projects in the region that affect subsistence.

### Start

### End

10/10/2017 - 10/11/2017

The Council met to hear the call for proposals to change fishing and shellfish regulations for Federal public lands in the Western Interior region of Alaska. The Council was also updated on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring and Partners programs, as well as the Non-Rural Determination call for proposals. The Council revisited WP46/47 regarding caribou in Unit 23 and finalized its Annual Report to the Board.

02/20/2018 - 02/21/2018

The Council received reports on fish and wildlife populations from State and Federal managers, as well as other information relative to subsistence in the region.

## Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

Current FY

Next FY

<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>	\$19,207.00	\$19,783.00
<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>	\$4,130.00	\$4,254.00
<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>	\$23,131.00	\$23,826.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$159,897.00	\$164,695.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	1.15	1.15

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

The Council met twice in FY 2018 to finalize its 2017 Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board, hear presentations from the Fisheries Resource Management Program staff, and provide recommendations on wildlife and fishery regulations and on the rural determination and customary and traditional use issues.

**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 meet to rate and rank the applicants. 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 regarding appointments. The entire process requires approximately 9 months to complete.

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

Meetings occur at least twice each calendar year with additional meetings as needed to

address particular issues. Meetings are held in the region whenever possible so residents of the region have an opportunity to attend them and provide public testimony and local knowledge of the resources for proposed subsistence hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations.

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

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act established the regional 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 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 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?**

All meetings are open.

**21. Remarks**

N/A

**Designated Federal Officer**

Karen L Deatherage Subsistence Council Coordinator

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Alexie, Fred	12/03/2015	02/13/2018	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Clark, Shirley	12/05/2016	12/02/2019	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Collins, Raymond	12/03/2008	12/02/2020	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Gervais, Timothy	12/03/2008	12/02/2020	Subsistence User/Commercial Fisherman/Big Game Guide	Representative Member
Honea, Jr., Donald	05/05/2014	12/02/2019	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Kriska, Tommy	12/11/2017	12/02/2020	Subsistence	Representative Member
Pelkola, Jenny	12/03/2009	12/02/2018	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Reakoff, Jack	12/03/2008	12/02/2020	Subsistence User/postmaster	Representative Member
Simon, Pollock	12/03/2010	12/02/2019	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Thomas, Dennis	12/03/2015	12/02/2018	Subsistence User	Representative Member

**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 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, 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 the Council 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, 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; and determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Council meets at least twice a year; however, individual members may represent the Council 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 Other

**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 Regional Advisory 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 Regional Advisory 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?**

154

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

In FY 2018, the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Management Council recommended action on 18 wildlife proposals for 2018-2020 to the Federal Subsistence Board. Prior to FY 2007 Council recommendations were not tracked.

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

84%

**% 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 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 these criteria, the Board generally adopts a majority of the Council's recommendations.

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

16%

**% 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 these criteria, the Board generally adopts a majority of the Council's recommendations.

**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. Board decisions regarding other matters, such as the rural determinations, for which the Council makes recommendations are reported to the Council in a less formal manner by the subsistence Council Coordinators or the Council chairs.

**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 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 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	<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 Councils via news releases, radio public service announcements, website postings, newspaper ads, and mass mailings. The agenda and meeting minutes are mailed to all 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 semi-annual meetings, newsletters, topic-specific informational letters, brochures, and public handouts.