

2022 Current Fiscal Year Report: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency Department of the Interior	2. Fiscal Year 2022
3. Committee or Subcommittee Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council	3b. GSA Committee No. 1537

4. Is this New Fiscal Year? No	5. Current Charter 12/13/2021	6. Expected Renewal Date 12/13/2023	7. Expected Term Date
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8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year? No	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
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9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year Continue	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate? Not Applicable	10b. Legislation Pending? Not Applicable
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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
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15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports 1

16b. Report Date	Report Title
04/13/2022	R8 NWA RAC FY21 Annual Report Final

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
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The Council conducted regular business, such as electing officers and reviewing previous meeting minutes. The Council also heard progress on several projects from Department of the Interior bureaus, the State, and others, and voted on eight wildlife proposals. 11/01/2021 - 11/02/2021

The Council met to make recommendations on three proposals to change subsistence hunting and trapping regulations for Federal public lands in the Northwest Arctic region of Alaska and wildlife closure reviews. The Council also held regular business, such as receiving updates on the progress of projects from the Departmental bureaus, the State, and others. 02/14/2022 - 02/15/2022

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	\$106,921.89	\$110,129.55
18a(4). Personnel		
Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$13,183.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$11,361.76
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$24,850.20	\$26,916.00

18d. Total	\$131,772.09	\$161,590.31
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.90	0.90

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 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 Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, and extensive Bureau of Land Management lands.

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 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 regions. 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 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council generally meets twice each calendar year. 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. 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 2022 both Council meetings were held virtually by teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the future, meeting in local rural communities will continue to be important to the Council's function to accurately represent the whole region and facilitate local participation.

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

The Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act established the Regional Councils as the public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local communities within 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 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?

Not applicable - all meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

The Council made 11 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board in FY 2022. There were no fisheries regulatory proposals for the Northwest Arctic region this year.

Designated Federal Officer

Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough Subsistence Council
Coordinator

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Armstrong, Elmer	01/15/2021	12/02/2022	Subsistence	Representative Member
Baker, Thomas	02/25/2020	12/02/2022	Subsistence	Representative Member
Cleveland, Verne	01/26/2022	12/02/2022	Subsistence	Representative Member
Harris, Hazel	01/26/2022	08/08/2022	Subsistence	Representative Member
Howarth, Wilbur	01/15/2021	12/02/2023	Subsistence	Representative Member
Jones, Bryan	01/15/2021	12/02/2021	Subsistence	Representative Member
Kramer, Michael	12/03/2010	12/02/2022	Subsistence	Representative Member
Moto II, Calvin	01/15/2021	12/02/2023	Subsistence	Representative Member
Schaeffer, Robert	01/15/2021	12/02/2023	Subsistence	Representative Member
Shiedt, Enoch	02/25/2020	12/02/2022	Subsistence	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 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 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 regulatory proposals for subsistence use of fish and wildlife, 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 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 Regional Advisory 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; 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. 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?

85

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Council made 11 (8 in fall meeting and 3 in winter meeting) recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board in FY 2022. There were no fisheries regulatory proposals for

the Northwest Arctic region this year. During the fall meeting held November 1-2, 2021, the Council voted on the following Wildlife Proposals: The Council voted to support four wildlife proposals: WP-22-45, Hare Units 18, 22, 23 - Establish season harvest limit for Alaska Hare; WP-22-50, Beaver Unit 23 - Trapping: Increase harvest limit to "no limit;" WP22-01, Define who is/is not a participant in a community harvest program and effects on harvest; and WP22-02, Units 6, 9, 10, 22, 23, 26 - Rescind restrictions for designated hunters in areas with community harvest systems in place. The Council voted to maintain status quo on two proposals: WCR22-18, Sheep, Unit 23-Baird Mountains; and WCR22-45, Caribou Unit 23 Noatak National Preserve, closed to all but federally qualified subsistence users. The Council voted to support with modification WCR22-27, Muskox Unit 23 Cape Krusenstern National Monument - Modify muskox closure to clarify and simplify regulations. The Council voted to oppose WP22-47, Unit 22 Caribou - Allow calf harvest. During the winter meeting held February 14-15, 2022, the Council voted to support three Wildlife Special Action Requests: WSA21-01a (caribou) and WSA21-01b (moose), close Federal public lands in Units 23 and 26A to harvest of caribou and moose by non-federally qualified users from August 1 through September 30, 2022; and WSA22-01, change the Federal muskox permit system in GMU 22 and 23 from a Federal registration permit to a Federal drawing permit to reflect how permits have been issued.

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

94%

% 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 on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. 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 the Council's recommendations.

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

1%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

In some cases, the Federal Subsistence Board defers 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 (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 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

Not Applicable

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.