

2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of the Interior		2019	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council		1535	
4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	12/04/2017	12/04/2019	
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. Committee 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	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
17a. Open Meetings and Dates	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities
No Meetings	0	0	0
	17d. Total	0	

	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?

Typically the Council meets twice a calendar year to review information and come to consensus on recommendations. During FY 2018, the Council held 4 public meetings to accomplish its goals. The Council has an extra meeting this year due to holding a fall meeting early in August prior to the new fiscal year. They met to hear public comments and comments from other agencies on subsistence issues; review and comment on Federal wildlife regulatory proposals; review the call for Federal subsistence fisheries proposals; review and provide comments on tribal consultation guidelines and make recommendations on subsistence Fisheries Research Monitoring Program research priorities for the northern region; and conduct regular Council business. The Council made recommendations on Federal subsistence wildlife proposals addressing caribou conservation and subsistence priority in the North Slope region. The Council also reviewed and made recommendations on wildlife special action requests relevant to the North Slope 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 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 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 9 months to complete. Currently the North Slope Council has two vacancies due to one early retirement from the Council to attend to other work in the region and a Council member moving out of the region. The Council has expressed concern that Barrow should not be over-represented and has made efforts through the

assistance of Service Subsistence Program staff to conduct increased outreach for Council applications from communities in the region not currently represented. The Council rarely meets outside of Barrow due to budget constraints for travel costs. The Council has expressed the importance of meeting in other communities in the region to develop working relationships, become more familiar with local issues specific to each community and encourage participation and application to the Council. The Council has stressed that without actually holding meetings in other communities in the region it will continue to be a challenge to recruit membership to serve on the Council.

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 within the region so the rural residents have an opportunity to attend to provide public testimony and the 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?

ANILCA established the Regional Advisory Councils as the public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local communities of their 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 Regional Advisory 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

N/A

Designated Federal Officer

Eva Patton Subsistence Council Coordinator

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Ahtaungaruak, Rosemary	12/03/2009	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Brower, Gordon	12/03/2011	12/02/2020	Subsistence/North Slope Borough planning department employee	Representative Member

Hugo, Esther	12/05/2016	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Kayotuk, Lee	12/03/2009	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Kippi, Wanda	12/05/2016	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Neokok, Fredrick	12/11/2017	12/02/2020	Subsistence hunter	Representative Member
Oomittuk, Steve	12/03/2015	12/02/2019	Subsistence hunter	Representative Member
Shears, Robert	12/03/2011	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 8

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 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 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. The 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 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. 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. The Council also appoints one member to serve on the National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission for the region.

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 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 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?

50

Number of Recommendations Comments

During its FY 2018 fall meeting, the Council reviewed and made recommendations on Federal subsistence wildlife regulatory proposals relevant to the North Slope region. The Council also reviewed and made recommendations on research priorities for the northern region of the subsistence Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The Council reviewed and made recommendations on wildlife special action requests regarding management of caribou relevant to the North Slope region. The Council heard resource management updates and reports and provided its comments and recommendations on subsistence management in the region. During its FY 2018 winter meeting, the Council provided its recommendations on Federal wildlife regulatory proposals, including a their own comprehensive proposal for Federal subsistence conservation measures for the Western Arctic, Teshekpuk and Central Arctic caribou herds. The Council informed their recommendations with local and traditional knowledge on how to best enact conservation measures while also working with subsistence hunters and communities. The Council approved its FY 2017 Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Council held a follow-up teleconference meeting in June to further discuss BLM-NPR-A updates and make recommendations on outreach, communications and possible mitigation measures in support of subsistence communities, resources, and activities in the region. [Note: Council recommendations were not tracked prior to 2007.]

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

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 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?

12%

% 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.

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 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

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

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

The Council Coordinator provides information to Council members who do not have access to the Agency's website or email. Outreach efforts to reach rural communities and ensure they have an opportunity to participate or comment on Federal subsistence proposals that affect their region include faxing of information and opportunities (many rural communities widely use fax as the primary mechanism for delivering information where email is limited and mail is slow or unreliable). Direct phone calls to the Village Councils, Tribal Council, and local community Borough contact are also used to help reach rural residents. Radio station news and call-in programs are also used to reach rural residents.