

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Southeast Alaska 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.
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council	1531

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

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	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 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 meeting was to make recommendations regarding the wildlife cycle proposals and provide a forum for the public discussion of Federal subsistence topics.	12/17/2025	12/18/2025

The purpose of this meeting was to finish providing recommendations regarding the wildlife cycle proposals, provide a forum for the public to give testimony on issues related to Federal management of fish and wildlife, 03/10/2026 - 03/13/2026 prepare proposals to change fish regulations, elect officers, and approve the FY2025 annual report (which is always approved in the FY after it was developed)

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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

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 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 Tongass National Forest lands in Southeast Alaska such as Admiralty Island, Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, Prince of Wales Island, and Yakutat.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members broadly represent the 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 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. 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 Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council generally meets twice each fiscal year. The Council's recommendations to the Board are not only relevant, but have significant impact on regional rural residents, because, while the Board may decide not to adopt a Council recommendation regarding the take 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. When 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 2025, the Council met twice. One meeting was in the local rural community of Sitka because it is important to the Council's function to accurately represent the whole region and facilitate local participation. The other meeting was held in Ketchikan, (a nonrural community at the time of the meeting), because a significant proposal to change its nonrural status was on the agenda and ripe for the Council's final recommendation to the Board. The opportunity for in-person appearance/participation by the Ketchikan community public members and tribal citizens was crucial.

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 Regional Advisory 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 Regional Advisory Councils are the vital link between the 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

In FY 2025, the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) provided 3 recommendations regarding take of wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska and 1 recommendation on the proposal to rescind the nonrural status of Ketchikan. The nonrural determination procedure is an approximate 4 year process. Meeting minutes contain detailed information about the meetings held, including, but not limited to, any recommendations and justifications given by the Council.

Designated Federal Officer

DeAnna L. Perry Subsistence Council Coordinator

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bemis, Larry	12/23/2022	12/02/2025	Subsistence User, Tribal member	Representative Member
Casipit, Calvin	03/08/2021	12/02/2025	Subsistence User; Mayor of Gustavus	Representative Member

Douville, Michael	02/04/2000	12/02/2025	Subsistence Harvester/Commercial Fisher/Trapper/President, Shaan-Seet Tribal Corporation	Representative Member
Hernandez, Donald	01/23/2003	12/02/2026	Commercial Fisher/Subsistence User	Representative Member
Hiatt, Lewis	12/03/2024	12/02/2027	subsistence user; previous commercial longliner, charter fishing outfitter	Representative Member
Howard, Albert	01/23/2014	12/02/2026	Charter Captain, Subsistence Harvester, Tribal member, Sealaska Traditional Foods Council Member; previous Mayor of Angoon	Representative Member
Kitka, Harvey	03/08/2021	12/18/2025	Sitka Tribal Council member, Subsistence User/Chair, Sitka Herring Committee	Representative Member
Phillips, Patricia	01/26/2022	12/02/2027	Subsistence User, experience as Outfitter/Guide	Representative Member
Sandhofer, Theodore	01/17/2024	12/02/2026	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Slater, James	03/08/2021	12/02/2025	Subsistence User/Lisianski Inlet Resource Council Representatives/President, Pelican School Board	Representative Member
Smith, John	01/26/2022	12/02/2027	Subsistence User; member of Camp 70 Alaska Native Brotherhood	Representative Member
Wagner, Louie	01/26/2022	12/02/2027	Subsistence User; Council member of Metlakatla Indian Community	Representative Member
Wright, Frank	10/05/2004	12/02/2025	Commercial fisher/President, Hoonah Indian Association	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 13

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 and waters by rural residents of 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 Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture 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 of 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/modify 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 community rural status; subsistence use allocation and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Councils meet at least twice a year. Council Chairs attend at least one Board meeting 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, 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 community 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?

Number of Recommendations Comments

In 2025, the Council made a total of three recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to federal subsistence regulations regarding the take of fish on Federal public lands in Alaska. The Council voted to retain status quo for Federal subsistence fisheries closure to harvest herring and herring roe to all but federally qualified subsistence users in the waters under Federal subsistence fisheries jurisdiction in the Makhnati Island area (FCR25-03) The Council voted to support with OSM modification the Federal fisheries proposal to modify the area of mainstream upstream of the Taku River, using Taku River Lodge as lower boundary (FP25-01) [BOARD DEFERRED ACTION] The Council voted to support with OSM modification Federal fisheries proposal to close the Federal public waters throughout District 1 to the harvest of Eulachon except by federally qualified subsistence users in the Unuk River (FP25-02) [BOARD DEFERRED ACTION] Additionally, the Council provided the Board with a recommendation on rural/nonrural determination: The Council opposed Federal nonrural determination proposal to rescind the nonrural status of Ketchikan (NDP25-01)

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

89%

% 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 uses 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. In FY2025, two proposals that the Council provided recommendations on were deferred by the Board and will be counted once Board takes final action - total recommendations were actually 218)

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

6%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

In some previous cases, the Federal Subsistence Board made further modifications to the

Council's recommendation.

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

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, 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 and waters 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 Designated Federal Officer (Council 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 fish and wildlife regulations may require the managing agencies to reprioritize staff and other resources. Other recommendations accepted by the 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

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 minutes, 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 Designated Federal Officer has a toll-free number to provide easier access for the public to call into the meetings and to disseminate the actions of the Council. There are various publications produced to share the actions of the Council. These include, but are not limited to, meeting booklets for their semi-annual meetings, topic-specific informational letters, brochures, and public handouts.