

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council

3b. GSA

Committee No.

1531

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

01/18/2024 01/18/2026

6. Expected Renewal Date

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)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)

13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

16b. Report Date

03/08/2024 FY 2023 Annual Report to the
Federal Subsistence Board

Report Title

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a.

Open

3 17b. Closed0 17c. Partially Closed0 Other Activities0 17d. Total3

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

The purpose of this meeting was for the Council to discuss and make recommendations on several wildlife proposals for hunting and trapping. The Council also heard reports from several agencies on related subjects and conducted other necessary business.

10/24/2023 - 10/26/2023

The purpose of this joint, all-council meeting was to bring the ten subsistence Regional Advisory Councils together to discuss issues that are relevant to them all. Discussions and presentations included information from the Federal Subsistence Board and the Secretary of the Interior's office, the councils' regional reports, co-stewardship, and other issues affecting all of the councils, such as salmon and caribou critical decline and youth leaders in subsistence management, among other topics. Council members also received length of service awards and recognition. The all-council meeting was followed by several training sessions and administrative presentations.

03/05/2024 - 03/06/2024

The purpose of this meeting was to provide a forum for the public to give testimony on issues related to Federal management of fish and wildlife, prepare proposals to change federal/state fish regulations, receive a status report on the nonrural determination proposal, elect officers, and approve the FY 2023 annual report (which is always approved in the FY after it was developed).

03/08/2024 - 03/08/2024

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3

	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?

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 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 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 and gender balance. The Secretaries review the Board's recommendations and make the final appointment decisions. The entire process takes approximately 15 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 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(s) 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 2024, the Council met twice. One meeting was in a local and rural community because it is important to the Council's function to accurately represent the whole region and facilitate local participation. The other meeting was part of an All-Council meeting which met in Anchorage for the convenience of all 10 regional advisory councils.

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 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 2023, the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) provided four recommendations regarding take of fish on Federal public lands in Alaska; one recommendation for a full analysis to be completed on a nonrural determination proposal; and three further recommendations on deferred wildlife proposals.

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 Charter Captain, Subsistence Harvester,	Representative Member
Howard, Albert	01/23/2014	12/02/2026	Tribal member, Sealaska Traditional Foods Council Member; previous Mayor of Angoon	Representative Member
Kitka, Harvey	03/08/2021	12/02/2026	Sitka Tribal Council member, Subsistence User/Chair, Sitka Herring Committee	Representative Member
Needham, Cathy	12/03/2009	12/02/2024	Environmental Consultant	Representative Member
Phillips, Patricia	01/26/2022	12/02/2024	Subsistence User, experience as Outfitter/Guide	Representative Member
Sandhofer, Theodore	01/17/2024	12/02/2026	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Schroeder, Robert	01/23/2014	12/02/2023	Subsistence User	Representative Member

Slater, James	03/08/2021	12/02/2025	Subsistence User/Lisianski Inlet Resource Council Representatives/President, Member Pelican School Board	Representative Member
Smith, John	01/26/2022	12/02/2024	Subsistence User; member of Camp 70 Alaska Native Brotherhood	Representative Member
Wagner, Louie	01/26/2022	12/02/2024	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: 14

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 regional directors of the five Federal public land managers in Alaska and a representative appointed by the Secretaries to serve as Chair as well as two 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 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 the 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	<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 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?

210

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Council provided the Board with 8 recommendations on proposals to change subsistence fish and wildlife regulations. - FP23-20: Support the proposal to revise customary and traditional use determination for Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area Shellfish - FP23-21: Support with Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) modification to limit Sockeye Salmon harvest in Kah Sheets Lake and River to Federally qualified subsistence users (close creek but leave lake open) - FCR23-23: Rescind closure to subsistence harvest of salmon in the Taku River - FCR23-24: Retain status quo of the closure to non-federally qualified users for Sockeye Salmon in Neva Lake, Neva Creek, and South Creek - WP22-07: Support with modification the proposal limiting harvest of Deer on Admiralty Island – closure to non-federally-qualified users (Unit 4) (Modification removed wildlife analysis areas 4043, 4044, and 4054 from the proposal area and reduced the harvest limit for non-federally qualified users to two bucks within the remaining area (WAAs 4042, 4055, and 4041)) - WP22-08: Support the proposal limiting harvest of Deer on NE Chichagof – harvest restriction on non-federally-qualified users - Unit 4 - WP22-10: Support with modification the proposal limiting harvest of Deer, in the Lisianski Strait – closure to non-federally qualified users (Unit 4) (modification reduced the

harvest limit for non-federally qualified users to two bucks (from 3) and narrowed the geographic area - NDP25-01: Support the OSM conclusion for the request to rescind the nonrural status of Ketchikan Area, finding that that the proposal has met the threshold analysis and should proceed to the next steps in the nonrural determination proposal process, including a full analysis In reviewing other proposed regulatory changes that may affect the Federal subsistence user, the Council also submitted support/opposition recommendations on 24 State Board of Fish proposals and sent a council member to the Board of Game meeting to represent the Council and deliver their recommendations in person.

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

91%

% 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 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?

1%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

In some 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 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	<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 fish and wildlife regulations frequently 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



Other



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 Council Coordinator 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.