

# 2016

# Coastal Lower Yukon

Fish & Game Advisory Committee

# MEETING PACKET

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**Saturday December 3, 2016**

**Bethel ADF&G Office, 8:30am**

**Teleconference: 1-800-504-8071 code: 5432709**



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# COASTAL LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 3, 2016  
ADF&G Office, 8:30am  
570 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bethel, AK

**Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 Code: 5432709**

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- I. **Call to Order:** *Ray Oney, Chair*
- II. **Roll Call:**
- III. **Approval of Agenda:**
- IV. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** *October 27, 2015*
- V. **Introductions:**
  - a. Fish and Game Staff:
  - b. Other Agency Representatives:
  - c. Members of the Public/ Other:
- VI. **Public Comments/ Testimony:**
- VII. **Old Business:**
- VIII. **New Business:**
  - 2016 Lower Yukon Fishery Report: *ADF&G Comm. Fish*
  - Western Region, Game Management Unit 18, BOG Proposals and AC comments:
    - Proposal 17: 5AAC 92.990 (26) **Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds.** (p. 38)
    - Proposal 18: 5AAC 92.015 **Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.** (p.38)
    - Proposal 21: 5AAC 85.045 **Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18.** (p. 43)
    - Proposal 22: 5AAC 85.045 **Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder.** (p.43)
    - Proposal 23: 5AAC 85.045 (16) **Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in the Remainder of Unit 18.** (p. 44)
    - Proposal 24: 5AAC 92.044 **Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18.** (p. 45)
    - Proposal 25: 5AAC 85.025 **Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19.** (p.45)
    - Proposal 156: 5AAC 92.111 **Reauthorize the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan**
    - Proposal 157: 5AAC 85.065 **Set a customary and traditional use finding, and establish seasons and bag limits for Emperor geese**
  - ACR 12: Extend the Moose Hunting Season in Unit 18, Kuskokwim Area to September 30.
  - Elect AC Representative and Alternate to Attend 2017 BOG/ BOF Meetings.
  - Federal/ State Subsistence MOU Revisions

Next meeting date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## IX. Adjournment

# Alaska Board of Game Arctic/Western Meeting

January 6-9, 2017, Bethel

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
17	Change the definition of "edible meat" for game birds		
18	Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A		
21	Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18		
22	Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder		
23	Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18		
24	Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18		

# Alaska Board of Game Arctic/Western Meeting

January 6-9, 2017, Bethel

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
25	Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19		
156	Reauthorize the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan		
157	Set a customary and traditional use finding, and establish seasons and bag limits for Emperor geese		

Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## COASTAL LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE Roster

**Chairman:** Ray Oney

Updated: 11/2016

**Vice Chair:**

**Secretary:**

AC MEMBER NAME	COMMUNITY	TERM EXPIRES	INTERESTS*
<b>Raymond Oney, Chair</b>	Alakanuk	6/18	1, 3-5, 9-10
<i>Mike James, Alt.</i>		6/18	3-6, 9
<b>Michael Jimmy</b>	Emmonak	6/16	3-5, 9-12
<i>John Lamont, Alt.</i>		6/16	
<b>Eric Olsen</b>	Hooper Bay	6/16	
<i>Jonathan Smith, Alt.</i>		6/16	
<b>Joseph Uisok</b>	Kotlik	6/18	1, 3-5, 9-10
<i>David Mike, Alt.</i>		6/18	1, 3-5, 10
<b>Daryl Manumik</b>	Nunam Iqua	6/17	3-5, 10
<i>Andrew Stern, Alt.</i>		6/17	3-5
<b>Vacant</b>	Scammon Bay		
<i>Ole Hunter, Alt.</i>		6/17	2-5, 7-10

\*Interests: 1. Trapping; 2. Sport Fishing; 3. Subsistence; 4. Hunting; 5. Commercial Fishing; 6. Photography; 7. Guiding; 8. Processing; 9. Personal Use; 10. Outdoorsperson; 11. Assoc./Corp.; 12. Conservationist

*Coastal Lower Yukon Advisory Committee seats: 6 total (1 Alakanuk, 1 Emmonak, 1 Hooper Bay, 1 Kotlik, 1 Nunam Iqua, 1 Scammon Bay)*

## **IMPORTANT DATES: Board of Game & Board of Fisheries**

### **Board of Game (BOG)**

**Dec. 22, 2016:** Public Comment Deadline for the BOG Arctic & Western Region meeting

**Jan. 6-9, 2017:** Arctic & Western Region (*Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A*), Bethel, AK

**Feb.3, 2017:** Public Comment Deadline for the BOG Interior Region meeting

**Feb. 17-25, 2017:** Interior & Northeast Arctic Region (*Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C*), Fairbanks, AK

### **Board of Fisheries (BOF)**

**Feb. 9, 2017:** Public Comment Deadline for the BOF Upper Cook Inlet meeting

**Feb. 23-March 8, 2017:** Upper Cook Inlet Finfish, Anchorage, AK

**Feb. 27, 2017:** Public Comment Deadline for the BOF Statewide Crab and Supplemental Issues meeting

**March 20-24, 2017:** Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues, Anchorage, AK

**Coastal Lower Yukon Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of  
Wednesday, November 18 at 12 noon – Thursday November 19, 2015  
Alakanuk Tribal Center**

Meeting was called to order at 1:17 by Chair Ray Oney.

Invocation by Mike James.

Roll Call – Members present: Ray Oney – Alakanuk; Dominica Strongheart – Nunam Iqua; Joe Uisok – Kotlik; John Lamont –Emmonak (via teleconference – alternating with Jake Redfox filling in as needed); Aloysius Aguchak – Scammon Bay via teleconference; Eric Olsen – Hooper Bay via teleconference

Establish quorum – Coastal Lower Yukon AC must have at least 4 members present.

Introduction of Guests: Christie Gleason, Sabrina Garcia ADF&G CF; Patrick Jones & Phil Perry – ADF&G WC; Sherry Wright ADF&G Boards; Michael James – Alakanuk, and Edward Post of Alakanuk;

- Chair's Comments – Thanks for everyone participating.
- 
- Concerns/Comments of Public: Mike James is hopeful all respective villages on the Lower Yukon will stand up as a unified voice at the January BOF meeting.
- 
- Concerns/Comments of AC members: Joe Uisok trying to get the boundary opened up near Kotlik to allow local people to fish closer to home. We will discuss this when we get to those proposals.
- 

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting January 20, 2015. Minutes were approved.

Approval of Agenda – Discussion of the Joint BoF/BOG and MOA Federal but there was too short of notice for the committee to address these issues. Agenda approved as written.

Old Business – none

New Business

- ADF&G Staff Updates: Christie Gleason and Sabrina Garcia provided reports on fishery issues.
- Roster Update; Term dates – Sherry Wright reported that letters have been sent to the council offices for members whose terms are expiring. The committee discussed and approved that alternates will have the same term limits as the regular village seat for all future elections.
- Officer elections: Ray Oney nominated to serve as Chair and approved unanimously. Eric Olsen nominated to serve as Vice Chair and approved unanimously. John Lamont nominated to serve as Secretary and approved unanimously.

Fisheries Issues – ADF&G staff Christy Gleason and Sabrina Garcia helped the committee on the following proposals



**Coastal Lower Yukon Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of  
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- **Comment on Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim BOF Proposals**
  - *Comments due December 28, 2015*

<b>BOF</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>Close the Yukon River summer chum salmon commercial fishery to protect king salmon.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	6	There are already measures in place for conservation of king salmon. A question if the closures would also apply to subsistence fishing. This would be regardless of the size of the run. Jobs are scarce and hard to find in the villages. The area is very impoverished, we must oppose this. This doesn't use a biological basis for management. The fishery help a lot of the youth in the area.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>Reduce management triggers in the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan based on the run size of summer chum salmon.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	5	1	The committee heard the report on this proposal and Prop 109 at one time. By lowering the trigger will be good for us. It will give a chance to fish during the summer. We have seen a great abundance of summer chum. This allows stocking for winter use needs.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>Modify the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan triggers.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Reference comments on Proposal 108.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>Increase the commercial fishery threshold trigger in the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	6	Prefer that we remain status quo and do not delay the fishing times. 100,000 fish would mean waiting a bit longer. ADF&G has EO authority to use if needed.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>Eliminate the use of GHs in the Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	This would do away with the number of fish and use percentages.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>Allow all gear used in Yukon Area commercial fisheries to be allowed in Yukon Area subsistence fisheries.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	5	1	Question why drift gillnet is prohibited in the upper river area. They were removed to prevent gear conflict in the future. .
<b>BOF</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>Prohibit the use of drift gillnets in the Yukon Area subsistence fishery and in the Yukon Area commercial fishery.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	6	Have been drifting for salmon for many years and oppose this proposal. This may affect our subsistence fishing.

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Wednesday, November 18 at 12 noon – Thursday November 19, 2015  
Alakanuk Tribal Center**

<b>BOF</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>Require subsistence salmon fishing permits in Yukon Area District 5 and set permit limits for king salmon during times of king salmon conservation.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Action	7	0	This would require a subsistence permit in District 5. Moved to take no action approved unanimously.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>Allow for the retention of king salmon less than 25 inches in length in Yukon Area fish wheel subsistence fisheries.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	6	A concern of the king salmon returning being smaller was expressed.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>During times of salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, require fish wheels with live boxes to be manned and require immediate release of the specified salmon.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Appreciate the quicker release proposed. The committee thought there was a similar proposal that already passed.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>Prohibit the use of beach seines in the Yukon Area subsistence salmon fishery and in the Yukon River and Anvik River summer chum salmon commercial fisheries.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	6	Want to keep beach seine for commercial and not subsistence use.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>Establish specifications for a beach seine used for subsistence fishing in the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Never seen anyone on the Lower Yukon using beach seine for subsistence fishing. There are fishermen talking about getting seine gear so it may increase on the lower Yukon.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>Require live release of king salmon from subsistence beach seines during times of king salmon conservation in the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Like the requirement to release the king salmon.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Allow subsistence fall chum salmon fishing seven days per week in District 5 of the Yukon Area once a fall chum salmon commercial fishery is opened.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	6	Staying open 7 days per week during commercial fishery. This may allow subsistence users to get fish. Fish we're trying to protect in lower Yukon go through windows. The fish are still moving up the river and seems like there would be less escapement if the fishery were opened to 7 days per week.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>Modify Yukon Area commercial set gillnet length specification to an aggregate length standard.</b>	

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Will give the subsistence user a bit more room to fish.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>Further define commercial beach seine specifications for summer chum salmon in the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Aligns with Proposal 118.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>Establish gillnet gear provisions to allow a directed pink salmon commercial fishery in districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	The committee expressed concern of the size of the net may impact other commercial fisheries and not clear on the reasoning of Kwikpak for this proposal. Question if subsistence gear would be different, should this pass. They would most likely be separate not concurrent. It appears that Kwikpak may be interested in developing a market for pink salmon. Prices have been way down on pink salmon. There has been some pink salmon sold. This may allow some opportunity for developing a fishery in District 1 – 3 and put a bit of money in their pockets. There is some pink salmon incidentally caught during the summer chum salmon fishery. There are quite a few pinks out there.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>Add purse seine gear as an allowable commercial salmon fishing gear to target summer chum salmon in districts 1–3 of the Yukon River during times of king salmon conservation.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	Question about what is the difference between the purse seine and beach seine and the boat size. There is nothing specific about the size of the boat. They used 24 foot skiffs this summer in the test fishery. A question if another permit would be required. Department stated it would not if you have a permit that allows you to fish in the lower river, this would simply add another gear type. Sounds like the harvest was good, but it took two boats and a lot of crew to handle it. There are fishermen interested in trying this.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>Expand the commercial fishing area of Yukon Area District 1.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	This would allow a fishing opportunity in that area. There are more set net fishermen than drifters.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>Extend commercial fishing three miles offshore and north to Point Romanof in District 1 of the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	6	0	This would allow a fishing opportunity along those coastal areas.

**Coastal Lower Yukon Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of  
Wednesday, November 18 at 12 noon – Thursday November 19, 2015  
Alakanuk Tribal Center**

Member to attend AYK BOF meeting in Fairbanks? Raymond Oney was nominated, and in the event he can't go Joe Uisok will attend.

**November 19, 2015 Coastal Lower Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting continued**

Meeting began at 9:02 am with the following members present: Ray Oney, Dominica Strongheart, Eric Olsen, Aloysius Aguchak, Jake Redfox, Joseph Uisok  
ADF&&G Present: Sherry Wright, Phil Perry  
Public Present: Michael James, Sylvia Joseph, Gabriel Buster

Wildlife Issues – ADF&G staff Phil Perry helped address the following proposals with the committee

**• Comment on Statewide BOG Proposals**

BOG	5	Modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds	
Support	5	0	Concern of wanton waste of game birds was expressed for support of this proposal. 1 absent
BOG	17	Provide an exemption for bowhunter education requirements	
Support	6	0	There are some people interested in classes for bowhunting in Scammon Bay – and perhaps if there is enough interest they could bring the training to the villages
BOG	72	Establish minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts	
Support	6	0	The committee considered Proposal 72 – 74 together in their discussion. A question if passage of this proposal would eliminate use of archery equipment. The committee was told that it would not. Been hearing from hunters when they catch a moose and when they are butchering it they find wounds in the animal from smaller caliber rifles. Also they have found puss and worms in the meat.
BOG	73	Establish minimum caliber ammunition for caribou hunts	
Support	6	0	Discussion included in Proposal 72
BOG	74	Establish minimum caliber ammunition for black and brown bear hunts	
Support	6	0	Discussion included in Proposal 72
BOG	79	Require traps to be checked every 24 hours	
Oppose	0	6	Usually check traps every other day – gas prices are very high in the villages and this would create a huge burden. They used to camp and check traps daily, but not many young people in Scammon Bay are trapping. Currently there is no time frame on checking traps – it is up to the trapper. Weather can be an issue and most trappers want to ensure a good fur for the animals they take trapping.
BOG	80	Move trapping away from cities with a population of 1,000 or more	
Oppose	0	6	There are a lot of young people that hunt mink and otter near the village that this would create citations for them trying to trap nearer to the village. The city or tribe can introduce an ordinance for local areas if there is a problem.
BOG	126	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18	
Support	6	0	There are a lot of moose in Unit 18. A question of any concern of browsing areas. Department looks at twinning rates to determine habitat conditions and there is a good percentage of twinning rates observed. The moose continue to grow and people are happy with the bag limits.

**Coastal Lower Yukon Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of  
Wednesday, November 18 at 12 noon – Thursday November 19, 2015  
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BOG	131	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A	
Support	6	0	This will allow people to continue to hunt as they have.

- - *Comments due March 4, 2015*
  -

Member to attend? Aloysius Aguchak was nominated as representative. Joe Uisok volunteered as an alternate. Both approved.

- **Comment on Federal Subsistence Board Proposals**

WP 16-36 – This would align the state and federal Unit 18 boundary descriptions. Support by a vote of 6 – 0.

Public comment was a concern of seal wanton waste. This is managed by NMFS and may be able to be addressed by Fed Subsistence Board.

Discuss date and location of next meeting. Meeting will be to cover BOG Western region proposals and at the call of the chair, most likely in November. Next meeting will be at Hooper Bay.

Adjourn at 11:05 due to a power outage. Dialed back in to officially adjourn at 11:12 am.

**Other Dates and Deadlines:**

**State:**

January 12-17, 2016	BOF Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Meeting; Fairbanks <i>Comments due December 28, 2015</i>
March 17, 2016	BOG Work Session; Fairbanks <i>Comments due March 4, 2016</i>
March 18-28, 2016	BOG Statewide Cycle A & B; Fairbanks <i>Comments due March 4, 2016</i>
April 8, 2015	BOF Proposals Due
April 29, 2015	BOG Proposals Due; Arctic/Western & Interior Meetings

**Federal:**

*Tentative*  
April 11-15, 2016 Federal Subsistence Board Meeting; Anchorage

## 2017 BOG Proposals (17, 18, 21-25)

**PROPOSAL 17 -5 AAC 92.990(26). Definitions.** Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds as follows:

"Edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); **for all game birds, the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs;** [IN THE CASE OF SMALL GAME BIRDS, EXCEPT FOR CRANES, GEESE AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST; IN THE CASE OF CRANES, GEESE, AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST AND MEAT OF THE FEMUR AND TIBIA-FIBULA (LEGS AND THIGHS);] however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Define edible meat for all game birds in Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C to reduce or eliminate wanton waste of migratory birds.

During the spring 2015 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) meeting wanton waste language was adopted similar language for the spring/summer subsistence harvest season defining edible meat “human consumption” as: the meat from the breast, back, thighs, and legs. We would like to place the wings, gizzard and heart in the category of “human use” which would allow these part to be used by humans for non-edible purposes, e.g., trapping. However, the head, neck, feet, other internal organs and skin are optional.

The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee would like the fall hunt to be as consistent as possible with the spring/summer subsistence regulations proposed by the AMBCC for the 2016 season. This is the customary and traditional practices in our region and all the included areas addressed in this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-092)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 18 -5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.** Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units: ...

- (4) Units... 26; ...
- (8) Unit 22;
- (9) Unit 23; ...
- (13) Unit 18; ...

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (4) Unit 18; ...
- (7) Unit 22;
- (8) Unit 23; ...
- (10) Unit 26(A).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. We recommend continuing resident tag fee exemptions for the general season and subsistence season hunts in the Arctic/Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for 4 years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 14 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for nine years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for four years. Tag fee exemptions are desired to allow: 1) incremental increase in annual harvest, 2) opportunistic harvest by resident hunters, and 3) harvest by a wide range of users. Increased harvest is allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations.

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Units 18 and 26A, tag exemptions were authorized for regulatory year 2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 14-year tag-free period for residents has had an average annual harvest of 50 brown bears (range 41–63 bears). In Unit 23, general harvests have been increasing slowly since 1961 primarily in response to increases in human population rather than regulatory changes, although harvests are annually quite variable due to effects of weather on hunting conditions. Harvest data for Unit 23 show no trend in the sex ratio, age or size of bears harvested under all types of hunts.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) registration permit, 2) tag fee exemption, 3) salvaging meat for human consumption, 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A, 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence hunt area, and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and front claws must be removed and retained by the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate

participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by ADF&G for subsistence hunts.

In all units, subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest. In Unit 18, we estimate one to three bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, subsistence harvest by permit is quite low, averaging less than one bear per year (less than 1% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 23, subsistence permit harvest is less than five bears annually since 1992 (less than 10% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 26A, between one and five bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-134)  
\*\*\*\*\*

*Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 19 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 49.*



**Bethel Area Proposals**

**PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18 as follows:

The current moose regulation says: Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, one antlered bull by permit available in person in Goodnews Bay and Platinum, August 1–25. Season closes by emergency order when 20 bulls are taken. Permit number RM620, open season from September 1–30.

Add: by emergency order by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and/or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announcing the opening of a 21-day winter moose hunting season in Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River Drainage by permit only, permit number RMXXX. The permits will be available in person only at Goodnews Bay and Platinum. The hunt will open on January 1–31, with a bag limit of one moose, with a quota of ten moose to be harvested. Once ten moose are harvested ADF&G will close the winter hunt by emergency order. Hunters who harvested a moose during the regulatory year are not eligible to participate in this hunt. All hunters are required to possess a valid Alaska hunting license and one state registration permit, permit number RMXXX.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Native Village of Goodnews Bay hereby proposes a winter hunt of moose in Unit 18, in Goodnews River drainage. During the open season, from September 1–30, not all hunters are successful in their fall hunt since most of the moose are within inaccessible area(s) where there are thick brushes or are too far inland, away from the river. The main transportation is the boat during the hunt and at fall time, when there is lack of rain, the river gets really low thus hampering the hunters’ ability to go further upriver where most of the moose are. Not all hunters have jet outboards that they can utilize and by the time the season closes these hunters are left out and without much needed moose meat for their families over the winter. The winter hunt will not have a great effect on the population of moose in our area since the population of moose increases each year regardless of our hunt each year. We are seeing more cows with twin calves and with this trend we feel that the winter hunt is sustainable. Subsistence is our fabric of our lives and we cannot live on fish alone.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Goodnews Bay (EG-F16-049)  
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**PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder as follows:

Add an additional nonresident season to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Have a nonresident winter moose season added to the Unit 18 remainder area. The area currently has an extremely high moose population that is still growing extremely fast despite the liberal season and limits for residents. This would create an opportunity to get a winter meat moose for people who have recently moved into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. Being that it is a winter season and most of the bulls

have dropped antlers early on in the season, nonresident sport hunting is a non-issue. I would suggest an additional nonresident season added to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jon LaValle (EG-F16-053)

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**PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(16)

...

Remainder of Unit 18

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

2 moose; of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1—Sept. 30
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2 antlerless moose; or	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
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2 moose	Dec. 1—Mar. 15
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**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 antlered bull	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue and were reauthorized for regulatory year (RY) 2016 at the March 2016 Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2017.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit

18. Based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, the Department of Fish & Game proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 12,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 37:100 to 69:100, and twinning rates close to 50% for all areas. Population growth continues to be strong in this portion of Unit 18 and anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high. The population is expected to continue to grow as animals move into under-utilized habitat.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized, we expect harvest to be similar to the past three years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. Allowing antlerless harvest will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-126)

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**PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18 as follows:

Simply add Unit 18 to the list of units that can take a brown bear at a black bear bait station. In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, **18**, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear. Hunters who take brown bears over bait in these areas are required to salvage the edible meat in addition to the hide and skull. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact the Department of Fish & Game for details).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the Board of Game to allow brown bear taken over black bear baits in Unit 18. We have a harvestable number of brown bear in the unit. Brown bears are more frequently breaking into fish camps during times of limited salmon harvest. Would allow a better opportunity to harvest some brown bears in the heavily wooded river corridor and area of highest bear/human interaction takes place. There is precedence in other units throughout the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jaimie Kassman (EG-F16-108)

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*Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 25 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 83.*

**PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.025.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 as follows:

**Units 18, 19A, and 19B - Nonresidents:**

**One bull caribou by drawing permit September 1-30**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As of the drafting of this proposal, ADF&G states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by drawing should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 20 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow.

Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities. This proposal is submitted for both the Arctic and Western (Unit 18) and the Interior and Eastern Arctic (Unit 19A & B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F16-010)

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## BOG Proposals 156 and 157

*Note: Proposal 156 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Arctic/Western Region meeting for January 2017.*

**PROPOSAL 156 - 5AAC 92.111 Intensive Management Plan I.** Reauthorize the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan as follows:

(a) **Plans established.** Intensive management plans for the following areas are established in this section:

...

(c) Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area is entirely deleted and replaced by the following.

(c) **Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area: the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area is established to increase the Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) within Units 9(B), 17(B), 17(C), 19(A), and 19(B) to aid in achieving intensive management objectives; the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area encompasses approximately 39,683 square miles; multiple predator control areas may be utilized within the management area; however the combined active control areas will be limited to a total of 10,000 square miles, which is 25 percent of the management area;**

(1) **This is a continuing control program that was first authorized by the board in 2011 for wolf control; it is designed to increase the caribou herd's population size and human harvest by reducing wolf predation on caribou and is expected to make a contribution to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Units 9(B), 17(B), 17(C), 19(A), and 19(B)**

(2) **Caribou and wolf objectives are as follows:**

(A) **the intensive management objective for the MCH as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 30,000–80,000 caribou; these objectives were based on historic information regarding population numbers, habitat limitations, human use, and sustainable harvests;**

(B) **The caribou harvest objective for the MCH as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 2,400–8,000;**

(C) **the wolf population objective for the MCH Predation Management Area is to annually reduce the number of wolves in predator control areas to a level that results in increased calf survival and recruitment;**

(3) **Board findings concerning populations and human use are as follows:**

(A) **the population and harvest for the MCH are below IM objectives throughout the range;**

- (B) wolves are a major predator of caribou in the range of the MCH and are an important factor in failing to achieve these objectives;
  - (C) a reduction of wolf predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achieving the objectives;
  - (D) reducing wolf predation is likely to be effective and feasible using recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;
  - (E) reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns, and;
  - (F) reducing predation is in the best interests of subsistence users.
- (4) Authorized methods and means are as follows:
- (A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the MCH Predation Management Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles as provided in 5AAC 92.080;
  - (B) notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may issue public aerial permits or public land and shoot permits as a method for wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;
- (5) Time frame is as follows:
- (A) through July 1, 2024, the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves in the MCH Predation Management Area;
  - (B) annually, the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of caribou and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary, to achieve the objectives of the plan;
- 6) The commissioner will review, modify or suspend program activities as follows:
- (A) when the mid-point of the IM population or harvest objectives for the MCH are achieved;
  - (B) if after three years, the harvest of wolves is not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objectives for wolves;

- (C) **if after three years, there is no detectable increase in the total number of caribou in the control area;**
- (D) **if after three years, fall calf-to-cow ratios show no appreciable increase;**
- (E) **if after three years, any measure consistent with significant levels of nutritional stress in the caribou population are identified;**
- (F) **when the caribou population and harvest objectives within the MCH Predation Management Area have been met.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) Intensive Management (IM) Plan will expire on June 30, 2017, but the IM objectives for the MCH have not been achieved. To comply with protocol for IM plans, the department is introducing new regulatory language and will present a feasibility assessment of the program during the January 2018 Board of Game meeting. This proposal will also allow the board to modify the IM objectives and provide guidance to the department if warranted.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-2016-6)  
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*Note: Proposal 157 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Arctic/Western Region meeting for January 2017.*

**PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4)(G) Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game; and 99.025(12) Customary and traditional uses of small game.** Set a customary and traditional use finding, and establish seasons and bag limits for Emperor geese as follows:

**5 AAC 85.065(a)(4)(G) is repealed and readopted to read:**

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(G) Emperor geese		
Units 1-7, 11-16, 19-21, and 24-26	No open season.	No open season.
Units 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 17, 18, 22, and 23		
1 goose by registration permit only	Sept. 1—Dec. 16	No open season
Units 8, 10 (except Unimak Is.)		
1 goose by registration permit only	Oct. 8—Jan. 22	No open season

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?** The hunting season for emperor geese has been closed since 1986 due to low population estimates. A 2016 population model that integrated 30 years of survey data produced a population estimate of 150,000-170,000 geese; approximately twice the size than was previously known. The new estimate indicates that the population has recovered to a harvestable level. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) collaborated with the Pacific Flyway Council to revise the Flyway Management Plan for emperor geese, which includes new harvest guidelines for a fall hunt and specifies a quota of 1,000 birds per year. The revised plan also included a new population objective and population monitoring method, and a harvest strategy that guided regulations for this hunt. In October 2016, a Federal framework change under the new guidelines to open a hunt of emperor geese in 2017 was approved by the federal SRC.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (HQ-2016-ACR 7)  
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## ACR 12

**ACR 12** – Extend the moose hunting season in Unit 18, Kuskokwim Area to September 30.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Orutsarmiut Native Council

**CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD:**  
5AAC 85.045(16) – Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose - Kuskokwim Area

**WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM:** Current regulatory hunt period for RM 615 is limited to ten days only, resulting in lost opportunity and failure to meet harvestable surplus goals due to mixture of state and federal land management status in portions of Game Management Unit 18 with high bull/cow ratios (80:100 in some areas) that could be targeted to provide and sustain significantly higher harvest levels.

**WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?** Game Management Unit 18 - Kuskokwim Area:  
Resident Open Season: September 1 – September [10] **30**.

**STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.**

a) for a conservation purpose or reason: Within certain tributaries of the Kuskokwim in Unit 18 bull/cow ratios are extremely high – over 80:100 in some areas. The federal season window in this area is September 1-30, and in 2016 the dates of September 1 – 15 were implemented. Due to the large amount of state managed lands along and within the riparian corridors however, these moose – comprised of the same subpopulations – are essentially inaccessible in many cases. Additionally, the whole patchwork issue of state or federal lands creates an entirely unnecessary, unjustified, and burdensome situation for subsistence hunters.

In 2016, despite having a 15 day season and very favorable high water conditions, only about half of the minimum federal quota of 90 moose were taken (the federal refuge staff biologist estimated 110 as their 2016 quota sustainable for 30:100 bull/cow ratios). Having concurrent seasons within this lands management patchwork could allow for the combining, and increase, of both state and federal quotas; allowing extension of the season and expansion of the harvest in the targeted tributary areas referenced above. With this 30 day window, managers could then identify recognizable geographical boundaries that would allow certain tributaries to remain open longer for additional harvest, while the mainstem Kuskokwim could be closed when harvest in that section was deemed sufficient within sustained yield conservation standards.

Implementing this regulation would also greatly simplify matters for managers and hunters alike, as they would not have to wonder or worry whether they were on state or federally managed lands.

b) to correct an error in regulation: Not applicable.

c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted: This effect of this registration hunt regarding reduced hunting and harvest effort on tributary

moose populations in Unit 18 was entirely unforeseen when the current regulation was adopted. It remained unanticipated and unforeseen by users and management alike. The informative data reflecting the magnitude of the situation was simply and essentially non-existent or available until late into and following the 2016 fall hunt; 5+ months past the Arctic/Western region's April 2016 proposal decline. With the continued increase in the Unit 18 moose populations most of the Kuskokwim harvest now occurs along the main river corridor, and eastern tributary populations remain comparatively "unhunted" due to that easier access along the main stem, lower and westerly/tundra tributaries.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?** Forty-fifty (or more) surplus moose a year will continue to go unharvested. Integration of state/federal hunt actions for shared/mutual goals will remain as much or more confusing for subsistence users, and highly cumbersome for managers. The situation as it is now "foreseen", will only amplify, with expectation to persist, until additional opportunity is accommodated and a resulting increase in harvest for these areas is achieved.

**STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE:** The hunt would maintain all existing Tier I conditions of the current RM 615 hunt open to all Alaska residents.

**IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.** N/A

**STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR:** Subsistence hunters.

**STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.** There have been proposals in previous cycles which have requested extension of season dates, or moving current season to later in the month which have not passed due to being deemed premature at the time. There have been no ACRs submitted regarding this issue.

## **ADF&G Staff Comments: BOG Proposals 17, 18, 21-25**

**PROPOSAL 17** – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26). **Definitions. Modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds as follows:

"edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); **for all game birds, the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs;** [IN THE CASE OF SMALL GAME BIRDS, EXCEPT FOR CRANES, GEESE AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST; IN THE CASE OF CRANES, GEESE, AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST AND MEAT OF THE FEMUR AND TIBIA-FIBULA (LEGS AND THIGHS);] however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably...

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26) "edible meat" means, ... in the case of small game birds, except for cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast; in the case of cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast and meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs); ...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would require hunters to salvage the meat of the breast, back, thighs, and legs of all harvested game birds.

**BACKGROUND:** This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 17 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as Proposal 47.

Effective July 1, 2014, the board created a different definition of edible meat for cranes, geese, and swans in order to require more meat to be salvaged from these large migratory waterfowl.

Under the current definition of edible meat the majority of meat is required to be salvaged, and many hunters voluntarily salvage the meat of the legs of smaller game birds.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal as there are no biological concerns.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

## ADF&G Staff Comments: BOG Proposals 17, 18, 21-25

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**PROPOSAL 18 – 5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bears in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Brown bear tag fees are not required for residents in drawing, registration, or subsistence permit hunts in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Resident hunters would not be required to purchase a resident locking tag for drawing or registration permit brown bear hunts in Units 18, 22, 23, 26A. Similarly, hunters participating in subsistence registration permit hunts would not be required to purchase a brown bear locking tag to harvest a bear, although possession of the subsistence registration permit would still be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. Brown bear drawing and registration permit hunts have had fees exempted in Unit 18 for 5 years, Unit 22 for 15 years, Unit 23 for 10 years, and Unit 26A for 5 years. Exemptions have been implemented to allow: 1) incremental increases in harvest, 2) additional opportunity for residents, and 3) harvest for a wide range of uses. Increased harvest is allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations. These harvests are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest.

In subsistence brown bear registration permit hunts, reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where requirements include: 1) a registration permit; 2) a tag fee exemption; 3) salvaging meat for human consumption; 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A; 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence registration permit hunt area; and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and the front claws must be removed and retained by the department at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by the department for subsistence registration permit hunts. In all units, subsistence brown bear registration permit harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest.

Table 131-1: Customary and traditional uses of brown bear populations, Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A

<u>Game Management Unit</u>	<u>Findin</u>	<u>Amount reasonably</u>
	<u>g</u>	<u>necessary</u>
Unit 18	Positive	20–30
Units 21 and 22	Positive	20–25
Units 23, 24, and 26	Positive	25–35

**ADF&G Staff Comments: BOG Proposals 17, 18, 21-25**

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Brown bear numbers are stable or increasing and the increased harvests that result from the tag fee exemption do not present a conservation concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.  
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**PROPOSAL 21 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18 Goodnews hunt area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Goodnews Bay

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to add a resident only 21-day, winter hunt for antlered bulls to the Goodnews area with a season that is “to be announced” during the month of January and a quota of 10 bull moose.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current resident moose hunting season in Unit 18, that portion south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, is September 1–September 30 with a bag limit of 1 antlered bull by registration permit only. There is no open moose season for nonresidents in this area.

There is a positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 18, and an ANS of 200–400.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would provide additional opportunity for residents to harvest moose in the Goodnews River drainage by allowing a 21-day, winter season using a registration permit hunt structure and a season that is “to be announced” during the month of January.

**BACKGROUND:** Hunting was closed in this portion of Unit 18 from RY2004–RY2007. A minimum threshold of 100 moose was established, and the Board of Game authorized a registration moose hunt open to residents only in RY2007 when the moose population was approximately 130 moose. The harvest quota was 10 antlered bulls from RY2008–RY2010 and increased to 20 antlered bulls from RY2011–RY2015 with a harvest ranging from 9–18 bulls during this time period. Most of the Goodnews Bay hunt area is local Native corporation land, or Federal lands associated with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

A spring moose trend count survey completed in 2012 found 203 moose in the Goodnews survey area. The current harvest quota of 20 antlered bulls is approximately an 8–10% harvest rate.

## **ADF&G Staff Comments: BOG Proposals 17, 18, 21-25**

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal, but recommends that the board allow the department to retain its discretion on when to offer the winter hunt until additional population information can be collected to ensure harvest patterns are sustainable from the area. If this proposal is adopted, the department would also like to retain its discretion to set fall and winter quotas based on current population information.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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### **PROPOSAL 22– 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting season and bag limits for moose. Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder as follows:**

Establish a nonresident season in Unit 18 remainder area from December 1–March 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jon LaValle

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would create additional nonresident hunting opportunity by creating a winter nonresident moose season from December 1–March 15 in Unit 18 remainder. The proponent did not recommend a bag limit.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current nonresident moose season in the remainder of Unit 18 is September 1–September 30 with a bag limit of 1 antlered bull. The resident season is August 1–March 15 with a total bag limit of 2 moose. From August 1–September 30, resident hunters are only allowed to harvest 1 antlered bull and are prohibited from taking a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf. Resident hunters may take 2 antlerless moose from October 1–November 30 and/or 2 moose from December 1–March 15.

There is a positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 18, and an ANS of 200–400.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would create a new winter nonresident moose season with December 1–March 15 season dates.

**BACKGROUND:** The Yukon River moose population includes approximately 12,000 moose in several combined survey areas. Population surveys indicate that calf:cow ratios range between 37–69 calves:100 cows, and twinning rates range from 20–40%. Anecdotal evidence suggests calf survival rates remain high.

Most of Unit 18 is either private lands or part of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge; guides and transporters are required to secure land use agreements with local landowners and/or land managers. Nonresident moose harvest increased from 19 in RY2011 to 109 in RY2015. Resident harvest remained relatively stable during the same time period with harvest reports

## **ADF&G Staff Comments: BOG Proposals 17, 18, 21-25**

indicating that 498 moose were taken during RY2011 and 548 moose were taken during RY2015. The average annual harvest was 511 moose per year.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. If the board adopts this proposal, the department recommends the board establish a bag limit of “one antlerless moose” for nonresidents. This bag limit satisfies the proponent’s desire to provide an opportunity for winter moose meat without the unintended consequences of creating a unique winter bull hunt for nonresidents. Large numbers of bulls retain their antlers during December and January in Unit 18, which could make the hunt desirable for some nonresident hunters. The “antlerless moose bag limit” is not expected to result in a harvest that would create a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 23 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in the remainder of Unit 18.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless hunting during fall and winter seasons is allowed for resident hunters in the “Remainder of Unit 18”. There are three components to antlerless seasons:

- 1)during August 1–September 30 the bag limit is 2 moose; however, only one antlered bull may be taken and taking calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited;
- 2)during October 1–November 30 the bag limit is 2 antlerless moose with no additional restrictions; and
- 3)during December 1–March 15 the bag limit is 2 moose with no additional restrictions.

There is a positive C&T finding for moose in Unit 18, and an ANS of 200–400.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The antlerless hunts in the remainder of Unit 18 would be reauthorized for RY2016. Hunters would have the same seasons and bag limits as RY2015 (see Current Regulations above).

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The hunt area in the remainder of Unit 18 supports a moose population that has increased to an all-time high

## **ADF&G Staff Comments: BOG Proposals 17, 18, 21-25**

level, reaching an estimated minimum population of 12,000 moose. In all areas surveyed, moose populations have twinning rates at or above 40%. Reported harvest during the past three years has averaged 395 bulls and 160 cows.

Harvests increased approximately 16% in RY2015 (n=669) compared to the previous 3-year average harvest (n=576). In RY2015, the harvest ticket reports from the remainder of Unit 18 included 60 antlerless moose (cows) taken in the fall hunt, along with the harvest of 96 antlerless moose (cows) taken in a winter hunt. The combined harvest for the current the remainder of Unit 18 represented in this reauthorization is well within sustained yield, and the population trajectory has not been affected by antlerless harvests.

The Remainder of Unit 18 has under-utilized moose habitat and is expected to support a growing moose population. Continuing antlerless moose harvest opportunity will benefit hunters and may also help slow the growth rate of the population.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to maintain antlerless hunts in areas where moose populations are increasing.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 24– 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jaimie Kassman

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal allows brown bears to be taken over bait in Unit 18.

### **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- Hunters can take 1 brown bear every regulatory year in Unit 18 September 1–May31.
- Resident locking tags are not required to hunt brown bears in Unit 18.

There is a positive C&T for brown bears in Unit 18, and an ANS of 20–30. The board has not made a C&T determination on black bear populations in Unit 18.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would allow brown bear baiting opportunity in Unit 18, with the exception of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed lands (approximately 65% of Unit 18) where brown bear baiting is prohibited by federal regulation.



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**BACKGROUND:** Brown bear harvest in Unit 18 has been relatively stable since the early 2000s. Between RY2006 and RY2015 harvest ranged from 5 to 39 bears with an average annual harvest of 29 (68% male) bears (Table 24-1). Bear baiting activity in Unit 18 has increased over the past 10 years, with 0–9 registered bait stations during the period of 2006–2015. Since 2006, hunters harvested 78% of the total Unit 18 brown bear harvest during the fall season. Based on the trends in harvest for other areas where brown bear baiting is authorized, an increase in brown bear harvest may occur after brown bear baiting is authorized, but harvest is expected to stabilize at pre-baiting levels after the initial increase.

The bear population in Unit 18 has not been surveyed, but observations by department staff and the public indicate that the population is distributed throughout the unit and abundant on major tributaries. Harvest density is generally low and not believed to be a factor influencing bear numbers.

**Table 24-1. Chronology of brown bear harvest in Unit 18 and the number of registered bear baiting stations, regulatory years 2006 through 2015.**

Regulatory Year	Harvest			Number of Registered Bear Baiting Stations
	Fall	Spring	Total	
2006	18	4	22	0
2007	26	7	33	0
2008	24	7	31	4
2009	20	6	26	3
2010	23	12	35	2
2011	31	8	39	4
2012	25	7	32	9
2013	16	6	22	7
2014	23	4	27	7
2015	20	3	23	9
<i>Average</i>	<i>22.6</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>4.5</i>

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it has not identified a biological concern for the brown bear population in Unit 18, and adoption of this proposal is not expected to increase brown bear harvest significantly.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 25 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

## **ADF&G Staff Comments: BOG Proposals 17, 18, 21-25**

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would open a nonresident draw hunt for Mulchatna caribou in Units 18, 19A, and 19B. The bag limit would be one bull caribou, and the open season would be September 1–30. The author recommends a maximum of 50 permits could be issued, but suggests that the department only issue 20 permits initially.

### **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- Registration permits RC501, RC503, and RC504 are used to manage caribou hunting for Mulchatna herd caribou (MCH) which includes Units 18 and 19A, 19B, 9A, 9B, a portion of 9C, and Unit 17.
- Season dates for the RC503 hunt area that includes Units 18, 19A, 19B, 9A and the portion of 9C north of the Alagnak River drainage are August 1–March 15, with a bag limit of 2 caribou.
- Season dates for the RC503 hunt area that includes Unit 9B and all but a small portion of Unit 17 are August 1–March 31, with a bag limit of 2 caribou.
- Season dates for the RC504 hunt area that includes a portion of Unit 9C north of the north bank of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River drainage “may be announced” depending on caribou abundance in this area. The bag limit is 1 caribou.
- Season dates for the RC501 hunt area including a small portion of Unit 17A and a small portion of 17C “may be announced” depending on the abundance of caribou in this area. The bag limit is 2 caribou.
- There is currently no nonresident season in regulation for the Mulchatna caribou herd.
- The Mulchatna caribou population has a positive finding for intensive management, with a population objective of 30,000–80,000 and an annual harvest objective of 2,400–8,000. There is an intensive management plan in regulation for this herd; however, the current plan does not include Unit 18.
- There is a positive C&T finding for the Mulchatna caribou herd in Units 9A, 9B, 17, 18, 19A south of the Kuskokwim River, and 19B, and an ANS of 2,100–2,400 caribou in all units combined.
- There are positive C&T findings for other caribou herds (Big River, Rainy Pass, Kilbuck, Andreafsky, Tonzona, Beaver Mountains, Sunshine Mountains) in various units and subunits affected by this proposal (16B, 18, 19), with various ANSs for each herd.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal were adopted a portion of the area managed for the MCH would be included in the nonresident draw hunt.

**BACKGROUND:** This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 25 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as Proposal 83.

The MCH has gone through a dramatic change in abundance over the past 20 years with an estimated population of 200,000 animals in 1996 to approximately 27,000 today. Population models indicate that the harvestable surplus lies in the range of 800–1200 caribou with a likely point estimate near 1,000 caribou.

With that change in abundance, management of this herd has changed as well. Season dates during the high level of abundance extended to April 15, but were shortened to March 15 in 2006 as this

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herd was declining to fewer than 50,000 animals. During the peak years, the bag limits also reflected a more liberal management strategy with up to 5 caribou allowed annually for residents, and a bag limit of 2 caribou for nonresidents. As the herd declined during the mid-2000s, bag limits were lowered, season length shortened, and the nonresident season was closed by board action following the 2008 hunting season.

The Mulchatna caribou population has a positive finding for intensive management, with a population objective of 30,000–80,000 and an annual harvest objective of 2,400–8,000. Due to low population and harvest levels below these objectives, an intensive management plan was initially authorized by the board under 5 AAC 92.111 *Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area* in March 2011 for Units 9B, 17B, and 17C; this plan was modified in March 2012 to include Units 19A and 19B. This plan is implemented as a wolf predation control area in those portions of Units 17B and 17C that encompass the southern calving grounds of the Mulchatna herd and has been active each year. The goal of this program is to increase caribou calf survival and thereby recruitment by removing wolves which have been shown to be an important predator on neonate caribou calves in this area. Our most recent abundance estimate from June 2016 was just over 27,000 caribou.

The reported harvest of Mulchatna caribou during 2010–2015 in all units combined ranged from 101–494 caribou, averaging of 281 caribou per year. Harvests during this time period have come from all units within the MCH range; in more recent years, the majority of harvest has been taken in Unit 18. Both population size and harvest are below the objectives defined in 5 AAC 92.108, therefore the predation control program will remain active for the 2016 regulatory year.

In spring 2013 the board adopted a department proposal that required the use of a registration permit (RC503) to hunt Mulchatna caribou throughout this herd's range; this permit replaced the general season harvest ticket. The purpose of this change was to provide the department with better information for managing this herd to help with addressing management issues such as this proposal. Permit conditions require a 5-day reporting period after harvesting a caribou, and the permit is also subject to the failure to report (FTR) process that allows the department to impose penalties to those parties failing to report their effort and harvest. This increases the harvest reporting rate, which is important in assessing harvest and effort over time. However, harvest reporting continues to significantly underestimate harvests of Mulchatna caribou in Unit 18. For example, Bethel residents harvested an estimated total of 446 caribou in 2011, whereas the average reported harvest during the period 1998–2011 was 160 caribou.

The ANS for the MCH (2,100–2,400 caribou) was adopted by the board in 1992; however subsistence use in the Unit 18 portion of the range was not included in the ANS because the herd did not migrate into that unit when the ANS was developed. At the March 2016 Statewide

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meeting the board established a positive customary and traditional finding for MCH in Unit 18 but did not alter the ANS.

The positive C&T finding and ANS for the Kilbuck and Andraefsky caribou herds in Unit 18, which no longer exist, is 350–500 caribou.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of Mulchatna caribou in Units 18 and 19 but recommends this proposal be **DEFERRED** to the next regularly scheduled Central/Southwest Region Board meeting in spring 2018. Under AS 16.05.258(b), nonsubsistence uses of a game population with C&T uses are not permitted if the harvestable surplus is below the ANS.

The MCH spans multiple game management units and includes multiple ADF&G regions, but is managed across its range as a single caribou herd with the primary management responsibility resting with Region IV and the Dillingham office. The proponent indicates he will be submitting a proposal similar to this proposal at the Central/Southwest Region meeting in spring 2018 to allow for a nonresident draw permit hunt for caribou in Units 17 and 9. Our recommendation to defer this proposal to the spring 2018 meeting would allow us to address this nonresident draw permit concept for the entire range of the MCH, which adheres to the board and the department’s intentions of having a uniform management approach for this herd. Additional advantages of this deferment would be that the department could gather another year of harvest information under the relatively new RC503 registration permit, and we could acquire another abundance estimate from our annual photo census in June of 2017. Both of these data are important in calculating harvestable surplus which is an important component when addressing ANS which will likely be part of this discussion.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal would not result in significant administrative costs to the department.

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***For Immediate Release: October 10, 2016***

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## **Request for Advisory Committee Input on Revisions to the Federal / State Subsistence MOU**

In 2014, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Subsistence Board, its five participating federal agencies, the Boards of Game and Fisheries, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), expired after five years. The MOU served to guide boards and agencies in coordinating interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on federal public lands that is consistent with state and federal authorities. Staff within the various federal and state agencies have renewed an effort to re-establish the MOU and prepared an initial draft for review and comment by the federal Regional Advisory Councils and the State's Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

Accompanying this request is a draft MOU dated August 11, 2016, and a briefing document which describes the MOU. ADF&G is coordinating advisory committee input to this current version and seeking that input by November 18. Agencies will meet in December to offer further revisions that will be available for board, advisory committee, and RAC review at later meetings. Input received by advisory committees after November 18 will be forwarded to the agencies for further revisions.

Jill Klein, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, is coordinating the effort on behalf of ADF&G. Advisory committee input may be sent directly to Ms. Klein at [jill.klein@alaska.gov](mailto:jill.klein@alaska.gov), or to Boards Support staff who will transmit the information.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the regulatory and management system for Alaska.

An Overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Coordinated Interagency Fish and Wildlife Management for Subsistence Uses on Federal Public Lands in Alaska

Between the

Federal Subsistence Board (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Secretarial Appointees)

and

State of Alaska

(Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game (State Boards))

The MOU is for the purpose of coordinating interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands that is consistent with State and Federal authorities.

We are renewing the MOU because it had an expiration date if there were no formally documented meetings regarding the MOU on an annual basis.

The MOU expired in November 2014. Prior to this, a renewal process took place in 2013, but was not completed. The Commissioner's office of the ADF&G through their work liaising with the Federal Subsistence Board reengaged the State Boards on the renewal of the MOU.

Both state and federal boards have supported this process and both State and Federal agencies created teams to work together on possible revisions to the MOU prior to signing.

The State and Federal agency teams are seeking State Advisory Committee (AC) and Regional Advisory Council (RAC) input on the draft MOU (*version date August 11, 2016*). There are most likely additional revisions that will take place, but we want to get input during this round of AC meetings.

**Areas of input:**

While all AC and RAC input is welcome and valued, in particular the working group is seeking input in the following areas.

-What areas (geographic, permitting, regulations, management, other) could there be better coordination among State and Federal agencies on the fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska?

-What areas (geographic, permitting, regulation, management, other) are the agencies coordinating well and this should continue?

## **Outline of the MOU:**

**Section I. Preamble:** This section covers State and Federal authorities over management of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands in Alaska. The language is from the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and laws and regulations of the State of Alaska.

**Section II. Purpose:** This section provides the foundation and direction for coordinated interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands.

**Section III: Guiding Principles:** This section guides coordination and covers topics such as:

- 1) Ensure conservation, provide continued uses, priority for subsistence, promote regulatory coordination, exchange information among many entities (listed in 1);
- 2) Confirm wildlife management activities remain within the authority of individual land management agencies;
- 3) Use best available information (western science and Traditional ecological knowledge or local knowledge);
- 4) Avoid duplication;
- 5) Involve users in planning;
- 6) Promote stability, minimize disruption; and
- 7) Promote clear, enforceable fishing, hunting and trapping regulations.

**Section IV: The Federal Subsistence Board and State of Alaska mutually agree to:**

- 1) Cooperate and coordinate research, monitoring, regulatory decisions and management actions towards conservation;
- 2) Share important data and information (both western science and TEK/LK);
- 3) Recognize the Federal priority for rural residents for subsistence and to allow for other uses when harvestable surpluses are sufficient;
- 4) Cooperative funding agreement may be necessary and important;
- 5) Seek resolution when there are differences interpreting data;
- 6) Develop information to clarify regulations for the public;
- 7) Establish protocols when necessary such as the Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Protocol for coordinated salmon management, preseason planning, inseason salmon management, postseason evaluation and roles;
- 8) Have state and federal staff review data analyses associated with regulatory proposals, harvest assessment, monitoring studies, and subsistence resource management cooperatively with RACs, Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC), Tribes and others;
- 9) Designate liaisons at the State and Federal agencies for coordination and communication;
- 10) Provide adequate opportunity to review analyses associated with special actions and emergency orders and provide advance notice when possible before issuing special actions or emergency orders; don't delay if of immediate concern;

- 11) Cooperatively review and develop as needed, Federal and State management plans;
- 12) Use the State's harvest reporting system, unless separate Federal subsistence permits and harvest reports are needed;
- 13) Ensure meaningful involvement for all in regulatory processes that affect subsistence on Federal public lands.

Section V. General Provisions: This section is general language associated with MOUs and has been reviewed by the State Department of Law Natural Resources Section.

Of note is number 7 where an annual meeting will take place to review coordinated programs established under this MOU. There is no expiration date to the MOU now.

Appendix: Scope for Protocols

How protocols will be developed and who needs to sign them.