



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R7/FES/080298

Report # B-7: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council), January 2024.

Federal Subsistence Management Program All-Council meeting

The Federal Subsistence Management Program and Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) are hosting an All-Council meeting scheduled to be held at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage on March 5-8, 2024.

The All-Council meeting will begin Tuesday, March 5 with a full day joint session of all ten Federal Regional Advisory Councils (Councils). During the morning session Federal Subsistence Board members will be introduced and the Council members will receive awards and be recognized for the longevity of their public service on the Councils. The Councils will provide regional reports and hear reports from the Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs and Strategic Priorities with the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board, and the Assistant Regional Director of OSM.

The Council member all day training sessions will take place on Wednesday, March 6. The training will include sessions on the Title VIII of ANILCA, Federal and State regulatory processes, Council members roles and responsibilities, Roberts Rules of Order, Customary and Traditional use determination, Section 804 prioritization, delegation of authority, National Park Service's subsistence resource commissions, and Tribal engagement.

Thursday and Friday, March 7-8 will be a mix of concurrent individual Council sessions, seminars, panels, roundtables, talking circles, and discussions on such topics as Gulf of Alaska Salmon, Bering Sea Salmon, Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the status of caribou statewide, Dall Sheep roundtable, food security and climate change, and co-stewardship/co-management.

All parts of this four-day meeting are free and open to the public. More information on the detailed agenda will be posted on the Department of the Interior's [Federal Subsistence Management Program page](#) in early February.

Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for Invasive European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenus*) in Alaska, 2023-2028

The European green crab (EGC) is a global invader that causes significant detrimental environmental, economic, and social effects upon establishment. Identifying, prioritizing, and implementing prevention, early detection and rapid response, control and management, and research actions that address incipient and established populations of the EGC are critical to Alaska's natural resources, economy, and the livelihoods of its residents.

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to partners and other entities for surveillance, monitoring, suppression, and control of the EGC populations along Alaska's coastline to minimize the detrimental effects of the EGC on Alaska's environment, culture, and economy. The plan was developed by a steering committee comprised of individuals representing federal, state, and tribal governments as well as academia.

Many entities play a role in EGC research, outreach, and management efforts, while other entities have jurisdictional responsibilities for EGC in Alaska. Links to the plan will be shared when available.

Gravel to Gravel Keystone Initiative

Gravel to Gravel is catalyzing relationship-building with Tribes and fish commissions, and across Department of Interior (DOI) bureaus through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management - to include National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Geological Service, and more recently the State of Alaska, National Office of Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This initiative is important for implementing projects, avoiding duplication, encouraging the pooling of resources and expertise, and more importantly for achieving longer term Gravel to Gravel objectives around co-stewardship/management. Some highlights resulting from the ongoing relation-building forums and dialogue include:

- Tribes have prepared work plans for distribution of \$5.0M in Tribally led projects with anticipation for awards granted between February and May.
- Development of a Gravel to Gravel Memorandum of Understanding and Charter to formalize communications and expectations - including a vision for Co-Stewardship - for on-going cooperation and coordination among the Gravel to Gravel partners.
- Aquatic habitat assessment and monitoring training for local communities on the Yukon River is in progress - with the goal to build capacity for local and traditional knowledge to inform identification of impacted fish and wildlife habitat and restoration opportunities.
- Cross DOI-Bureau Gravel to Gravel invasive species project targeted at preventing introduction of invasive species harmful to fish and wildlife habitat.
- Initiating dialogue with Tribes to obtain their input on broader ecosystem impacts in the Gravel to Gravel region and working with Tribes to identify solutions. This includes co-designing climate and culturally resilient ecosystem-level assessments with Tribes.

Staffing

Mr. Pete Fasbender will not be in attendance at the February North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. If the Council has questions related to this update or any current work of the Service, please contact Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries and Ecological Services, Pete Fasbender via email at peter_fasbender@fws.gov or by phone at 612-242-4212.