

OVERVIEW OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SYSTEM

A Report to the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game

by

ADF&G Boards Support Section

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Boards Support Section



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Overview of the Advisory Committee System

Introduction

There are 84 local fish and game advisory committees (ACs) around the state established in regulation by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game (Joint Board). The ACs play an important role by providing local information and recommendations on regulatory proposals to the Board of Fisheries (BOF) and the Board of Game (BOG). The ACs are supported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Boards Support Section (Boards Support) for meeting coordination and funding. They are also supported by the other ADF&G divisions who regularly attend meetings and provide biologic and socioeconomic information to the committees on fish and game management issues.

AC members are dedicated and contribute many hours of voluntary service to the fish and game regulatory process. ACs manage heavy workloads addressing BOG and BOF issues, as well as federal fisheries issues and other federal agency programs. Several AC members participate in the federal subsistence Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) program, the Subsistence Resource Commissions, and other working groups, committees, and councils.

The level of AC participation in the board process varies across the state and is related to the boards meeting cycles. During the 2022/2023 board meeting cycle, 62 of 84 ACs held 217 meetings. Notably, 73 AC representatives testified at board meetings: 23 at Board of Game meetings and 50 at Board of Fisheries meetings. The prior cycle, 2021/2022, 54 ACs held 151 meetings, however, this was the first year of meeting activity following the COVID-19 pandemic. Pre-pandemic (2019/2022 cycle), 58 ACs held 180 meetings. Since the pandemic and as a result from it, Boards Support and many ACs now utilize Zoom extensively for meetings. This application has increased activity for some ACs, and also makes the meetings more accessible for members, staff, and the public.

Of the 84 ACs, there are approximately eight that have not met in the last ten years and there are eight that have not met in the past five years and are considered inactive. Potential reasons for the inactivity vary but is mostly due to difficulty contacting the officers, members, and interested individuals.

For several ACs, their ability to meet is constrained by their location in the state. In a 1981 report to the Joint Board (Zahn 1981, *Appendix A*), the ACs were described in three categories that still apply.

1. *Rural ACs – membership is drawn from small remote communities, generally not connected by roads. Communication and transportation are cumbersome and associated costs exceed, by far, those of other committees.*
2. *Railbelt/Road-system ACs – these tend to be smaller communities that are on the road system and members tend to have ready access and communication for committee functions.*
3. *Urban ACs – these are the larger cities with good transportation and communication infrastructure, and include Fairbanks, Anchorage, Wasilla, and Juneau–Douglas.*

There is a wide range of meeting frequency and participation during board meeting cycles for

active ACs. ACs along the road system, single community, and urban ACs are able to meet more frequently. Some urban and single community ACs meet as much as eight or nine times per board meeting cycle, while road-system rural single community ACs tend to meet as needed. Rural, multi-community ACs generally meet once or twice per meeting cycle due to high costs associated with meetings and challenges with teleconferencing.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

The statutory authority for ACs is from Alaska Statute (AS) 16.05.260.

Sec. 16.05.260. Advisory committees. The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game may adopt regulations they consider advisable in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) establishing, at places in the state designated by the individual boards, advisory committees to be composed of persons well informed on the fish or game resources of the locality. The boards shall set the number and terms of each of the members of the advisory committees, shall delegate one member of each committee as chair, and shall give the chairman authority to hold public hearings on fish or game matters. Recommendations from the advisory committees shall be forwarded to the appropriate board for their consideration but if the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game chooses not to follow the recommendations of the local advisory committee the appropriate board shall inform the appropriate advisory committee of this action and state the reasons for not following the recommendations. The commissioner shall delegate authority to advisory committees for emergency closures during established seasons. The commissioner is empowered to set aside and make null and void only opening of seasons set by the advisory committees under this section. The appropriate board shall adopt the necessary regulations governing these closures.

This authorizing statute essentially accomplishes three things: 1) directs the Joint Board to develop the AC system, 2) directs ACs to make recommendations to the boards, and 3) appoints ACs the ability to order emergency closures through the commissioner of ADF&G. The regulatory authority for ACs exists in Title 5, Chapters 96 and 97 of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC). In general, these regulations include establishment, functions, uniform rules of order, and areas of jurisdiction.

Support for the Advisory Committees

The State of Alaska supports the ACs with administrative and financial support. Boards Support administers the program with five seasonal regional coordinators located in the Arctic, Western, Interior, Southwest, and Southcentral regions of the state, who provide administrative and logistical support for the ACs. Support for Southeast Region ACs is provided by headquarters staff, who serve as the publication specialists for each board. The Boards Support program also has two administrative staff, and two executive directors to support the AC program.

The overall budget for the AC program is approximately \$635,000. Of this amount, approximately \$200,000 covers costs associated with AC meetings, travel for AC representatives to attend board meetings, and regional coordinator travel to attend AC meetings. AC members do not receive a stipend for their work; it is entirely voluntary. The travel budget allows most, but not all ACs to have one in-person meeting for those that require travel. Typically, not every AC meets during a meeting cycle due to the topics being considered by the boards, or because of logistical challenges,

and occasionally, the ability of making quorum. The AC travel budget has been sufficient to fund the basic needs of the ACs, but as AC activity increases and the cost of travel increases, the budget is tight and closely monitored by Boards Support staff during the meeting season.

Role of the Regional Coordinator: The Boards Support regional coordinators are the boots on the ground team of incredibly hard-working individuals. The regional coordinators, together, work with hundreds of AC members, communities, staff, and members of the public. As mentioned previously, during the 2022/2023 cycle, there were over 200 AC meetings facilitated by the regional coordinators. During the current cycle, the program has had two vacancies, and one in the prior cycle. When regional coordinator positions are vacant, the ACs in the affected region are covered by the other regional coordinators. New employees require much training and hands-on learning to become fully effective in their positions.

The typical workload for the regional coordinators is intense, especially when their region is in cycle for the boards which is two of the three cycles. When a region is out of cycle with the boards, AC activity still occurs as there are usually statewide or out of cycle topics before the boards and proposal deadlines. Regardless of the cycles, the regional coordinator is regularly busy keeping track of multiple rosters, term dates, elections alternates, meeting notice requirements, distribution lists, travel, meeting minutes and more. Additionally, the team members are often working at the board meetings, sometimes doing double duties to assist with AC meetings occurring at the same time. The Boards Support team supports each other well to help manage the large number of meetings.

For the AC meetings that involve travel, the regional coordinator will arrange travel for as many as fifteen members per meeting. They are also responsible for collecting receipts and paperwork from each traveler, preparing, and submitting it for payment. The state's travel policies and procedures can be complicated, particularly with rural travel, which will add to the regional coordinators' workload. For several rural ACs, email is not a reliable nor efficient method for communication or sending out meeting materials. Instead, regional coordinators prepare and mail meeting packets and communicate with members frequently via phone. For a single AC meeting such as the Central Bering Sea AC, this communication involves fifteen members and multiple alternates. Oftentimes, multiple ACs in a region will meet at the same time, compounding the regional coordinator's workload.

While some of the rural ACs involves more demanding duties from the regional coordinators such as making travel arrangements, phone calls, and mailing meeting packets, the regions with urban or single community ACs are less involved, but they meet more frequently, which is described in each region report.

Every AC functions differently as do the AC officers in fulfilling their leadership responsibilities. It takes time to bring new AC officers and members up to speed in the process. The regional coordinators' work constantly involves interpreting AC regulations and Uniform Rules of Operation to guide the ACs and the public. The regulations do not always work for every AC or circumstance so over the past few Joint Board meetings, the Boards Support team has brought forth ideas for improvements to the process.

Overall, the Boards Support program and the regional coordinators strive to ensure the AC process is transparent, and that all ACs and the communities they represent have a voice in the regulatory process as the boards rely upon that information in their decision-making process.

Historical Perspective

The AC system began at statehood and has expanded over the years. In 1981, there were 67 ACs with a total of 665 members. Today there are 84 ACs with up to 1,100 seats for membership throughout the state.

In Zahn's 1981 report to the Joint Board, the overall effectiveness of the committee system noted several issues and trends which are still pertinent today. In his report, he raised a number of considerations for the boards including:

1. Would an overall limit on the number of committees be useful?
2. Should closely adjacent communities have separate committees?
3. Would a policy of fewer committees encourage neighboring towns to work together?
4. Would separate committees for fisheries and for game be more effective?
5. Should inactive committees be dissolved?
6. Is there a point of diminishing effectiveness in the public forum process? If so, what is it? An often-heard complaint is that people have too many meetings to attend and issues to consider. Does the number of inactive committees indicate a saturation point?
7. Should emergency closure authority be revised?
8. Should boards expect to settle intra-committee disputes regarding conduct at meetings?

In October 2001, the Joint Board initiated a comprehensive review of the state's AC system by establishing a task force charged with performing a "scoping function" by identifying issues and examining ways to strengthen the AC system. The 12-member task force had statewide representation including eleven active or former AC members. The task force held two meetings, both in April 2002. The resulting report, *Status Report on Joint Board Task Force on Advisory Committees* (Appendix B), was forwarded to each board in December 2002. The task force identified a number of issues including timing/organization, public input, training, elections, funding, and interaction.

The BOF and the BOG separately took the task force recommendations under advisement but did not schedule a meeting to consider regulatory action due to budget and scheduling limitations.

Joint Board Meetings Since 1975

The Joint Board has met to consider regulatory proposals on AC regulations periodically over the years. Other Joint Board meetings occurred to address topics of common jurisdiction to both boards, such as to address areawide management plans, to respond to changes in the state's subsistence law, and to establish nonsubsistence areas. The list of Joint Board meeting information on file since 1975 is provided in Table 1. Since 1975, and earlier, it is evident the Joint Board has worked to adjust the AC regulations to improve the functioning of the program, which is still the case today.

Table 1. List of Joint Board meetings and work sessions since 1975.

Date	Location	Topics
1975	Unknown	Changes to AC regulations related to rules and composition of the ACs.
December 1978	Anchorage	Fourteen proposals related to AC regulations; Joint Board approval of nominees to existing ACs; and requests to form new ACs.
March 1979	Anchorage	Regulatory Changes to the procedures for multi-community ACs.
April 1981	Anchorage	Discussion related to AC status and emergency closure regulations.
December 1984	Anchorage	Three proposals to establish election procedures for multi-community ACs.
March 1985	Anchorage	Twenty-two proposals on AC regulations and one to adopt a Joint Board Petition Policy.
November 12–14, 1985	Anchorage	Subsistence procedures, habitat protection, and AC regulations.
September 28, 1988	Anchorage	Work session.
April 24-26, 1989	Anchorage	Fourteen proposals on AC regulations.
March 12–14, 1990	Anchorage	Thirty-eight proposals on AC regulations and one to adopt a subsistence proposal policy.
October 1990	Anchorage	New “all Alaskan” ruling.
February 23–25, 1991	Juneau	Twenty-six proposals on AC regulations, process for adopting regulations, and subsistence procedures.
October 27–28, 1992	Anchorage	Four proposals on AC regulations.
November 1–7, 1992	Anchorage	Nonsubsistence area determinations, eight criteria.
March 6–7, 1993	Juneau	Nonsubsistence area revisions, Kachemak Bay Management Plan.
April 28, 1994	Teleconference	Nonsubsistence areas resulting from <i>Kenaitze v. State</i> .
April 3–5, 1997	Anchorage	Initial action on 23 proposals on AC regulations and additional proposals, including Bristol Bay Reserve.
August 1, 1997	Teleconference	Discussion of governor’s subsistence panel.
Feb. 27–March 1, 1998	Anchorage	Twenty-four proposals related to AC regulations, board process, and one proposal for a Bristol Bay Reserve. Seven proposals were adopted, all related to ACs. Two new ACs were created.
March 21, 2006	Anchorage	One proposal regarding AC member qualifications which was deferred to a future meeting.
October 5–8, 2007	Anchorage	Thirty-nine proposals total; 37 on AC regulations and two on nonsubsistence areas. Two new ACs were created and two were merged into one.
May 13, 2011	Teleconference	Requests for removal of two members on the Anchorage AC and one member on the Juneau/Douglas AC.

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Table 1. Page 2 of 2.

Date	Location	Topics
October 12-16, 2013	Anchorage	Forty-one proposals on AC regulations, nonsubsistence areas, and subsistence uses and procedures. Three new ACs were created; two of which resulted from the splitting of an existing AC.
March 21–23, * 2019	Anchorage	Forty proposals on AC regulations and board process; 22 were adopted, primarily clarifying and updating AC uniform rules of operation and board process including the joint board petition policy; membership for three ACs was also adjusted. Regulations related to subsistence uses and non- subsistence Areas were not on the Call for Proposals.
*Originally scheduled to conclude March 25.		
March 25–28, 2024	Anchorage	Twenty total proposals on AC regulations, board process and the boundary of the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area.

Note: This list is based upon the best available historical records. It does not include the periodic Joint Board meetings convened for purposes of the commissioner selection process.

Recent Changes to AC Structure and Uniform Rules of Operation

Focusing on the last twenty years, the Joint Board held three regulatory meetings (2006, 2013 and 2019), for which proposals were solicited. The meetings occurred as needed, approximately every six to seven years. To provide some expectancy for a schedule, in the 2019 meeting, the Joint Board agreed to an approximate five-year schedule to regularly address AC and board process related proposals (5 AAC Chapters 96 and 97), and a ten-year schedule to address regulations concerning subsistence procedures in 5 AAC Chapter 99.

Advisory Committee Composition and Creations: At the October 2007 meeting, the Joint Board adjusted the designated seats for nine committees: Edna Bay, Copper Basin, Mt. Yenlo, Tok Cutoff/Nabesna, Lower Yukon, Upper Kobuk, Middle Nenana River, Middle Yukon, and Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (GASH); established the Susitna Valley Stony/Holitna ACs, and merged the Western Arctic and the Eastern Arctic ACs into a single, North Slope AC. The overall number of ACs at that time increased from 81 to 82.

It was at the October 2013 meeting that the Joint Board created the Bethel AC and divided the Lower Yukon AC into the Coastal Lower Yukon and Mid-Lower Yukon ACs, bringing the number of ACs to 84. Seats designations were adjusted for the Susitna Valley AC by reducing from eleven designated and undesignated seats to seven undesignated seats; two designated seats for Selawik were removed from the Northern Seward Peninsula AC and three seats for Selawik were added to the Lower Kobuk AC.

In March 2019, the Joint Board adjusted seat designations for the Central Kuskokwim, Lake Minchumina, Lake Iliamna, Northern Seward Peninsula, Lower Kobuk, and Noatak Kivalina ACs. There were no new ACs created nor any eliminated, although the change in membership for the Lake Minchumina AC resulted from a proposal to dissolve the AC due to inactivity.

The Joint Board will consider two proposals related to AC structure at the March 2024 meeting. Proposal 16 asks the Joint Board to dissolve seven ACs that have been inactive for at least ten

years, and Proposal 20 seeks to adjust the designated seats for the East Prince of Wales AC. If Proposal 16 is adopted, the overall number of ACs will be reduced to 77.

Uniform Rules of Operation: Boards support staff relies heavily on the Uniform Rules of Operation (5 AAC 96.060) for administering ACs. With 84 diverse and complex committees, establishing a simple set of rules has proven anything but simple. For the past two Joint Board meetings, the department submitted proposals seeking adjustments to the rules. The requests were developed after considerable collaboration by the Boards Support team as efforts to solve problems, remove ambiguity and redundancies, and to improve various procedures.

In 2013, the Joint Board adopted proposed changes which clarified and more accurately reflected the current procedures followed by the ACs and Boards Support. The changes included:

- Flexibility provided for the location of elections for community designated seats.
- Clarification provided that newly elected or re-elected members have full voting and office holding privileges.
- Removed the requirement of confirmation by the Joint Board for newly elected or re-elected members.
- Removed the requirements for approval by the Joint Board chair for holding joint AC meetings.
- Term starts and end dates for membership changed from January 1–December 30 to July 1–June 30.
- Clarified that a newly elected member would be seated at the next regularly scheduled meeting after the term end date, and immediately when filling vacant seats.
- Extended the required time period for submitting membership forms to Boards Support from 15 days to 30.
- Allowed alternates to fill vacancies if appointed by the AC from the remaining nominees from an election as long as the election results were maintained for the record.
- Clarified AC meetings are to be conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order “to the extent practicable.”
- Increased from three weeks to 30 days, the required amount of time for ACs to submit recommendations to Boards Support.
- Stipulated that ACs may implement disciplinary measures under Robert’s Rules of Order.

At the March 2019 meeting, regulatory changes to the Uniform Rules adopted by the Joint Boards included:

- Reordering and clarification provided to the advisory election and nomination processes.
- Guidance provided for AC actions having abstentions.
- Clarified the quorum requirement for membership elections for designated and undesignated seats.
- Specified AC meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act.
- Simplified the process for removing AC members for having three consecutive absences from meetings without justification.
- Clarification that a chair can declare a vacancy when a member’s term is set to

expire or has expired.

- Clarified when ACs may not refuse membership to a nominee for a vacant undesigned seat.
- Clarified nominees for vacant community designated seats can be refused when the nominee is not from the designated community.
- Specified taking meeting minutes is a requirement of the secretary/recorder.

For the March 2024 meeting, the Joint Board will consider adjustments to the AC process regulations at the request of the department including:

- Specify the responsibilities of officers in regulation, consistent with the department AC Manual, 4th edition.
- Emphasize the importance of the secretary/recorder position for ensuring AC actions are recorded in writing and submitted to the boards and to boards support.
- Reduce the term of officers from two to one year so that officers are elected annually.
- Allow community designated representatives to appoint alternates.
- Clarify the process for ACs to appoint at large alternates and alternates for community designated seats.
- Establish one year term limits for alternates; and
- Require chairs to declare vacancies for expired seats.

Advisory Committee Challenge and Issues Related to Joint Board Proposals

Rural Advisory Committee Meetings: Rural, multi-community ACs that must travel to meet (traveling ACs) can have as many as thirteen community-designated seats. Travel costs associated with meetings are significant and coordination is challenging. Twenty-six of the 84 ACs fit this description and are listed in Table 2. More detailed information is provided in the regional reports.

As mentioned previously, the AC budget allows a single in-person meeting for most traveling ACs. Due to the limitation of in-person meetings, some of these ACs often have long agendas which result in meetings lasting one or two days to address a large number of issues. For some ACs, it’s necessary to hire an interpreter, or have an AC member translate the discussion. This works for in-person meetings but is nearly impossible for teleconferenced meetings.

Table 2. Rural ACs Requiring Travel

Southeast (22 ACs total)
None
Southcentral (18 ACs total)
None
Southwest (12 ACs total)
Nushagak (9 communities)
Kodiak (4 communities)
Lake Iliamna (6 communities)
Lower Bristol Bay (4 communities)
Togiak (3 communities)
Chignik (5 communities)
Western (7 ACs total)
Central Bering Sea (13 communities)
Lower Kuskokwim (12 communities)
Central Kuskokwim (5 communities)
Mid-Lower Yukon (7 communities)
Coastal Lower Yukon (6 communities)
Arctic (9 ACs total)
Northern Norton Sound (8 communities)
Northern Seward Peninsula (2 communities)
Upper Kobuk (3 communities)
Lower Kobuk (3 communities)
Noatak/Kivalina (2 communities)
North Slope (8 communities)
Southern Norton Sound (5 communities)
Interior (15 ACs total)
McGrath (4 communities)
Yukon Flats (8 communities)
Tanana/Rampart/Manley (3 communities)
Middle Yukon (4 communities)
Koyukuk River (5 communities)
Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (4 communities)
Minto/Nenana (2 communities)
Stony/Holitna (4 communities)

Difficulty achieving quorum can limit the ability for ACs to hold meetings. When bringing in several rural community representatives to a meeting location, any unexpected absence can derail the entire meeting and the extensive amount of work put in by the Boards Support regional coordinator. Having the ability for members to access by phone is critical for some ACs to ensure the quorum is met. For those ACs that have several single community-designated seats, having alternates lined up to participate in the event of a member's absence is also critical. Proposals 6 and 7 would allow communities having multiple designated seats, the ability to have an alternate. This may be part of a solution to help some ACs make quorum.

The impediment for traveling ACs to meet in-person on a more regular basis may put them on an unequal footing with single-community ACs and those on the road system. While traveling ACs are successful in completing the primary purpose of providing recommendations to the boards, this may limit their effectiveness within the board process compared to the ACs that do not require travel.

Meeting minutes and recommendations: Some ACs have challenges producing meeting minutes and recommendations on board proposals while others excel. For those that struggle, Boards Support has recently experimented with virtual meeting technology that automatically generates meeting summaries. There may be some promise for this artificial intelligence (AI) technology to assist in the future but, for now, the AI-generated summaries require heavy editing to ensure that names and context are accurate. Some ACs look to Boards Support and other department staff to take minutes. This is not the responsibility of department staff, but Boards Support staff will assist ACs by providing notes, the audio recording, and a template to record the actions and comments. Boards Support and some AC have attempted soliciting volunteers to help with the meeting minutes but have had little success.

Elections for Community Designated Seats: Advisory Committee elections are one of the more challenging processes for the AC program and the regional coordinators. The regional reports included within this report will describe some of these challenges in more detail. While many elections for AC membership occur with ease, for others, challenges persist. The rules described in regulations are relevant to elections that occur during an AC meeting and are not specific to independent elections for community-designated seats. Boards Support interprets and applies the rules for both types of elections. For example, the regulation states "a committee shall give at least 14 days public notice of a meeting for an election to fill a vacancy". It has been a longstanding policy of Boards Support that independently held elections for community designated seats also provide 14 days' notice, based on this regulation.

Of the 84 ACs, 37 have community-designated seats for approximately 167 communities. Sixteen of these ACs have single seats for communities. Elections for the 167 community-designated seats can occur during an AC meeting via teleconference, in conjunction with an AC meeting, or they are conducted independently by the local or tribal governments. Independently held elections for some community-designated seats work well, while others do not.

For those elections conducted independently at the community level, Boards Support staff may spend considerable time explaining the election process and providing election materials such as ballots, a ballot box, and written guidelines and announcements. For some communities, it can be simpler whereby the regional coordinator notifies the community or tribal administrator of the expired seat in writing the and including the AC election guidelines. Afterwards, the administrator provides Boards Support the election results and membership form. It is not uncommon for the

regional coordinator to learn that individuals were “appointed” to fill a designated seat rather than “elected”.

When elections are held for community-designated seats at the time of the AC meeting, there is ambiguity over who is allowed to vote for those specific seats. It is unclear if qualified voters are limited to those who reside in the community, or the public attending the meeting who reside near the communities, within the AC’s jurisdiction? For example, if the Ketchikan AC held an election for the designated seats of the nearby community of Saxman, can the residents of Ketchikan vote for those seats? This is a challenging process for Boards Support to facilitate consistently. Additionally, regulations state each AC member in attendance of an election meeting may vote on a nomination for membership, which seems to imply sitting members can vote for community designated seats regardless of where they reside.

Other challenges with elections for community-designated seats are the inability for communities to hold local elections, occasional disputes over the election process between the tribal and local governments administrators, and the lack of interested individuals willing to serve. When communities struggle to hold elections, members having expired seats can continue to serve until elections can be held. The Joint Board will discuss this process in Proposal 13 which suggests that communities failing to hold elections for designated seats will lose representation when terms have expired for longer than a year.

Refinements to the AC election process are needed and may be an area of focus for a future Joint Board meeting. Proposal 13 is a starting point by establishing, in regulation, the process for electing community-designated seats, and requiring AC chairs or Boards Support to declare community-designated seats vacant after a one-year time period.

Conclusion

This report to the Joint Board is to provide background information on the AC system, some of which is related to proposals before the Joint Board at the March 2024 meeting. ACs provide a valuable service for the state’s fish and game regulatory process by providing a local forum for the public to participate and as a conduit for passing local information to the boards and resource managers. Regardless of the actions taken by the Joint Board at this meeting, ADF&G will continue to work towards improving the AC system and identifying ways to help ACs be more effective with their meetings and their input to the boards, providing both transparency and facilitating public participation.

Advisory Committee Regional Reports

Southeast Region Advisory Committees

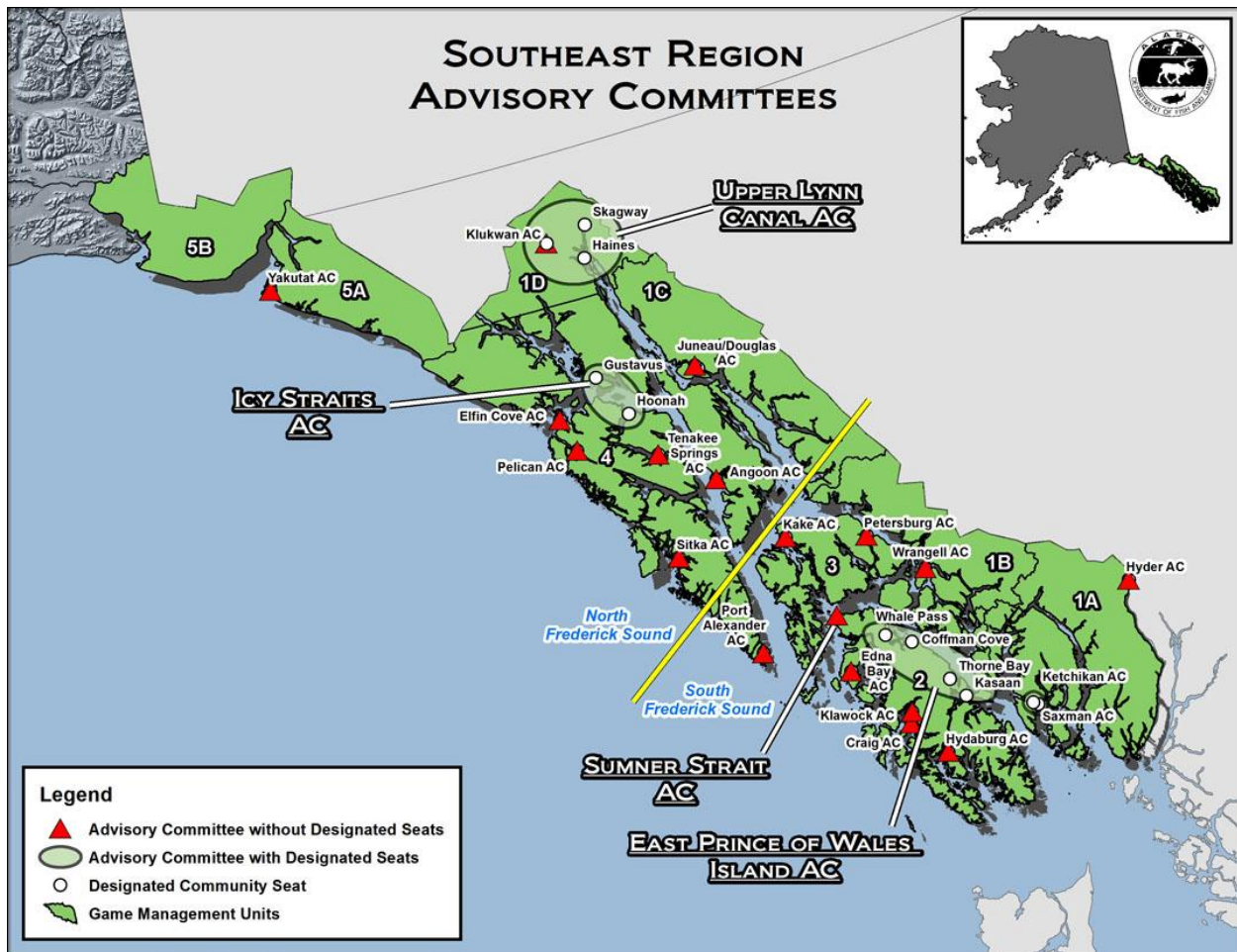


Figure 1. Advisory Committees of the Southeast Region.

The Southeast Region has 23 ACs representing 29 communities from Hydaburg to Yakutat (Figure 1). Of those, seven represent larger communities: Juneau-Douglas, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, Upper Lynn Canal (Haines), Wrangell, and Yakutat. Most Southeast ACs, 16, represent single communities, while five represent multiple communities with designated seats (Upper Lynn Canal, Icy Straits, Ketchikan, Saxman, and East Prince of Wales). The East Prince of Wales, Ketchikan, and Saxman ACs represent communities linked by roads; the Icy Straits, Sumner Strait, and Upper Lynn Canal ACs are comprised of communities that are nearby but lack road connection. Twenty-one of the ACs have 15 seats; Saxman has nine seats and Edna Bay has seven.

During the 2023/2024 meeting cycle, 10 of the 23 ACs met; and in 2022/2023, 12 held meetings. Eleven ACs in the region have been inactive. Eight of those have not met for over ten years: Angoon, Elfin Cove, Hydaburg, Hyder, Klukwan, Saxman, Sumner Strait, and Tenakee Springs. The remaining inactive ACs are Edna Bay, Kake, and Port Alexander.

All Southeast Region ACs, except the Yakutat AC, share concurrent jurisdiction in Southeastern Alaska Area finfish fisheries. The Yakutat AC has jurisdiction for finfish in the Yakutat-Yakataga

Area. All Southeast Region ACs have concurrent jurisdiction in Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish. The jurisdiction for game ranges from GMUs 1 through 5.

Geographic features: The southeast panhandle is comprised of coastal communities, located on both islands and mainland, connected by air and water. The Southeast Region covers all communities from Dixon Entrance to the south up to Yakutat in the north. The Southeast Region is predominantly federal. The area includes the Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Park, the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, and a portion of the Wrangell–St. Elias National Park. State and private lands make up nine percent of southeast Alaska.

Most communities in Southeast are not connected to the continental road system; four communities are exceptions: Skagway, Haines, Klukwan, and Hyder. While some communities are situated on islands, others are on the mainland but are effectively isolated by mountains, glaciers and icefields, and the ocean. Many communities are connected by the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system. Some communities on Prince of Wales Island are connected to each other on the island’s self-contained, improved logging roads; Ketchikan and Saxman are also connected by road. Private ferries and smaller air carriers serve to connect other communities. Most ACs utilize web and teleconferencing for meeting accessibility.

General areas of interest: The ACs in Southeast Alaska spend a majority of time on fisheries issues as Southeast communities are coastal communities. Wildlife issues are also important to Southeast ACs. Southeast ACs and the members are regularly involved in federal processes.

In addition to commercial salmon and crab fisheries, other important fisheries for the region include herring, groundfish, shellfish, and dive fisheries. Many of these species are important for sport, guided sport, and subsistence fisheries. Important and growing areas include mariculture and ecotourism. Game species of interest include deer, moose, mountain goat, wolf, and wolverine, other furbearers, black and brown bears, and game birds.

Region specific proposals: The Joint Board will consider two proposals for this region. Proposal 16 requests the Joint Board dissolve seven inactive ACs and Proposal 20 requests an adjustment to the community seat designations for the East Prince of Wales Island AC.

Angoon – Inactive

Angoon is located on the Southwestern tip of Admiralty Island. It has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 1C and 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Angoon AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 1992. The community of Angoon has expressed interest in holding an AC meeting in 2021.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

Craig – Ellen Hannan, Chair

Craig is located on the west side of Prince of Wales Island and is the island’s largest community. The Craig AC has 15 seats and jurisdiction in GMUs 1A and 2, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Craig AC currently has 13 members and one alternate. The Craig AC designates seats for user group representation including hunting, commercial/gillnet, commercial/longline, commercial/shellfish, herring pounding, sport/charter, subsistence, and trapping. The committee meets two to four times a year, depending on the boards’ meeting cycle.

Elections are held in the winter or as needed. The AC meets between two and four times each year, holding elections as needed.

Areas of interest: The Craig AC discusses local issues, which often include federal management concerns, as well as any regional or statewide issues before the Boards. Issues regularly include wolf and deer populations, management, trapping and hunting; king salmon including Pacific salmon treaty matters, commercial and charter fishing, federal and state regulations and management, and subsistence uses.

East Prince of Wales – Amy Jennings, Chair

The East Prince of Wales (EPOW) AC has 15 seats, 11 undesignated, and one each for the communities of Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Whale Pass, and Kasaan. As the name indicates, all communities are located on the east side of Prince of Wales Island. The areas of jurisdiction for the EPOW AC are GMUs 1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 3, and 4. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Thorne Bay	1 representative	Kasaan	1 representative
Coffman Cove	1 representative	Undesignated	11 representatives
Whale Pass	1 representative		

Current committee status: The EPOW AC currently has 15 members serving. The AC meets between two and four times each year, holding elections as needed. Elections for community designated seats are held during the AC election meetings.

Areas of interest: The EPOW AC discusses local issues, which often include federal management concerns, as well as regional or statewide issues before the boards. Issues regularly include wolf and deer populations, management, trapping and hunting, federal and state regulations and management, subsistence uses, logging and habitat, and other Island-wide concerns.

The East Prince of Wales AC submitted Proposal 20 requesting an adjustment to the membership seat designations.

Edna Bay – Inactive

Edna Bay is located on the northeast side of Prince of Wales Island. The Edna Bay AC has seven seats, all designated for Edna Bay. The AC’s areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 2, 3, 4, and Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Edna Bay AC has not met since 2018, and terms for all members expired as of 2020.

Areas of interest: The Edna Bay AC meeting minutes from 2018 provided comments to the Board of Fisheries on several proposals including mesh size for sport fish shrimp pots, shellfish methods and means, commercial sac roe herring fishery, and commercial, sport, and subsistence salmon fisheries.

Elfin Cove – Inactive

Elfin Cove is located on the north tip of Chichagof Island. The Elfin Cove AC has 15 undesignated seats. The AC’s area of jurisdiction for game is GMU 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Elfin Cove AC is inactive and hasn’t held a meeting in over ten years. Proposal 16, if adopted, will dissolve seven dormant ACs in the Southeast Region, including the Elfin Cove AC.

Areas of interest: Elfin Cove is an active fishing community and historically has only met when fishery issues directly impact its region.

Hydaburg – Inactive

Hydaburg is located toward the southern end of Prince of Wales Island. The Hydaburg AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1A, 2, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Hydaburg AC is considered inactive, last meeting in 2013. Proposal 16 will dissolve this and six other dormant advisory committees in Southeast Alaska.

Areas of interest: Unknown; there are no meeting minutes on file.

Hyder – Inactive

Hyder is located at the head of Portland Canal, just across the Canadian border from Stewart, British Columbia. The Hyder AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1A, 2, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Hydaburg AC is inactive, last meeting in 1999. Proposal 16 will dissolve this and six other inactive advisory committees in Southeast Alaska.

Areas of interest: The Hyder AC meeting minutes from 1999 addressed the Area 1 shrimp fishery and a status report on coho habitat.

Icy Straits – Kacey McConnell, Chair

The Icy Straits AC represents the communities of Hoonah and Gustavus which are separated by the waters of Icy Strait. Hoonah is on the northern coast of Chichagof Island, while Gustavus is on mainland, near the entrance of Glacier Bay.

The AC has 15 seats: nine designated for Hoonah, two for Gustavus, and four undesignated. The AC’s areas of jurisdiction for game is GMU 4 and 1C, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Hoonah	9 representatives	Undesignated	4 representatives
Gustavus	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The Icy Straits AC currently has 13 members serving. Two undesignated seats are vacant. The AC last met in January 2023. Meetings are held in person in Hoonah, with teleconferencing options for Gustavus members and the public. Elections for all seats occur during the AC meeting, usually at the winter meetings. The AC meets one or more times a year by teleconference, depending on the boards’ meeting cycle. The AC does not have excess community interest during elections that would allow appointing alternate seats.

Areas of interest: The Icy Straits AC is interested in both fish and game issues locally for weighing in on both state and federal processes.

Juneau-Douglas – Kevin Maier, Chair

The Juneau-Douglas AC has 15 undesignated seats with two alternates. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 1C, 1D, 4, and 5, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Juneau-Douglas AC designates seats for user group representation, including commercial fish, sport fish, hunting, personal use, hunting guide, salt and freshwater

charter fishing, processor, trapping, and non-consumptive personal and commercial, and appoints two alternates following the fall election. The AC meets two to six times a year in-person and with a remote Zoom participation option to discuss both fish and wildlife issues, as well as to provide a public forum for conservation concerns.

Areas of interest: The Juneau-Douglas AC is interested in both fish and game issues locally and statewide. The AC also serves as a forum for members of the public to discuss issues such as trapping in urban areas and non-consumptive use.

Kake – Inactive

Kake is located on the Northern tip of Kupreanof Island. The Kake AC has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3 and 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Kake AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 2014. Community members may have held meetings in 2017 and 2018, but election results and minutes were not forwarded to boards support as required. The community of Kake expressed interest in holding an AC meeting in 2021.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

Ketchikan – Beau Dale, Chair

Ketchikan is located on Revillagigedo Island. The Ketchikan AC has 15 seats, of which two are designated for Saxman and 13 are undesignated. The areas of jurisdiction for the Ketchikan AC are GMUs 1A, 2, and Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Saxman	2 representatives	Undesignated	13 representatives
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Current committee status: The Ketchikan AC meets four to several times per year depending upon the boards’ meeting cycles. There are currently 14 members serving and two alternates, all residing in Ketchikan. Elections are held as needed.

Areas of interest: The Ketchikan AC participates in both the Board of Fisheries and Game process. For the current meeting cycle, the AC provided comments and testimony to the Board of Game concerning a mountain goat permit hunt proposal. The prior cycle the AC commented on several Southeast Region Board of Game proposals.

Klawock – Dennis Nickerson, Chair

Klawock is located on the west side of Prince of Wales Island just north of Craig. The Klawock AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction in GMUs 1A, 2, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Klawock AC meets two to four times per year. There are currently 14 members serving on the committee, and no alternates. Elections occur in the winter.

Areas of interest: The Klawock AC participates in both the Board of Fisheries and Game process. Issues of interest include wolf and deer population management, hunting, trapping, sockeye escapement in Klawock Lake Watershed and other fishery issues.

Klukwan – Inactive

Klukwan is an indigenous community, located on the Chilkat Peninsula and accessible via the Haines Highway. The Klukwan AC has 15 undesignated seats. The AC’s areas of jurisdiction for

game are GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3 and 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Klukwan AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 2009. At its 2009 meeting, the Klukwan AC was primarily concerned with subsistence issues. Klukwan has a community-designated seat on the Upper Lynn Canal AC.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

Pelican – Patricia Phillips Chair

Pelican is located on the western side of Chichagof Island. The AC has 15 undesignated seats. The AC’s area of jurisdiction is GMU 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Pelican AC currently has 9 members serving. Several seats have expired terms. The AC meets one or more times a year in-person and with a remote teleconference participation option to discuss both fish and wildlife issues, as well as to provide a public forum for conservation concerns. The AC does not have excess community interest during elections that would allow appointing alternate seats.

Areas of interest: The Pelican AC is interested in both fish and game issues locally for weighing in on both state and federal processes. At the 2022 BOF Southeast Finfish meeting the Pelican AC was active in commercial salmon fisheries issues in Icy Straits and Lisianski Inlet.

Petersburg – Max Worhatch, Chair

Petersburg is located on the north end of Mitkof Island, where the Wrangell Narrows meets Frederick Sound. The Petersburg AC has 15 seats, and jurisdiction in GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3, 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently 15 members and one alternate serving. Of the 15 seats, the AC has designated nine user group seats for: archery, crab/conservation, gillnet, hunting/trapping, seine, sport/charger, sport/personal use, and troll. During the BOF Southeast cycle, the AC meets several times throughout the cycle, and as needed in other years. The AC meetings are not always accessible via teleconference, depending on the meeting venue. Elections have occurred in the spring and the as needed.

Areas of interest: The Petersburg AC is interested in both fish and game issues locally and statewide. Home to one of the largest commercial fishing fleets in Alaska, the AC is very active with commercial fishing issues.

Port Alexander – Inactive

Port Alexander is located on the southeastern corner of Baranof Island. The Port Alexander AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction in GMU 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Port Alexander AC appears to have last met in January of 2018, but no meeting minutes are on file.

Areas of interest: From the 2017 meeting minutes, the AC took action on several southeast finfish Board of Fisheries proposals. The notice for the 2018 meeting noticed the topic of Unuk and Chilkat River stock status and action plans.

Saxman – Inactive

Saxman is located on Revillagigedo Island south of Ketchikan. The Saxman AC has nine seats: six designated for Saxman, two from Ketchikan, and one undesignated. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 1A, 2, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Saxman	6 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative
Ketchikan	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The Saxman AC is currently considered inactive last meeting in 2010. Proposal 16 will dissolve this and six other inactive advisory committees in Southeast Alaska.

Areas of interest: From the 2010 meeting minutes, the AC commented on several board of Game statewide regulatory proposals and topics, including harvest ticket and reporting requirements for black bear and hunting, youth and proxy hunting, exemptions for bear baiting, and the taking of big game for religious and potlatch ceremonies. They also took action on Federal Subsistence Board proposals.

Sitka – Stacy Wayne, Chair

Sitka is located on the western side of Baranof Island and is made up of 15 undesignated seats. The AC has jurisdiction for game in GMUs 3 and 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The committee has designated user group seats and maintains a seat for each of the following: power troll, resident sport fish, conservation, charter, guide, hunting, longline, processor, seine, shellfish, subsistence, and trapping. All seats are currently filled. The committee meets three to four times a year and appoints two alternates following the fall election.

Areas of interest: The Sitka AC is interested in both fish and game issues, locally and statewide. Commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries are all very significant subjects for the AC with particular attention to the allocative balance between user groups for the salmon, halibut, and herring fisheries. The AC serves as a valuable local forum for discussion on these matters.

Sumner Strait – Inactive

Point Baker and Port Protection are located on the north end of Prince of Wales Island. The Sumner Strait AC has 15 undesignated seats with jurisdiction in GMUs 1B, 2, 3, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Sumner Strait AC is considered inactive, last meeting in 2008. The membership at that time were residents from Ketchikan and Point Baker. Proposal 16 will dissolve this and six other inactive advisory committees in Southeast Alaska.

Areas of interest: Minutes from the 2008 AC meeting provided comments to the Board of Game on deer and black bear proposals.

Tenakee Springs – Inactive

Tenakee Springs is located on the eastern side of Chichagof Island. The AC has 15 undesignated seats, with areas of jurisdiction for game in GMUs 1C and 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: The Tenakee Springs AC is considered inactive last meeting in 1997.

Areas of interest: Unknown.

Upper Lynn Canal – Tim McDonough, Chair

The Upper Lynn Canal AC represents the communities of Haines, Klukwan and Skagway, all located in northern Lynn Canal, for a total of 15 seats. The AC’s areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 1C and 1D, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Haines	8 representatives	Klukwan	1 representative
Skagway	2 representatives	Undesignated	4 representatives

Current committee status: The AC holds three or more webconference or hybrid meetings per year. The AC does not have excess community interest during elections that would allow appointing alternate seats. Elections occur as needed, for all seats including community designated seats.

Areas of interest: Recent issues for the Upper Lynn Canal AC include problem bear activity, mountain goat populations, and the effect of the Haines Highway Reconstruction Project on Chilkat River king salmon habitat. The AC is also home to an active drift gillnet fleet that operates largely in Lynn Canal.

Wrangell – Chris Guggenbickler, Chair

Wrangell is located on the northwest corner of Wrangell Island between Ketchikan and Petersburg. The Wrangell AC has 15 undesignated seats and jurisdiction in GMUs 1B, 1C, 2, 3, 4, Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, and Southeastern Alaska–Yakutat Area shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently 15 members serving and two alternates. The AC meets one to two times per year and holds elections in the fall. Meetings are not accessible to the public via teleconference.

Areas of interest: Wrangell AC members have an interest in commercial, sport, and personal use fishing, hunting, and subsistence. For this meeting cycle, the AC provided comments to the BOF regarding proposals for the Southeast King Salmon Management proposals. The prior cycle, the AC provided comments to the Board of Game on several Southeast Region hunting and trapping proposals and Board of Fisheries, statewide finfish regulatory proposals.

Yakutat – John Vale, Chair

Yakutat is located on the northern coast of the Gulf of Alaska and has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for game are GMUs 5 and 6, the Yakutat-Yakataga Area for finfish and the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area for shellfish.

Current committee status: The AC meets one or more times a year in-person and with a remote teleconference participation option to discuss both fish and wildlife issues, as well as to provide a public forum for conservation concerns. The AC does not have excess community interest during elections that would allow appointing alternate seats. Elections usually occur in the winter.

Areas of interest: The committee is primarily concerned with subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries issues.

Southwest Region Advisory Committees

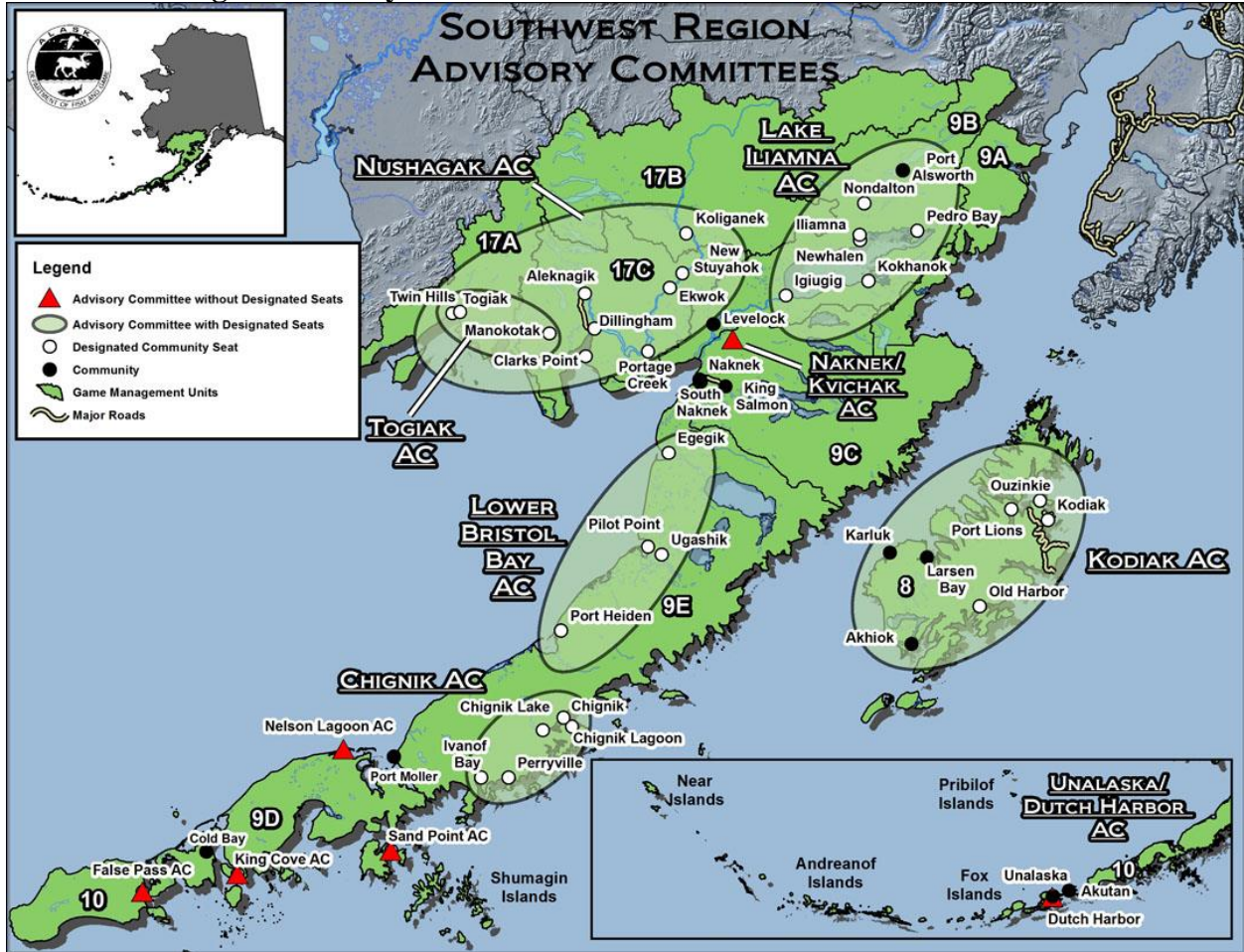


Figure 2. Advisory Committees of the Southwest Region.

The Southwest Region encompasses twelve ACs: two in the Kodiak-Chignik Area, five in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area, and five in the Bristol Bay Area (Figure 2). All ACs within the Kodiak-Chignik and Bristol Bay Area represent multiple communities, and all ACs within the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area represent individual communities. Eleven of the twelve Southwest Region ACs are composed of 15 seats by regulation and the Lake Iliamna AC is composed of 10 seats by regulation.

Geographic area: The Southwest Region is well known for its windswept islands, small rugged mountains, large expanses of tundra, and numerous lake and river systems. The region is home to the Wood Tikchik State Park, Lake Clark and Katmai National Parks, and five National Wildlife Refuges. The region is accessible mainly by air, with six communities serviced seasonally by the Alaska Marine Highway. Unpredictable weather can make carrying out in-person AC meetings difficult for those representing multiple communities. Typically, all ACs in the Southwest region are active. During the 2023–2024 season only six of the 12 ACs held meetings. This is largely because the Southwest Region is not in cycle for either the BOF or the BOG. All SW region ACs were active during the 2022–2023 season as the Southwest Region was in cycle for the BOF. All Southwest ACs utilize teleconference or webconference for meetings to assist in making quorum.

The Southwest Region ACs are divided into three main commercial fishery subregions for finfish

jurisdiction: the Kodiak-Chignik Area, Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Island Area; and the Bristol Bay Area. Also included in the Southwest Regional AC jurisdictions is the Westward Area for shellfish except king crab, and the Westward Registration Areas K, M, O and Q for king crab. GMUs in the Southwest Region include 8, 9, 10, and 17. As noted, the Southwest Region has many areas where land is federally managed. Some of the ACs submitted comments in recent years to the Federal Subsistence RACs, and there are AC members are also active participants on these RACs

General areas of interest: Commercial fishing is often viewed as the lifeblood of the Southwest Region, although it is not the only lifestyle. Sport fishing is a popular past time and an important and growing economic opportunity. Many tributaries boast strong king and coho salmon runs, and resident trout populations. Bristol Bay also boasts the largest sustainable sockeye salmon commercial fishery in the world, providing 46% of the world’s wild-caught sockeye salmon. Subsistence hunting and fishing are widely practiced by area residents. Salmon and other species of fresh and saltwater fish are highly valued for this use. Hunting, trapping, and guiding provide a large amount of household supplementation, both dietary and monetary. Migratory birds and caribou are important food sources across much of the region.

Six distinct caribou herds span the Southwest Region: the Mulchatna, Nushagak, Northern and Southern Alaska Peninsula, Unimak, and Adak herds. In the Bristol Bay Area, moose is an important resource both for subsistence, and for the commercial hunting industry, which also highly prizes the brown bear which are found in the Bristol Bay and Kodiak Areas. The region also has abundant marine mammal populations. Of note is the Walrus Island Sanctuary located near the villages of Togiak and Twin Hills, the unique Lake Iliamna freshwater seal population, and the resident beluga whale population in Nushagak Bay.

Some prevalent concerns within the Southwest Region include: the availability of subsistence foods for gathering, hunting, and fishing; commercial fishing for salmon, herring, Pacific cod, king crab and other shellfish, and groundfish; local hunts for bear, moose, caribou, small game, waterfowl, and furbearers; guided activities, including those for sport fishing and hunting purposes; habitat designations, especially within the Bristol Bay Area; intensive management; and interception of salmon stocks, including those of conflicting historical fisheries and bycatch in the trawl fisheries.

Chignik – Austin Shangin, Chair

The Chignik AC represents the communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Ivanoff Bay, and Perryville for a total of 15 seats. These communities are located on the Northeast side of the Alaska Peninsula. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 9, the Kodiak-Chignik Area for finfish, Westward Area shellfish, and king crab in Westward Registration Areas M and Q. The community-designated seats are:

Chignik	3 representatives	Chignik Lake	3 representatives
Chignik Lagoon	3 representatives	Perryville	3 representatives
Ivanoff	3 representatives		

Current committee status: The Chignik AC is typically very active, holding up to five teleconference meetings per year. Current membership is thirteen members with two vacancies: one for the community of Chignik Lagoon, and one for the community of Perryville, and two undesignated alternates. Elections for all community designated seats are held by either the village or city council of the seat’s respective community, and elections for alternate seats are held via teleconference or webconference. Typically, all elections are held in the spring. Several members

reside outside of the region in the winter months.

Areas of interest: Chignik AC members overwhelmingly participate in the salmon purse seine fishery in the Chignik Area, but some also participate in Gulf of Alaska pot and jig groundfish fisheries, longline for halibut, and the Dungeness and Tanner crab fisheries. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, subsistence, and personal use activities, but the main economic drivers for these communities are local subsistence and commercial fisheries for salmon.

False Pass – Travis Hoblet, Chair

The False Pass AC represents the community of False Pass which is located on the eastern shore of Unimak Island. The AC has 15 undesignated seats by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 9, 10, the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area for finfish, Westward Area shellfish and king crab in Westward Areas M and O.

Current committee status: The False Pass AC is cyclically active during the years that the Southwest Region is in cycle for the BOG or BOF and holds up to two in-person meetings per year during the years in which they meet. These meetings include teleconference accessibility. Elections are typically held in the spring. The current membership is five members with four residing in False Pass and one residing out of region.

Areas of interest: False Pass AC members participate in a variety of commercial fishing activities including drift gillnet and purse seine for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area, and long line for other finfish. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary area of concern for this AC is commercial fishing for salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula, but the AC is also concerned about Pacific cod, and crab.

King Cove – Grant Newton, Chair

The King Cove AC represents the community of King Cove which is located on the southeast side of the Alaska Peninsula. All 15 seats are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 9, the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area for finfish, Westward Area for shellfish and Westward Area king crab in Registration Areas M, O, and Q.

Current committee status: The King Cove AC typically holds one or two in-person meetings per year. The current membership is nine members, all of whom reside in the community. Elections are typically held in the spring.

Areas of interest: King Cove AC members participate in a variety of commercial fishing activities including purse seine, drift and set gillnet for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area, and pot, jig and long line for other finfish. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, trapping, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary areas of concern for this AC are commercial salmon fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula, and Pacific cod and other groundfish in the South Peninsula and Gulf of Alaska. The AC is also interested in crab.

Kodiak – Paul Chervenak, Chair

The Kodiak AC represents the communities of Kodiak, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions for a total of 15 seats. These communities are located on the island of Kodiak east of the Alaska Peninsula. The areas of jurisdiction GMUs 8, 9, the Kodiak-Chignik Area for finfish, Westward Area for shellfish and Westward Area king crab in Registration Areas K and Q. The community-designated seats are:

Kodiak	7 representatives	Port Lions	1 representative
Old Harbor	1 representative	Undesignated	5 representatives
Ouzinkie	1 representative		

The Kodiak AC has established additional seat designations in the AC’s bylaws to ensure representation among the various user groups. Additional seat designations consist of:

1. Kodiak Community- Processor
2. Kodiak Community- Big Game Guide/Outfitter
3. Kodiak Community- Large Boat Crab
4. Kodiak Community- Subsistence
5. Kodiak Community- Small Boat Crab/ Herring/ Salmon
6. Kodiak Community- West Side Salmon Gillnet
7. Kodiak Community- Trawl
8. Undesignated- South End Set Net
9. Undesignated- Small Boat Crab/ Herring/ Salmon
10. Undesignated- Transporter/ Sport Fish Charter
11. Undesignated- Concerned Citizen
12. Undesignated- Concerned Citizen
13. Old Harbor Community
14. Port Lions Community
15. Ouzinkie Community

Current committee status: The Kodiak AC meets up to five times per year in-person and by teleconference. Current membership is 15, as well as two undesignated alternates and three single seat community alternates for the communities of Old Harbor, Port Lions, and Ouzinkie. Elections for the undesignated and Kodiak designated seats are held in Kodiak, and elections for the Old Harbor, Port Lions, and Ouzinkie seats take place in their respective communities. All elections take place in the fall.

Areas of interest: The Kodiak AC has a very diverse membership. Members participate in a wide variety of commercial fishing activities as attested to by their seat designations. Members are also involved in sport fishing, hunting, guiding, trapping, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The Kodiak ACs primary areas of concern are hunting activities in GMU 8, sport, and commercial fishing in the Kodiak Area and the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area, and continued availability and sustainability of subsistence resources.

Lake Iliamna – Thomas Hedlund, Vice Chair

The Lake Iliamna AC represents the communities of Iliamna, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Kokhanok, Igiugig, Newhalen, Port Alsworth, and Pope Vannoy Landing, which are located on and around Lake Iliamna, and Lake Clark. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 9, 17, and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish. The Lake Iliamna AC has ten seats by regulation, the community-designated seats are:

Iliamna	1 representative	Igiugig	1 representative
Nondalton	1 representative	Newhalen	1 representative
Pedro Bay	1 representative	Port Alsworth	1 representative
Kokhanok	1 representative	Undesignated	3 representatives

Current committee status: The Lake Iliamna AC typically holds one to two in-person and teleconference meetings per year. In-person meetings rotate between communities with travel

conducted by air charter. Currently the Lake Iliamna AC has nine members with one vacancy for the community of Igiugig as the previous Chair recently stepped down from the AC after serving for the past 25 years. Lake Iliamna AC has three alternates for the communities of Newhalen, Igiugig, and Kokhanok. Elections for all community-designated seats are held by the village or city councils in their respective communities and take place in the fall. Elections for undesignated seats are held by the AC via Zoom/teleconference.

Areas of interest: Lake Iliamna AC members participate in commercial fishing for salmon in Bristol Bay, sport fishing, hunting, guiding, trapping, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary areas of concern for the Iliamna AC are hunting activities in GMU 9B, sport and commercial fishing on the east side of Bristol Bay, and subsistence.

Lower Bristol Bay – Mitch Seybert, Chair

The Lower Bristol Bay AC represents the communities of Ugashik, Egegik, Pilot Point, and Port Heiden, and is located on the southern east side of Bristol Bay. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 9, and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish. The 15 designated seats are:

Ugashik	1 representative	Port Heiden	2 representatives
Egegik	2 representatives	Undesignated	8 representatives
Pilot Point	2 representatives		

Committee Status: The Lower Bristol Bay AC typically holds up to three teleconference meetings per year. The current membership is thirteen members representing all the communities listed in regulation, with one vacancy for the community of Egegik, and one vacancy for the community of Port Heiden. Several members reside outside of the region. Elections are held in their designated communities by the village or city councils and are typically held in the fall.

Areas of interest: Lower Bristol Bay AC members participate in the commercial drift and set gillnet salmon fisheries in Bristol Bay, sport fishing, hunting, guiding, trapping, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary areas of concern for the Lower Bristol Bay AC are hunting activities in GMU 9E, commercial fishing on the east side of Bristol Bay, and subsistence.

Naknek-Kvichak – William Regan Jr. and Everett Thompson, Co-Chairs

The Naknek-Kvichak AC represents the communities of King Salmon, Naknek and Levelock with 15 undesignated seats. In the past this AC has also represented South Naknek. These communities are located on the east side of Bristol Bay. All seats are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 9, 17, and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Naknek-Kvichak AC is active, typically holding about two meetings per year in person and by teleconference. Current membership is ten members, all of whom reside in the communities within the Naknek-Kvichak AC’s jurisdictional area. Elections are held via Zoom/teleconference in the fall.

Areas of interest: Naknek-Kvichak AC members participate in the commercial set and drift gillnet fishery for salmon in Bristol Bay, sport fishing, hunting, guiding, trapping, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary areas of concern for this committee are hunting activities in GMU 9, commercial fishing on the east side of Bristol Bay, sport fishing on the Naknek river and other rivers in the area, and subsistence.

Nelson Lagoon – Mark McNeley, Chair

The Nelson Lagoon AC has 15 undesignated seats, representing the community of Nelson Lagoon,

which is located on the western side of the Alaska Peninsula. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 9 and the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Nelson Lagoon AC is cyclically active during the years that the Southwest Region is in cycle for the BOG or BOF, typically holding one or two face-to-face and teleconference meetings each year. The current membership is twelve members, with two residing outside of the state. Elections are typically held in person during the summer.

Areas of interest: Nelson Lagoon AC members largely participate in the commercial drift and set gillnet salmon fishery on the North Alaska Peninsula, and have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, guiding, processing, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary area of concern for this committee is commercial fishing in the North Alaska Peninsula.

Nushagak – Susie Jenkins-Brito, Chair

The Nushagak AC represents the communities of Dillingham, Clarks Point, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, Aleknagik, Togiak, Portage Creek, and Manokotak with 15 seats. These communities are located on the west side of Bristol Bay. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 17 and the Bristol Bay Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Dillingham	5 representatives	Aleknagik	1 representative
Clarks Point	1 representative	Togiak	1 representative
Ekwok	1 representative	Portage Creek	1 representative
New Stuyahok	1 representative	Manokotak	1 representative
Koliganek	1 representative	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Nushagak AC is active, typically holding two face-to-face and teleconference meetings per year. All seats are filled with members who reside in these communities. The Nushagak AC has eight alternates, both community-designated and undesignated. Elections are typically held in the fall; elections for the community designated seats Dillingham, Aleknagik, Clarks Point, and Portage take place in-person at the election meeting in Dillingham. Elections for the designated seats for the communities of Togiak, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, and Manokotak take place in their respective villages.

Areas of interest: Nushagak AC members participate in the commercial drift and set gillnet fishery for salmon in Bristol Bay. There is a commercial drift fishery for herring in Togiak. Sport fishing, subsistence fishing and hunting, guiding, trapping, processing, and personal use activities are all activities widely pursued in the area. The primary concerns for the committee are hunting activities in GMU 17, commercial fishing on the west side of Bristol Bay, Togiak herring, and subsistence.

Sand Point – Patrick Brown, Chair

The Sand Point AC represents the community of Sand Point which is located on Popof Island near the east side of the Alaska Peninsula. The AC has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 9, the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area for finfish, Westward Area for shellfish and Westward Area king crab in Registration Areas M, O, and Q.

Current committee status: The Sand Point AC is cyclically active during the years that the Southwest Region is in cycle for the BOG or BOF and holds up to two in-person/teleconference meetings when their region is before the boards. The current membership is six members, all of whom reside in Sand Point. Elections are typically held in the fall.

Areas of interest: Sand Point AC members participate in a variety of commercial fishing activities including the set gillnet and seine fisheries for salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula, jig, pot, long

line, and trawl fisheries for Pacific cod and other groundfish, and the Alaska Peninsula Dungeness crab fishery. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, guiding, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary concerns for the Sand Point AC are commercial salmon fisheries in the South Alaska Peninsula, groundfish, and Westward Area crab fisheries.

Togiak – Jimmy Coopchiak, Chair

The Togiak AC has 15 seats representing the communities of Togiak, Manokotak, and Twin Hills and is located on the west side of Bristol Bay. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 17, and Bristol Bay Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Togiak	3 representatives	Twin Hills	1 representative
Manokotak	3 representatives	Undesignated	8 representatives

Current committee status: The Togiak AC is active and holds two face-to-face and teleconference meetings per year. There are currently fourteen members in the Togiak Advisory Committee, with one vacancy for the community of Togiak. Elections for the undesignated and Togiak designated seats take place in-person in Togiak, and the designated Twin Hills and Manokotak seats take place in their respective villages. The Togiak AC currently has one undesignated alternate, and one single seat community designation alternate for the community of Twin Hills. Elections typically take place in the fall.

Areas of interest: Togiak AC members participate in the commercial set and drift gillnet fishery for salmon in the Togiak District. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, trapping, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary concerns for the Togiak AC are maintaining their subsistence resources, the local commercial salmon fishery, hunting activities in GMU 17A, and the herring fishery that is prosecuted near Togiak and Twin Hills.

Unalaska/Dutch Harbor – Shari Coleman, Chair

The Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC represents the community of Unalaska, located on Unalaska Island, as well as the portion of Unalaska commonly known as Dutch Harbor, located on Amaknak Island. These islands are part of the Aleutian Islands chain. The AC has 15 seats, all are undesignated by regulation. The areas of jurisdiction for GMU 10, the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area for finfish, Westward Area shellfish other than king crab, and Westward Area king crab in Registration Areas O and Q.

Current committee status: The Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC is active, typically holding up to five meetings per year, in person and via teleconference. The current membership is eleven members, all of whom reside in the community. Elections typically take place at the end of the year, in person and via zoom/ teleconference. The Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC has no alternate members.

Areas of interest: The economy in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor is heavily reliant on commercial fishing, seafood processing, and related support activities. Members participate in a variety of commercial fishing activities including the salmon seine fisheries in the Chignik and Kodiak Areas; jig, pot, and long line for groundfish; and crab in the Dutch Harbor Area. Members have also noted interest in sport fishing, hunting, guiding, subsistence, and personal use activities. The primary concerns for the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC are the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands groundfish, and Westward Area crab fisheries, but the AC submits comments on a variety of relevant fisheries issues. Elections are typically held in the fall.

Southcentral Region Advisory Committees

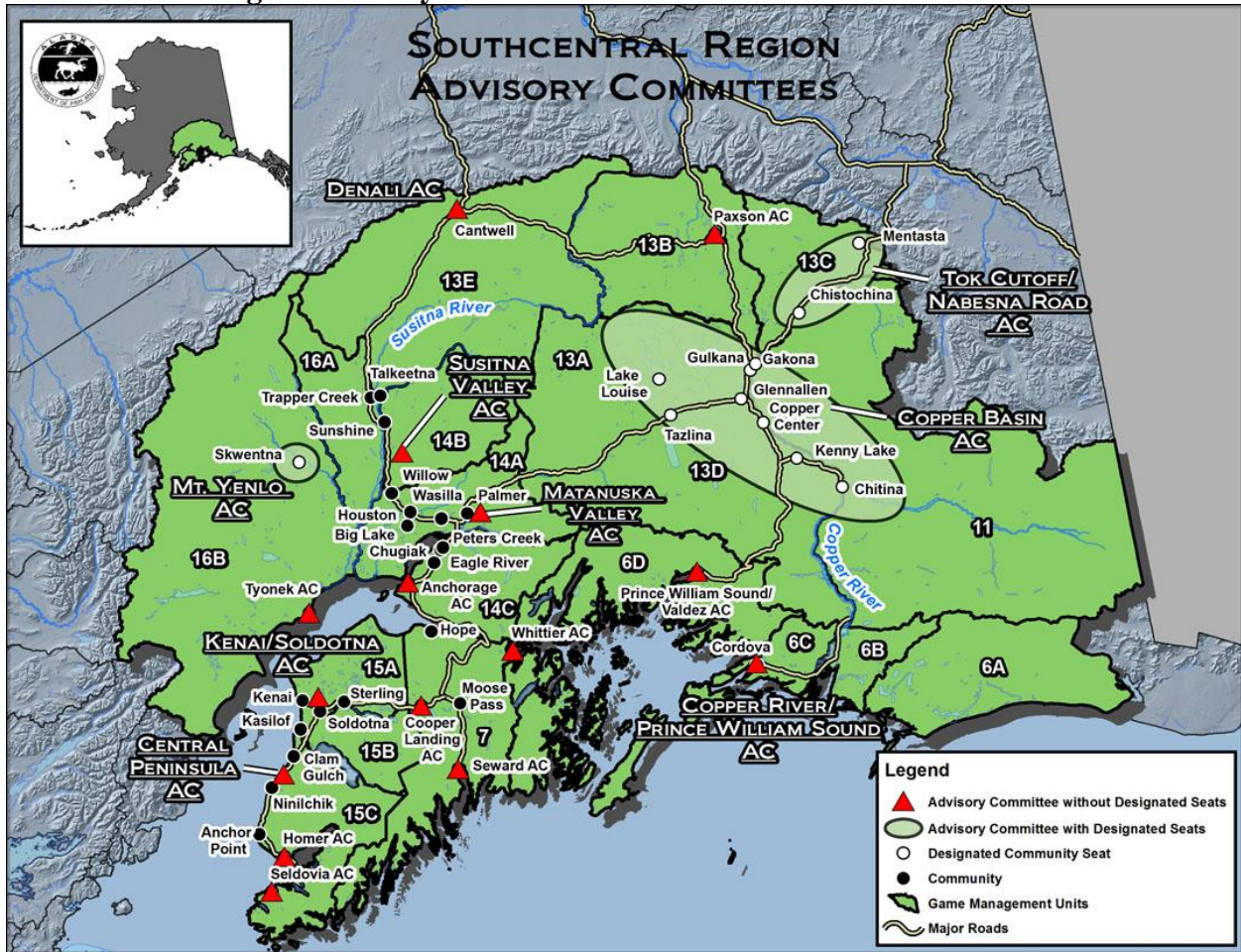


Figure 3. Advisory Committees of the Southcentral Region.

The Southcentral Region has 18 ACs (Figure 3). Of the 18 ACs, four are not accessible via the road system (Copper River/Prince William Sound, Mt. Yenlo, Seldovia, and Tyonek). Three of the ACs have regulatory designated seats for multiple communities (Copper Basin, Mount Yenlo, Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road). One AC has designated seats for user groups in their bylaws (Kenai/Soldotna). The remaining 14 ACs do not have any community/user group seat designations: Anchorage, Central Peninsula, Cooper Landing, Copper River/Prince William Sound, Denali, Homer, Matanuska Valley, Prince William Sound/Valdez, Paxson, Susitna Valley, Seward, Seldovia, Tyonek, and Whittier.

Sixteen Southcentral Region ACs met at least once during the 2022–2023 meeting cycle; Denali and Tok Cutoff/ Nabesna Road did not meet. Fifteen ACs met at least once during the 2023–2024 meeting cycle; Denali, Paxson, and Tok Cutoff/Nabesna have not yet scheduled any meetings. Half of the active ACs offer regular teleconference options for virtual participation during meetings. Anchorage, Central Peninsula, Copper Basin, Homer, Kenai/Soldotna, Mt. Yenlo, Susitna Valley do not offer virtual public participation. For some of these ACs, they do not have the technological capabilities at meeting venues to offer teleconference or web conference options.

Geographic area: The Southcentral Region extends north from Cordova to Slana, west to Cantwell and the Susitna Valley area including Tyonek, and then south to the Kenai Peninsula. The GMUs

within this region include 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. The area includes state and private lands, and a number of national parks, preserves, forests, and refuges. Major rivers and bodies of water for this region include the Susitna, Copper, Kenai, and Russian Rivers, Upper and Lower Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and the North Gulf Coast of Alaska.

ACs in the Southcentral Region have varying jurisdiction across the Prince William Sound-Lower Copper River Area, the Upper Copper River Area, the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay Area, and the Yakutat-Yakataga Area for finfish. This AC region also encompasses the Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet jurisdictional areas for shellfish.

General areas of interest: The ACs in the Southcentral Region are actively involved with fisheries and game management issues including intensive management, subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as habitat and resource development within the area.

This area encompasses some of the largest and most valuable salmon fisheries in the world and provides many fishing opportunities for residents, including subsistence, sport, commercial, and personal use fisheries.

Anchorage – Kevin Taylor, Chair

The Anchorage AC has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for the AC are Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19, and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay Area finfish fisheries.

Current committee status: All 15 seats are currently filled, except for the two alternate seats. Current members reside in Anchorage, Eagle River, and Chugiak. The committee meets monthly in Anchorage during the board meeting cycle. The AC holds elections at the last meeting of the season, so all terms will be current for the start of the next meeting cycle. The AC frequently has public participation at its meetings including elections. It is not uncommon for the AC to have a large number of nominations at election meetings, and therefore, the AC usually appoints two alternates from the remaining nominations. The AC utilizes a subcommittee process to address fisheries and game proposals which helps the committee organize its workload.

Areas of interest: The AC actively participates in both BOF and BOG regulatory processes. The committee has strong sport and personal use fishing and hunting interests, and several members have commercial fishing knowledge. The AC regularly discusses and comments on proposals inside as well as outside of the local area. The AC has members that are a part of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, the Unit 19C Dall Sheep Working Group, and the Wood Bison Reintroduction Planning Team.

Central Peninsula – David Martin, Chair

The Central Peninsula AC has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 7, 15, and 16, Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay for finfish, and Cook Inlet for shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently 13 seats filled and one alternate. Members reside in Ninilchik, Kasilof, Anchor Point and Clam Gulch. Committee meetings occur two to three times per year. The AC holds elections in the beginning of each calendar year.

Areas of interest: The AC actively and participates in both BOF and BOG regulatory processes. The committee has strong hunting and fishing interests and has been advocating for intensive management on the Kenai Peninsula and increased brown bear harvest. Declining moose population in Unit 15 from high numbers of wolf and bear predators is of particular interest. With its location on the east side of Cook Inlet and a strong history in commercial fisheries, the AC

focusses on Cook Inlet salmon management plans. The AC has one member that is a part of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

Cooper Landing – Josh Hayes, Chair

The Cooper Landing AC has 15 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 7, 15, and 16, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay for finfish, and Cook Inlet for shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently 14 seats filled and the two alternate seats are vacant; this is the largest number of serving members in the history of the AC. Members currently reside in Cooper Landing, Moose Pass and Sterling. Committee meetings are held 2–4 times per year. Historically, annual AC elections were held sporadically during meeting cycles, with an average of nine seats filled and appointing alternates to assist with meeting quorum. Annual AC elections are now held in the fall. Nominations for elections do not generally go above the open number of seats.

Areas of interest: With its location upstream on the Kenai River, the fishing interests of this AC are sport, personal use fishing, and guiding. The AC also focusses on hunting, trapping and subsistence use, and is active in local habitat and federal subsistence issues.

Copper Basin – Alysia Hancock, Chair

The Copper Basin AC has a total of 15 seats, comprised of two undesignated seats and 13 designated seats from Glennallen, Lake Louise, Tazlina, Copper Center, Gakona/Gulkana, Kenny Lake, and Chitina. Areas of jurisdiction are Units 6, 11, and 13, and finfish in the Prince William Sound–Lower Copper River and Upper Copper River Areas. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Glennallen	2 representatives	Gakona/Gulkana	3 representatives
Lake Louise	1 representative	Kenny Lake	1 representative
Tazlina	3 representatives	Chitina	1 representative
Copper Center	2 representatives	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: There are 14 members currently serving. The committee meets one to two times per year in Glennallen. Annual elections are generally held at the first meeting of the season. Elections for community designated seats and undesignated seats are held during the same meeting. There are currently no alternates for the AC or communities having a single representative.

Areas of interest: This committee primarily focuses on hunting issues. It also has interests in trapping, sport, subsistence, and personal use fishing interests. Overcrowding issues with the subsistence caribou and moose harvest hunts are issues of high importance, as limited trail heads off the road system funnel people to the same areas. Proposals regarding subsistence and personal use fishing on the Upper Copper River are also important to this AC. The AC also has interest and concern with the decline in the Nelchina caribou herd.

Copper River/Prince William Sound – John Renner, Chair

The Copper River/Prince William Sound AC has 15 members. Areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMUs 5, 6, and 13, the Yakutat-Yakataga and Prince William Sound-Lower Copper River Areas finfish, and the Prince William Sound Area for shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently 15 members and two alternates, all of whom reside in Cordova. The committee meets two to three times per year as needed. The AC chairmanship is

shared between a fisheries chair and a game chair to divide the workload. Annual elections are held in the fall. The AC generally has a good number of nominations during election meetings, and the AC appoints two alternates from the remaining nominees.

Areas of interest: Commercial and personal use fishing are strong interests for this AC, as well as hunting, trapping, and subsistence harvesting, primarily in the Copper River Delta. The committee actively participates in the federal subsistence process and the chair of game serves on the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.

Denali – Gordon Carlson, Chair

The Denali AC has 15 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for the Denali AC are Game Management Units 13, 14, 16, and 20, and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish.

Current committee status: This AC has not met since November 2020. In the past, the committee would generally meet twice per year. The latest AC roster lists nine members, all residing in Cantwell. All terms of the members have expired as of 2020.

Areas of interest: Concerns for this AC have been primarily with hunting issues around Denali National Park. The AC has had strong subsistence hunting and fishing interests, sport and personal use fishing, and trapping. Ensuring biological management of game in the area is also of primary importance.

Homer – Morgan Jones, Chair

The Homer AC has 15 undesignated seats. The AC meets monthly through the board cycle. Areas of jurisdiction for the Homer AC are Game Management Units 7 and 15, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish, and Cook Inlet shellfish.

Current committee status: Currently, there are 15 members and two alternates, residing in Homer, Anchor Point, and Fritz Creek. The AC meets monthly in Homer from October through April, and AC elections are held in January each year. It is not uncommon for the AC to have a large number of nominations during elections, and therefore, the AC appoints two alternates from the remaining nominations.

Areas of interest: The AC actively participates in both fisheries and game management issues with a regional focus with strong interests in preservation and conservation of local resources. Winter king sport fishing, tanner crab fisheries, expansion of local moose harvest, and management of Cook Inlet sockeye stocks are issues of interest.

Kenai/Soldotna – Mike Crawford, Chair

This Kenai/Soldotna AC has 15 seats and 4 alternates. Areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMUs 7, 15, and 16, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay for finfish, and Cook Inlet for shellfish.

Current committee status: Currently there are 14 members and one alternate who reside in Sterling, Kenai, Soldotna, and Kasilof. The AC meets 1–3 times a month in Kenai or Soldotna. Since 1992, the AC has utilized designated seats for various user groups. Designated seats are: Commercial Fishing (3 seats and 1 alternate), Sport Fishing Guide (3 seats and 1 alternate), Hunter (1 seat), Trapper (1 seat), Personal Use (1 seat), Subsistence (1 seat), At-Large/Undesignated (5 seats), and General Alternates (2 seats). Annual AC elections happen in the spring, so all terms are current for the following meeting cycle. The AC frequently has public participation at its meetings including elections. The AC appoints two alternates from the remaining At-Large/Undesignated nominations.

Areas of interest: The AC addresses highly diverse uses of the area fisheries. This committee has sport, commercial and personal use fishing, hunting, subsistence users, and sport fish guiding interests. Allocation of the Cook Inlet fisheries is a highly discussed topic, as well as area moose management. They also have a history of supporting predator management across the state where warranted.

Matanuska Valley – Herb Mansavage, Chair

The Matanuska Valley AC has 15 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 13, 14, and 16, and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish.

Current committee status: Currently there are 15 members, with two alternates. Current members reside in Palmer, Chugiak, and Wasilla. The AC meets at least once per month, from September through May. Since 2020, meetings have been held mostly over zoom, but this cycle, the AC is moving back to in-person meetings in Wasilla. The AC utilizes a subcommittee process to address fisheries proposals which helps the committee organize its workload. Annual AC elections are held in November/December of each year. The AC generally has a good number of nominations during election meetings that the AC appoints two alternates from the remaining nominees.

Areas of interest: The AC has strong sport and personal use fishing, hunting, subsistence, and trapping interests. The committee is very involved in Cook Inlet finfish regulatory issues advocating for increased salmon runs to the Matanuska-Susitna region. As well as regulatory issues of GMU 13, 14 AND 16, especially that of predator management and Dall Sheep management.

Mt. Yenlo – David McHoes, Chair

The Mt. Yenlo AC has 15 seats, eleven of which are undesignated. Areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 14, 16 and Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Skwentna	4 representatives	Undesignated	11 representatives
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Current committee status: Currently there are nine members residing in Skwentna, Wasilla, Willow, and Anchorage. This committee meets on an as-needed basis when travel is possible to address issues that affect the local area. This AC is not on the road system, requiring meeting travel during the winter to occur by snow machine and/or aircraft. Annual elections are held when the AC meets which can change year to year depending on issues the AC needs to address.

Areas of interest: The AC has strong sport and personal use fishing, hunting, trapping, and subsistence interests.

Paxson – John Schandelmeier, Chair

The Paxson AC has 15 seats. Areas of jurisdiction are GMU 11, 12, 13, 20, and Upper Copper River finfish.

Current committee status: There are currently five members and two alternates serving. Current members reside in Paxson, Gakona, Glennallen and Delta Junction. The AC meets as needed in Paxson, and their last meeting was in November 2022. Minutes and election paperwork from this meeting have not been received, so term dates have not been updated. This AC has maintained a membership of seven or less with one alternate over the past 10 years.

Areas of interest: The AC’s interests have been water quality for Paxson Lake, Chitina dipnetting, antlerless moose and subsistence hunting. As well as dealing with hunt pressure in Unit 13B, including the lack of quality opportunity for local hunters.

Prince William Sound/Valdez – Nicholas Crump, Chair

The Prince William Sound/Valdez AC has 15 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction are GMU 6, and PWS–Lower Copper River finfish.

Current committee status: There are currently five seats filled. Current members reside in Valdez, Copper Center, and Girdwood. After a number of years of inactivity, the committee began meeting again in 2018. Annual AC elections have been held in January/February since the 2017/2028 meeting cycle. Public participation during election meetings is low as are nominations which does not always allow for alternates to be appointed.

Areas of interest: The AC has strong sport, commercial, and personal use fishing, guiding, subsistence, and hunting interests. The area is uniquely positioned as a saltwater sport fishing access point for interior residents. There is a large pink salmon hatchery which helps support commercial fishing, processing, and associated infrastructure.

Seldovia – Michael Opheim, Chair

The Seldovia AC has 15 seats. Areas of jurisdiction are GMU 15, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish, and Cook Inlet shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently 10 seats filled. All members reside in Seldovia. The committee generally meets twice per year. Annual AC elections happen in December of each year. Public participation during election meetings is low so nominations do not reach more than allotted number of seats and does not always allow for alternates to be appointed.

Areas of interest: The AC is active with both fisheries and game issues. The AC has strong commercial and sport fishing interests, as well as subsistence interests. Expanding the subsistence fishery, and the black bear and goat populations are concerns AC members have had in the past. In the 2022/2023 BOG meeting cycle, the AC supported the reauthorization of antlerless moose hunting.

Seward – Jim McCracken, Chair

The Seward AC has 11 undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for the Seward AC are GMUs 6, 7, and 15, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay and Prince William Sound finfish, and Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet shellfish.

Current committee status: There are currently 11 members and no alternates, all of whom reside in Seward. This AC meets generally two or three times per year. The annual AC elections are held at the beginning of each calendar year. Public participation during election meetings is low so nominations do not reach more than allotted number of seats and does not always allow for alternates to be appointed.

Areas of interest: The AC actively participates in both BOF and BOG regulatory processes. The AC took concern with exceeding the guide harvest level for the Cook Inlet Winter Salt King Salmon Sport Fishery over the last 9 years. The AC is also a strong supporter of Seward’s annual kids fishing day. The Seward AC supports the GMU 15C Intensive Management Plan to continue habitat enhancement and predator control to continue to increase moose abundance.

Susitna Valley – Bryan Kirby, Chair

The Susitna Valley AC has seven undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMUs 13, 14, and 16, and Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay area for finfish.

Current committee status: There are currently six members with two alternates serving. Members

reside in Talkeetna, and Willow. The AC meets 2–3 times a year in Talkeetna. Annual elections are held when the AC calls a meeting which can change year to year depending on issues the AC needs to address.

Areas of interest: The AC primarily focuses on sport and personal use fishing, as well as hunting and subsistence interests. Allowing for an adequate escapement of all species to the Susitna River remains a top issue.

Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road – Inactive

The Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road AC has seven seats, with one designated seat each for Mentasta and Chistochina and five undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMUs 11, 12, 13 and 20, and Upper Copper River and Tanana River area finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Mentasta	1 representative	Undesignated	5 representatives
Chistochina	1 representative		

Current committee status: This AC has not met since February 2019. All terms of the members have expired since 2020. In the past, the committee would generally meet twice per year.

Areas of interest: Historically the committee had strong interests in moose and caribou hunting regulations.

Tyonek – Donald Standifer Jr., Chair

The Tyonek AC has 15 seats. Areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMU 16, Cook Inlet–Resurrection Bay finfish, and Cook Inlet for shellfish.

Current committee status: Currently there are seven members and no alternates. Members reside in Tyonek, Beluga and Anchorage. The AC meets 2–3 times a year. Annual elections are held when the AC calls a meeting which can change year to year depending on issues the AC needs to address. Public participation has been low during election meetings, so nominations do not reach more than allotted number of seats and does not always allow for alternates to be appointed.

Areas of interest: The issues of highest importance for the Tyonek AC are subsistence, commercial and sport salmon fishing in Cook Inlet, as well as sport and subsistence harvest of moose, bear, and waterfowl hunting in GMU 16B. For salmon, all issues in Cook Inlet’s Northern District are of interest to the AC. The AC is also focused on commercial fishing of smelts/herring and the effects it has on the beluga whale population.

Whittier – Jon Van Hying, Chair

The Whittier AC has nine undesignated seats. Areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMUs 6, 7, and 14, Prince William Sound-Lower Copper River area for finfish, and Prince William Sound for shellfish.

Current committee status: Whittier AC currently has eight members and two alternates. Current members reside in Whittier, Girdwood, Anchorage, and Wasilla. The AC meets 1–2 times a meeting cycle. Annual elections are held when the AC calls a meeting which can change year to year depending on issues the AC needs to address.

Areas of interest: This committee primarily focuses on sport and commercial fisheries issues; Prince William Sound shellfish fisheries/management are also an AC priority.

Western Region Advisory Committees

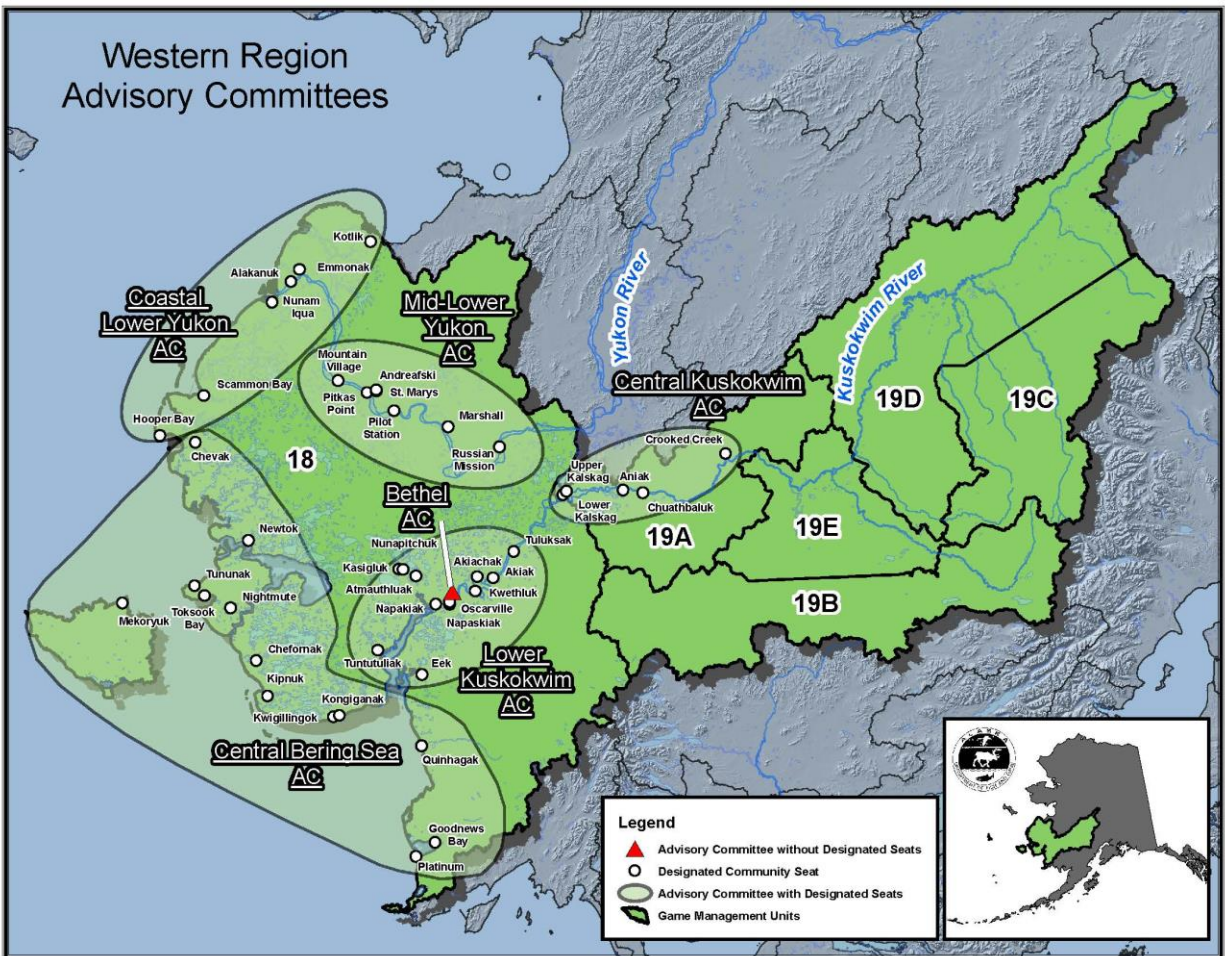


Figure 4. Advisory Committees of the Western Region.

The Western Region has six ACs: Central Kuskokwim, Lower Kuskokwim, Bethel, Central Bering Sea, Coastal Lower Yukon, and Mid-Lower Yukon (Figure 4). Five of the six ACs in this region serve multiple communities, with a majority of the communities (36) having only one designated seat and eight communities having two representatives. The Bethel AC is the only AC in the Western Region where all members reside in the same community. Two of the six ACs (Central Bering Sea and Lower Kuskokwim) represent 12 or more communities, covering vast geographic areas.

None of the communities in the Western Region are connected by a traditional road system therefore air, or river travel when it is safe, are the primary modes of transportation. There are often weather conditions that prevent travel during the winter months, making coordination of meetings especially difficult and expensive. Meetings are often rescheduled and require additional prep time to give the best chance of reaching a quorum.

During the current season and the 2022/23 season, all the ACs in the Western Region met at least once except the Coast Lower Yukon AC. The Bethel and Lower Kuskokwim ACs met twice this season and the Bethel AC will likely meet at least once more.

Due to the spread out nature of the ACs and the weather and travel difficulties, meetings are always

made available by teleconference and/or webconference. The use of remote connections helps facilitate department and agency participation as well as the public, who may not be able to travel to the meetings. It also has the added benefit of allowing AC members to join in telephonically when they are unable to the meeting in person. However, teleconference or web meetings are often impractical or are difficult to effectively conduct AC business due to sound quality, language barriers, cultural differences, lack of internet, and frequent disconnections.

There are several challenges for Boards Support and the ACs in this region aside from those related to travel and infrastructure. Since the ACs are made up of mostly community designated seats (50) there is a significant amount of work and communication by the regional coordinator with local governments, either the city or tribe, to facilitate participation and explain the election process as stipulated in the regulations. Several villages appoint representatives instead of having elections; there can be disagreement between the tribal and local government administrators on the election process; there is a cost for communities and villages to administer elections, and difficulty in finding people willing and able to volunteer. Additionally, because several of the communities have a single designated seat, each of those members can appoint their own alternates, which results in a lot of names to keep track of for the rosters. Each AC utilizes alternates differently which will be addressed in further detail for each ACs summary.

Geographic features: The Western Region covers the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region, encompassing the deltas of both the Yukon and Kuskokwim and includes the Bethel Census Area and most of the Kusilvak Census area. The GMUs within this region are 18 and part of 19. A large majority of the population in both census areas is Native Alaskan, primarily Yup'ik and Cup'ik. Bethel is the largest community and serves as the hub for 56 federally- recognized tribal communities with an estimated total population of 25,000 residents. Land in the Western Region is a patchwork of ownership between Native corporations and allotments, state and federal land, and to a much lesser extent private land. The federal government manages a large portion of the lands in this region. Consequently, there are members from all six ACs also involved with the federal subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. The Yup'ik and Cup'ik cultures and languages continue to be widely practiced within the Western Region. Yup'ik language interpreters are hired to facilitate communication between Yup'ik-first language and English-first language speakers for one of the six ACs but could be utilized for more. Instead, AC members are often able to interpret for each other.

ACs in the Western Region have varying jurisdiction for finfish in the Kuskokwim, and Lower and Upper Yukon Areas.

General areas of interest: Historically, commercial fisheries in the region supported the local economy; however, declines in king and chum salmon and the absence of interested buyers/processors along with logistical challenges suspended several of the commercial fisheries resulting in hardships for commercial fishers reliant on this income to meet their needs and supplement subsistence activities.

The Kuskokwim Area commercial salmon fishery consists of four fishing districts, all of which have been mostly inactive since 2015 due to lack of interested processors. Commercial fishing opportunities are announced by Emergency Order when the salmon runs can support it and fishers who participate must have a catcher/seller permit due to the lack of buyers or processors in the area. If an opportunity is announced it is typically to harvest coho salmon during strong runs. Herring fisheries within the Kuskokwim Area have been inactive since 2013.

The Lower Yukon Area consists of three in-river districts and one coastal district. Commercial salmon fishing that once occurred in Districts 1 and 2 has been suspended since 2020 due to poor salmon returns. Salmon have not been bought or sold from District 3 since 2007.

Other commercial fisheries in the region include herring in the Cape Romanzof area near the communities of Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay; whitefish within the Lower Yukon District 1, and Arctic lamprey harvests in District 2 which are allowed under a commissioner's permit.

Subsistence fishing is essential to the livelihood of the people living in the Western Region in both the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages. Along with salmon, people subsistence fish for whitefish, sheefish, lush, pike, smelt, blackfish, Arctic lamprey, trout, and grayling. Subsistence fishing occurs year-round.

Moose populations in this region are increasing on the Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon Rivers and generally stable on the Yukon River near Russian Mission. Muskox are stable or increasing. Caribou hunting has been closed throughout GMU 18 since 2019 due to low population levels. Furbearers are also abundant in the region and members from all ACs are active in their taking by means of hunting and trapping. The state manages waterfowl in the Western Region during September and October. Coastal communities hunt waterfowl as a subsistence activity that are managed by the state during the fall. During the spring waterfowl are managed by US Fish and Wildlife and coastal communities hunt them and collect eggs.

The subsistence way of life is practiced by most residents in the region. Protecting subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities remains a priority for regional ACs in order for their culture and livelihoods to continue to flourish in rural Alaska. Some of the predominant concerns that have surfaced during recent Western Region AC meetings generally relate to socioeconomic issues and concerns, management of fish and game, and changing natural conditions that impact resources and how easily those resources are accessed. The decline of returning salmon of multiple species impacts subsistence fishing throughout the rivers. The reduction in commercial fishing opportunities and closures to subsistence fishing in the Yukon region in the face of increasing costs of living challenges sustaining the subsistence way of life in rural Alaska are grave matters of concern for the ACs in this region. Impacts from climate change continue to alter traditional patterns and ways of life. In addition, ACs find the cultural values and subsistence needs of certain groups often conflict with the state's regulatory process, which can challenge their ability to fully engage in and advocate for the essential resource needs within the region.

Bethel – Sam Hancock, Chair

The Bethel AC is comprised of 12 undesignated seats. Prior to the 2013 Joint Board meeting, the Bethel AC did not exist but had one seat on the Lower Kuskokwim AC. The community of Bethel is located in GMU 18 and serves as the hub for the region. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 18, 19, and the Kuskokwim Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Bethel AC holds two in-person meetings per cycle. All seats are currently filled as are the two alternate positions. The AC typically holds membership elections in the fall but recently has had membership elections more often in an effort to fill vacant and expired seats. The Bethel AC tried to assign designated seats to user groups, but it became too cumbersome to maintain and the group abandoned the idea. Alternates are elected by the AC. Alternates for this AC are notified of meetings along with the other members and stay apprised of issues. The alternates join in when other members are unable due to other obligations or illness. One of the alternates has served since the Bethel AC was created. Three of the members have served more

than two terms.

Areas of interest: The Bethel AC is active in the Board of Fisheries and Game regulatory processes, as well as the federal subsistence regulatory process. Primary concerns are the struggling salmon stocks on the Kuskokwim and the Mulchatna caribou herd's decline. Membership of this AC participate in sport and subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping. Many members are also involved with other boards, committees and volunteer programs including Orutsararmiut Native Council, Bethel Search and Rescue, Ducks Unlimited and the Bethel Sportmen's Club.

Central Bering Sea – David Carl, Chair

The Central Bering Sea AC represents the communities of Chefnak, Goodnews Bay, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwigillingok, Mekoryuk, Newtok, Nightmute, Platinum, Quinhagak, Toksook Bay, and Tununak. There are also two undesignated seats for a total of 15 seats. These communities are located in GMU 18. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 18, and both the Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon Areas for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Chevak	1 representative	Newtok	1 representative
Chefnak	1 representative	Nightmute	1 representative
Goodnews Bay	1 representative	Platinum	1 representative
Kipnuk	1 representative	Quinhagak	1 representative
Kongiganak	1 representative	Toksook Bay	1 representative
Kwigillingok	1 representative	Tununak	1 representative
Mekoryuk	1 representative	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Central Bering Sea AC is active, holding one in-person meeting per cycle. Ten of the 15 seats, 10 are filled. The community designated seats for Kongiganak, Nightmute, and Mekoryuk are vacant as are the two undesignated seats. Several community designated seats have expired term dates (Kwigillingok, Chefnak, Goodnews Bay, and Newtok) due to difficulties with community elections, but the members continue to serve. Three of the members have served for over 16 years.

Elections for the community designated seats on this AC are performed by Tribal Councils or city governments depending on the village. There is not always agreement within the village who should be responsible for the elections. Some villages have reported low or no turn out or lack of nominations during elections. One recent election resulted in the previous alternate for that community being elected to fill the community designated seat, however he declined the nomination and then resigned completely from service. Alternates are appointed by the AC member when the member is unable to attend meetings, however the members rarely miss meetings if they can help it. There has been a recent push from the chair to update alternates for the community seats so that they can be used more effectively. The chair has also helped call Tribal Councils to explain the importance of the AC and to encourage elections for members to serve on the AC.

The AC meets in Bethel at least once per meeting cycle with the help of a Yup'ik language interpreter. Due to the vast geographic area that is included within this AC, funding is often limited to one in-person meeting. The expense for an in-person meeting can be as high as \$15,000 or more. Difficulties with consistent phone and internet connectivity for these communities along with cultural differences and language barriers make productive teleconference meetings especially difficult. This group also has the most travel issues due to weather. Flights are often delayed or canceled leaving members unable to get to the meeting on time or stranded when trying to return

home.

Areas of interest: The priorities for this AC are the subsistence use of salmon stocks, groundfish fisheries, Bering Sea marine mammals, Nelson and Nunivak Island muskox herds, and the growing moose population near the coastal communities. Food security and maintaining traditional practices are of great concern. Waterfowl, which is managed by both state and federal authorities, are also important to members of this AC. Cultural differences, food security, and economic problems in the context of subsistence rights and practices are often discussed within the AC meetings. Most of the members of this AC are involved in their Tribal Councils and there is at least one member who is also on the federal Regional Advisory Council.

Central Kuskokwim – Nick Kameroff, Chair

The Central Kuskokwim AC, with ten seats, represents the communities of Crooked Creek, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Lower Kalskag, and Upper Kalskag. These communities are located in GMU 19A. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 18, 19, 21, and the Kuskokwim area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Crooked Creek	2 representatives	Lower Kalskag	2 representatives
Aniak	2 representatives	Upper Kalskag	2 representatives
Chuathbaluk	2 representatives	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Central Kuskokwim AC is active, meeting once or twice per cycle in Aniak, as funding allows. Additional meetings are conducted by teleconference. The AC currently has two vacant seats, both from Upper Kalskag, and utilizes two alternates. Elections for Aniak seats are usually conducted by the regional coordinator prior to the first meeting of the year by working with the Tribal Council and members to distribute notice around town. The Aniak Tribal Council has expressed a desire to add the seat to the regular city elections and has made plans with the coordinator to establish that process. The Regional Coordinator works with the other communities having designated seats to conduct elections. Most villages have been successful with the exception of Upper Kalskag. Last year the other Upper Kalskag seat was declared vacant by the chair after the member’s absence for several consecutive meetings and because the term was long past due for election. The hope was to encourage the community to hold elections, however the Tribal Council administrator stated that they are having a hard time filling the position because of a lack of interest and willing nominees.

Areas of interest: This AC is concerned with subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim River and the GMU 19A moose population that has been in Tier II hunt status since 2006. Members are interested in the Wood Bison Restoration Project as well as mainland musk ox. Some members are also members of the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Commission and the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, and other AC members regularly participate in these meetings.

Lower Kuskokwim – Philip Peter Sr., Chair

The Lower Kuskokwim AC (LKAC) represents the communities of Kwethluk, Napaskiak, Napakiak, Kasigluk, Oscarville, Nunapitchuk, Tuntutuliak, Tuluksak, Atmauthluak, Akiak, Akiachak, and Eek for a total of 14 members. These communities are located in GMU 18, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMU 18, 19, and the Kuskokwim Area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Kwethluk	2 representatives	Tuntutuliak	1 representative
Napaskiak	2 representatives	Tuluksak	1 representative
Napakiak	1 representative	Atmautluak	1 representative
Kasigluk	1 representative	Akiak	1 representative
Oscarville	1 representative	Akiachak	1 representative
Nunapitchuk	1 representative	Eek	1 representative

Current committee status: The AC is active holding one in-person and one teleconference meetings per cycle with a focus on fishing and game management issues. Ten of 14 seats are filled. The Atmautluak seat has been vacant since 2019. The Napakiak, and Tuluksak were declared vacant by the chair during the 2022/2023 season due to absences and expired seats which caused difficulty for the AC to reach quorum. Elections are conducted by the Tribal Councils in most of the villages and in fact, half of these villages do not have city governments. The coordinator works with the Tribal Councils to hold elections. Difficulty finding people willing and able to volunteer on the AC has been cited as a challenge by many Tribal Councils. Nominees are often reluctant to take on the extra responsibility, on top of their other roles in the community.

Meetings are typically held in Bethel as the most central community. Difficulties with travel and consistent phone and internet connectivity pose challenges, especially in the fall months when weather is unpredictable, and the river is not yet safe to travel on. Language barriers also pose difficulties, however members serving on the AC are often able to interpret for each other when needed. The longest serving member on this AC has served for 37 years and the chair has served for 21 years. Two historical members that resigned in 2021 had served over 45 years. Alternates are not used effectively by this AC and although there are many appointed alternates for community designated seats, none of them are currently active. Some alternates are unaware of their position; others cannot be reached as they do not have updated contact information.

Areas of interest: Declining salmon stocks of multiple species in the Kuskokwim River drainage are the Lower Kuskokwim ACs primary concern along with food security. The Mulchatna caribou herd passes through many Lower Kuskokwim communities and is a major concern for this group as well. The committee is interested in keeping local populations of moose and muskox healthy and hopes populations in their area continue to grow. People in this area are also active in the taking of furbearers and the subsistence taking of waterfowl.

Many of the AC members are involved with their Tribal Councils, federal Regional Advisory Councils, Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission, and the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

Mid-Lower Yukon – William Alstrom, Chair

The Mid-Lower Yukon AC represents the communities of Marshall, Russian Mission, St. Mary's, Andreafski, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, and Pitka's Point. There are seven seats. These communities are in GMU 18. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 18 and the Upper and Lower Yukon areas for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Marshall	1 representative	Mountain Village	1 representative
Russian Mission	1 representative	Pilot Station	1 representative
St. Mary's	1 representative	Pitka's Point	1 representative
Andreafski	1 representative		

Current committee status: The AC is active, holding one to two in-person and teleconference

meetings per cycle. In-person meetings are usually held in St. Mary's. The Mid-Lower Yukon has seven seats, six of which are currently filled. The community designated seat for Marshall has been vacant since 2018. When asked, AC members and Tribal Councils say they want to appoint AC members and have refused to hold elections. The cost and the work to administer elections has been cited as a reason they would prefer appointments. Appointments are made during Tribal Council meetings. City and tribal governments work very closely in these communities.

The alternates on this committee are usually present at meetings and add their opinions to discussion, but only vote if the elected member is absent.

Areas of interest: The committee is active in fish and game resource issues within the Lower Yukon River and is concerned with subsistence and commercial salmon fishing. Concerns over declining salmon species are of the utmost importance. With the thriving moose population and increase in hunting in the area, members are concerned regarding appropriate moose harvest methods and an increase in sport hunters in the area. There have been reports from this AC of wanton waste and locals being forced off their traditional hunting grounds by non-local hunters. Members of this AC are also involved in Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and federal Regional Advisory Committees. All members are currently involved with their Tribal Councils.

Coastal Lower Yukon – John Lamont , Vice-Chair

The Coastal Lower Yukon AC represents the communities of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Emmonak and Kotlik. The AC has six seats. These communities are located in Game Management Unit 18. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 18 and the Upper and Lower Yukon areas for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Alakanuk	1 representative	Kotlik	1 representative
Emmonak	1 representative	Nunam Iqua	1 representative
Hooper Bay	1 representative	Scammon Bay	1 representative

Current committee status: The AC was last active before the pandemic holding one to two in-person and teleconference meetings per cycle. Currently three of the six seats have current terms, and the remaining communities are working on elections to expired seats. Communities that have not completed elections reported that they have had difficulty finding nominees. This AC usually meets in Bethel due to challenges in travel logistics.

Areas of interest: The committee is active in fish and game resource issues within the lower Yukon River area. Subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries have been a major issue of concern with the decline in king and chum salmon. A growing moose population in the coastal area has altered some of their hunting practices. Waterfowl are also important to members on this committee.

Interior Region Advisory Committees

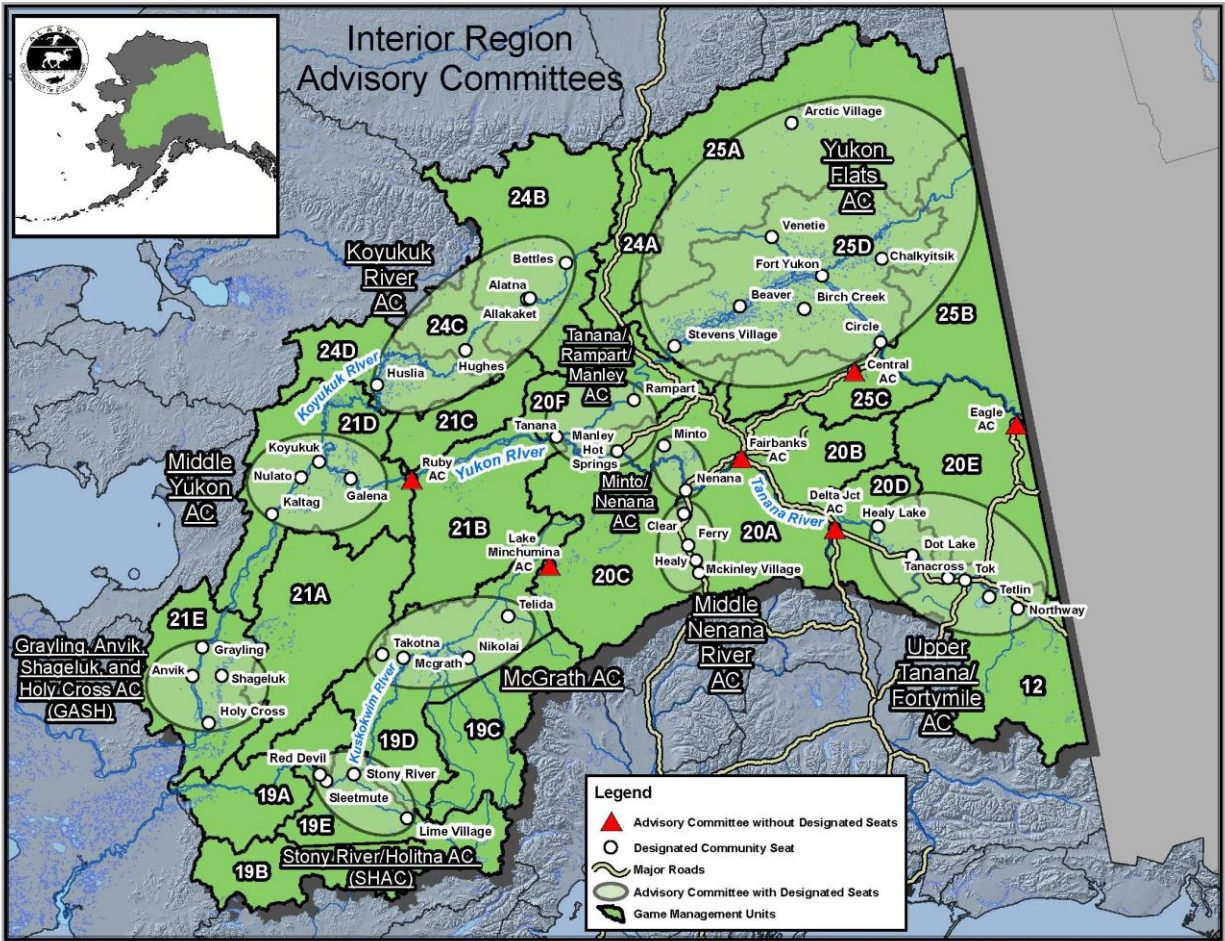


Figure 5. Advisory Committees of the Interior Region.

The Interior Region has 16 ACs representing 54 communities (Figure 5). Four ACs are accessible via the road system (Upper Tanana/Fortymile, Delta, Fairbanks, and Middle Nenana River) and usually meet on a monthly or bimonthly basis. Three ACs are not on the road system and represent single communities (Central, Eagle, and Ruby). The Minto/Nenana AC is connected via the road system, but it is more feasible to meet by web/teleconference or to fly members to a central location. The remaining Interior Region ACs are composed of multiple communities connected only via air or snow machine trails in winter/river systems in summer (Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross, Stony/Holifna, Koyukuk River, McGrath, Middle Yukon, Tanana/Rampart/Manley, and Yukon Flats). These ACs meet in person once or twice a cycle depending on funding and need and hold additional meetings by web/teleconference. Thirteen ACs met at least once during the 2023/2024 meeting cycle; the Central, Lake Minchumina, and Ruby ACs did not meet. Beginning in the 2021/2022 meeting cycle, all ACs in the region utilize the hybrid meeting model allowing staff, AC members, and members of the public to participate in meetings remotely.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the AC process throughout the state and most committees in the region fell out of practice with meeting regularly and holding elections as terms expire. The hybrid meeting model has improved the ability for ACs to meet more frequently and to address

emergent issues, however, challenges associated with filling vacancies and holding timely elections continue to impact many of the committees in the region. In general, elections to fill vacant and expired seats for both undesignated and community designated seats require active facilitation by Boards Support. Many committees have had success recently with elections held by web/teleconference where votes are cast publicly via roll call, and others have held elections for designated seats from multiple communities while meeting in a central location with remote public participation in the elections encouraged. It is common for elections to occur with no voting members of the public in attendance, and for many seats to remain vacant. It is uncommon for designated seats to be filled outside of regularly scheduled AC meetings in which a quorum is present, or in other words, communities in the region do not typically hold their own elections to fill designated seats. Officer positions often go unfilled, namely the secretary/recorder, which puts additional strain on the committee chairs and/or Boards Support and hinders the ability for committee actions to be captured effectively and shared with the public and the respective boards. Coordination between the department, tribal governments, the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Tribal Governance and Stewardship Program, and non-profit organizations like the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Native Movement have greatly helped to address these challenges and continued efforts are underway to engage more active participation in the AC process throughout the region.

Geographic features: The Interior Region covers a large area, stretching south to McKinley Village, west to Holy Cross, north to Arctic Village, and east to the Canadian border. Contained within the boundaries of the region is a large portion of the Yukon River and its drainages, as well as the upper portions of the Kuskokwim River and its drainages. The Interior Region includes GMUs 12, 19C, 19D, 20, 21, 24, and 25. The Interior Region also includes the Kuskokwim Area, Lower and Upper Yukon Areas, and the Tanana River Area for finfish. It contains seven national wildlife refuges, a national preserve, a national park and preserve, a national recreation area, and a national conservation area. There is also a U.S. Air Force base, two U.S. Army bases, and their designated training areas. Because of the checkerboard land management and ownership, many members of the ACs in the Interior Region are also active participants in the USFWS federal subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), and the National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRCs).

General areas of interest: Predominant concerns for most Interior Region communities deal with big game hunting and furbearer trapping. Sport fishing in the Tanana River drainage and personal use fisheries on the Copper River are also areas of concern, particularly for the ACs on the road system. Communities throughout the region are concerned with salmon and non-salmon stocks in the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages and the ability of salmon to make escapement while meeting resident subsistence needs. Nearly all the ACs show an interest in marine water fisheries, especially intercept fisheries, pelagic trawl salmon bycatch, and hatchery production. Many discussions at meetings, and nearly all proposals brought before the boards, share the common themes of declining resources, nonlocal and nonresident users, and meeting local needs. For many residents in the region maintaining a subsistence lifestyle of hunting, fishing, and trapping is a necessity. This area is home to a diverse population with both consumptive and nonconsumptive user groups. The Interior Region also hosts thousands of nonlocals and nonresidents who visit to hunt, fish, recreate, and sightsee every year.

Central – Bill Glanz, Chair

The Central AC represents the community of Central and is comprised of nine undesignated seats. The community of Central is located in GMU 25C, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 20, 25

and the Upper Yukon River area for finfish.

Current committee status: The Central AC last met during the 2020–2021 cycle. This AC has nine seats filled by members residing in and around Central; terms for four of the nine seats are expired and terms for the remaining five seats will expire in 2024. AC members have communicated with Boards Support their intention to remain active, and plan to hold an election meeting in the coming months.

Areas of interest: Historically, member interests include moose hunting in GMUs 25 and 20B, the Fortymile and the White Mountain caribou herds, trapping, and concerns with dual state/federal management and enforcement on the Yukon River. Members of the AC also participate in the federal subsistence RAC system. This committee has been active in the international Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition and assisted with drafting the 2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan.

Delta – Tisha Kennell, Chair

The Delta AC represents the community of Delta Junction and is comprised of 11 undesignated seats. The community of Delta Junction is located in GMU 20D, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 12, 20, and the Tanana River for finfish.

Current committee status: The Delta AC is active and holds monthly meetings October-May. The AC has 11 seats and two alternate positions currently filled by members residing in and around Delta Junction. The AC holds membership elections in the spring and appoints alternates from the remaining nominees at the time of elections when applicable.

Areas of interest: This AC is interested in many statewide and local game issues. It is proactive in ensuring moose, predator, and game bird populations and seasons are in line with carrying capacity.

Eagle – Chief Karma Ulvi, Chair

The Eagle AC represents the community of Eagle and is comprised of nine undesignated seats. The community of Eagle is located in GMU 20E, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 20, 25 and the Upper Yukon River for finfish.

Current committee status: The Eagle AC is active and meets three to four times a year. The AC has seven seats and one alternate position currently filled by members residing in Eagle, and two vacancies. Membership elections are held in the spring and alternates are appointed as needed.

Areas of interest: This AC is involved with local and statewide issues. The AC is concerned with management of the Fortymile caribou herd, local moose abundance, and management of Yukon River fisheries. Resident use patterns are influenced extensively by federal regulations because of their proximity to the Yukon Charley National Preserve and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Members of this AC are involved with the federal subsistence RAC system. The AC Chair currently serves on the Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council and Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force.

Fairbanks – Jeff Lucas, Chair

The Fairbanks AC represents multiple communities in the Fairbanks–North Star Borough and is comprised of 15 undesignated seats. These communities are all located in GMU 20B. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 12, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26 and the Tanana River for finfish.

Current committee status: The Fairbanks AC is active and holds monthly meetings throughout the winter and frequent Fisheries Subcommittee and Game/Trapping Subcommittee meetings. The AC

has 15 seats currently filled by members residing in Fairbanks, North Pole, and surrounding communities and one alternate position currently filled. Membership elections are held in the fall and alternates are appointed from remaining nominees when applicable.

Areas of interest: This proactive AC remains informed and interested in many game issues, statewide and localized fishing issues, legislation concerning habitat, game, and fish resources, and is also involved with the federal subsistence RAC system. The Fairbanks AC engages in a number of fisheries management issues in regions outside of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers including the Alaska Peninsula and Prince William Sound. The Fairbanks AC is particularly concerned with the management and implementation of hatchery production and other aspects of salmon enhancement programs throughout the state.

Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (GASH) – Ken Chase, Chair

The GASH AC represents the communities of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross, for a total of nine seats. These communities are located in GMU 21E. The area of jurisdiction is GMU21 and both the Upper and Lower Yukon River area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Holy Cross	2 representatives	Shageluk	2 representatives
Grayling	2 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative
Anvik	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The GASH AC is active and holds one-two meetings per year depending on funding and weather conditions and may hold additional meetings by web/teleconference. The AC has eight seats currently filled and one vacancy for the community of Holy Cross. The AC currently has one alternate who also serves as the AC’s recorder. Membership elections are challenging to hold without facilitation by Boards Support, and as a result the terms for most of the community seats are currently expired. The AC held elections in Shageluk in 2023 for the two Shageluk designated seats and one undesignated seat. The AC met in person in Fairbanks in 2024 and did not hold elections at that time. The AC is actively working with the department to coordinate election meetings in the remaining communities in the coming year. Alternates are appointed as needed.

Areas of interest: The GASH AC is concerned with Yukon and Innoko River salmon fisheries, the commercial lamprey fishery in the Yukon, and moose and predator populations in GMU 21. The GASH AC is very involved with the Wood Bison Restoration project in the Innoko area. AC member concerns are affected by federal regulations due to their proximity to the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. AC meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives.

Koyukuk River – Jack Reakoff, Chair

Koyukuk River AC represents the communities of Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Coldfoot, Huslia, Hughes, and Wiseman. These communities are located in GMU 24. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 21, 24, and the Upper Yukon River for finfish. The community designated seats for the AC are:

Allakaket	3 representatives	Alatna	2 representatives
Huslia	3 representatives	Bettles	2 representatives
Hughes	2 representatives	Undesignated	3 representatives

Current committee status: The Koyukuk River AC is active and holds three-four meetings per year, mostly by web/teleconference. The AC has seven seats currently filled and eight vacancies. The

Koyukuk River AC holds three to four meetings per year, mostly by web/teleconference. Elections to fill vacant and expired seats are frequently held by teleconference; the majority of both designated and undesignated seats remain vacant. Coordination between the department and represented communities to encourage participation and facilitate elections for designated seats is ongoing. Alternates are appointed as needed.

Areas of interest: The Koyukuk River AC is engaged with concerns of increasing the moose populations in portions of GMU 24 for subsistence uses, as well as allocation between local and nonlocal hunters. AC member interests are influenced by federal regulations given its proximity to the Kanuti and Koyukuk national wildlife refuges. Meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are involved with the federal subsistence RAC system.

Lake Minchumina – Mike Gho, Chair

The Lake Minchumina Advisory Committee is comprised of nine seats, four of which are designated for the community of Lake Minchumina and the remainder are undesignated. The community of Lake Minchumina is located in GMU 20C, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 19, 20, and 21, with no designation for fish.

Current committee status: The Lake Minchumina AC did not meet during the 2022/2023 or 2023/2024 cycles. The AC Chair has communicated to Boards Support that the community would like to keep their current status, and the AC plans to meet and hold elections in the coming months. The AC has five seats currently filled and four vacancies. The AC has held four meetings between 2019 and 2022, and previously had not met since 1995. In 2019 in response to a Joint Board Proposal to dissolve the AC, community representatives indicated they would like to remain in regulation to allow future work if needed. At that time, the board adjusted the membership from 15 members to nine.

Areas of interest: The Lake Minchumina AC has been concerned with general wildlife management including moose, caribou, wolves, furbearers. The AC is also interested in department reports on local fish stocks in Lake Minchumina and issues relating to sport and subsistence fisheries.

McGrath – Brett Gibbens, Chair

The McGrath AC is comprised of 15 seats, representing the communities of McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna, and Telida. The communities are located in GMU 19D. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 19 and the Kuskokwim River for finfish. The community- designated seats for the AC are:

McGrath	6 representatives	Takotna	2 representatives
Nikolai	3 representatives	Undesignated	3 representatives
Telida	1 representative		

Current committee status: The McGrath AC is active and holds one to two meetings each year in McGrath. The AC has 12 seats currently filled and three vacancies. Elections are held sporadically and require active facilitation by Boards Support, with elections for all community designated seats typically being conducted in the city of McGrath. Alternates are appointed as needed, most commonly to help the AC reach quorum.

Areas of interest: The AC is very active in promoting game research projects, especially involving predator-prey relationships and the results and implications of intensive management. Other topics of interest include the Fairwell Bison herd, ensuring the McGrath Alaska Wildlife Trooper is

funded and staffed, and the USFWS returning the Innoko Refuge Headquarters to McGrath. Meetings are typically attended by state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are involved in the state’s Kuskokwim River Working Group, the federal subsistence RAC system, and the National Park SRC. The McGrath AC is represented on the Board of Game’s Unit 19C Dall Sheep Management Working Group.

Middle Nenana River – Allan Mortenson, Chair

The Middle Nenana River AC represents the communities of Clear, Ferry, Healy, and McKinley Village with 11 seats. These communities are all located in GMU 20. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 12, 20, 21, and the Tanana River for finfish. The community designated seats for the AC are:

Healy	5 representatives	Ferry	1 representative
Clear	3 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative
McKinley Village	1 representative		

Current committee status: The Middle Nenana River AC is active and meets monthly from November through April. All 11 seats and two alternate positions are filled. The AC typically meets once a month from November through March altering between Anderson, Healy, and McKinley Village. Membership elections are held mid-winter as needed in each of the represented communities. Alternates are appointed from remaining nominees when applicable.

Areas of interest: The AC’s concerns focus on both local and statewide issues covering various game and habitat-related topics. The AC is interested in issues related to hunter access, moose and sheep management, wildlife habitat management in general, and issues related to conflicting interests among user groups. Due to the proximity to Denali National Park, AC meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives.

Middle Yukon River – Percy Lolnitz, Chair

The Middle Yukon AC represents the communities of Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato, and Kaltag with a total of 13 seats. These communities are located in GMU 21D. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 21 and the Upper Yukon River for finfish. The community- designated seats for the AC are:

Galena	4 representatives	Nulato	3 representatives
Kaltag	4 representatives	Koyukuk	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Middle Yukon River AC is active and meets one or two times per year depending on funding, alternating meeting locations among its four communities or flying all members into Fairbanks. All 13 seats and two alternate positions are filled. Membership elections are facilitated by Boards Support and held as needed, occasionally with multiple community designated seats up for election at the same time (e.g., all 13 seats were filled/re-elected simultaneously during an election meeting in Nulato in 2023). Alternates are appointed as needed, often at the start of a meeting to enable the AC to reach quorum.

Areas of interest: The Middle Yukon River AC’s interests focus on subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping. This AC is also interested in allocation of game species between locals and nonlocals, as well as nonresidents. The communities that comprise the Middle Yukon AC utilize the Inokko and Koyukuk national wildlife refuges, and meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives.

Minto/Nenana –Olivia Irwin, Nenana Co-Chair & Carl Frank, Minto Co-Chair

The Minto/Nenana AC represents the communities of Minto and Nenana, for a total of 11 seats. These communities are in GMUs 20B and 20A, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 20 and 25. The areas of jurisdiction for fish are the Upper Yukon and Tanana Rivers. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Nenana	5 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative
Minto	5 representatives		

Current committee status: The Minto/Nenana AC is active and holds four to five meetings a year, mostly by web/teleconference. The chair’s responsibilities are shared between co-chairs representing the communities of Minto and Nenana. All seats and two alternate positions are currently filled by members who reside in Minto, Nenana, Fairbanks, and outside of the state. Membership elections are held as needed either in the communities of Minto or Nenana, or by teleconference. Alternates are appointed as needed.

Areas of interest: This AC’s concerns include moose and access issues in the Minto and Nenana flats areas, the Wood Bison Restoration Project, northern pike fishing, waterfowl harvest in the Minto Flats area, Yukon River fisheries management, and commercial and subsistence fishing on the Tanana River.

Ruby – Inactive

The Ruby Advisory Committee represents the community of Ruby and is comprised of nine undesignated seats. Ruby is located in GMU 21D, and the areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 21,24 and the Upper Yukon River for finfish.

Current committee status: The Ruby AC last met in 2020. All nine seats are currently vacant or expired. Community members have expressed their interest in maintaining their AC with Boards Support. Efforts are underway to re-activate this AC in the coming year.

Areas of interest: Historically, the AC has been concerned with salmon stocks in the Yukon River for subsistence and commercial uses, as well as moose and furbearer populations in GMU 24, and the department’s wood bison restoration project.

Stony/Holitna – Doug Carney, Chair

The Stony/Holitna AC represents the communities of Lime Village, Red Devil, Sleetmute, and Stony River for a total of eight seats. These communities are located in GMU 19. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 18, 19, 21 and the Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, and Upper Yukon Rivers for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Lime Village	2 representatives	Sleetmute	2 representatives
Red Devil	2 representatives	Stony River	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Stony/Holitna AC is active and holds one-two meetings by web/teleconference per year, or as needed when emergent issues arise. All eight seats and two alternate positions are filled. Members reside in the communities of Lime Village, Red Devil, Sleetmute, and Stony River. Elections for community-designated seats are held in their respective communities without facilitation by Boards Support. Alternates are appointed by the chair as needed.

Areas of interest: This AC’s concerns focus on moose populations in GMU 19 and Kuskokwim salmon fisheries. Additional concerns include subsistence food security, nuisance bears, and

impacts of commercial fishing on Yukon and Kuskokwim salmon stocks.

Tanana/Rampart/Manley (TRM) – Charlie Wright, Chair

The TRM AC represents the communities of Tanana, Rampart, and Manley Hot Springs, for a total of nine seats. These communities are located in GMUs 20B and 20F. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 20, 21, 24, and 25, and the Upper Yukon River and the Tanana River for finfish. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Manley Hot Springs	2 representatives	Tanana	3 representatives
Rampart	3 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative

Current committee status: The TRM AC is active and holds meetings by web/teleconference as needed and has met in-person in Fairbanks. All nine seats and two alternate positions are filled. Members reside in the communities of Tanana, Rampart, Manley, and Fairbanks. Recent elections for membership and officers were held by web/teleconference and alternates were appointed from remaining nominees.

Areas of interest: This AC’s concerns revolve primarily around Yukon and Tanana River subsistence and commercial fishing, and food security. The AC is increasingly concerned with moose populations in GMU 20F and the impact on game populations from the new Elliot Highway extension from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana. Recently, the AC moved to oppose the introduction of wood bison in the Lower Tanana Valley. Members of this AC are involved in the federal subsistence RAC system.

Upper Tanana/Fortymile – Leif Wilson, Chair

The Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC has a total of nine members representing the communities of Tok, Northway, Tetlin, Dot Lake, Tanacross, and Healy Lake. These communities are located in GMUs 12 and 20D. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 12, 20 and the Tanana River for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Tok	3 representatives	Tanacross	1 representative
Northway	1 representative	Healy Lake	1 representative
Tetlin	1 representative	Undesignated	1 representative
Dot Lake	1 representative		

Current committee status: The Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC is active and meets three to five times per year in Tok. All meetings are accessible by web/teleconference and representatives from the remaining communities regularly attend remotely or in person. The AC has eight seats currently filled and two undesignated alternates. The undesignated seat and both alternates are filled by members residing in Tok. The seat for Tanacross is vacant. Elections for Tok designated seats and the undesignated seat are typically held in Tok during regularly scheduled AC meetings. Elections for the remaining community designated seats are typically held in their respective communities. Sole representatives from the communities of Tanacross, Northway, Tetlin, Healy Lake, and Dot Lake typically appoint their own alternates.

Areas of interest: The AC is concerned mostly with hunting and trapping in GMUs 12 and 20. The AC also monitors moose, sheep, and caribou hunting subjects, along with intensive management and guiding issues. The AC is concerned with habitat degradation caused by increasing numbers of ATVs in GMUs 12 and 20. This AC is close to the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, and meetings are frequently attended by state and federal representatives. While no current member currently sits on the federal subsistence RAC or the National Park Service’s SRC, this AC is

involved in both systems. This committee has been active in the recent international Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition and assisted with drafting the 2019-2023 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan.

Yukon Flats – Walter Peter, Chair

The Yukon Flats AC represents the communities of Birch Creek, Beaver, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Arctic Village, Circle, Venetie, and Stevens Village. There are a total of 15 designated seats. These communities are spread throughout GMU 25. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 20,25 and the Upper Yukon River for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Birch Creek	1 representative	Arctic Village	2 representatives
Beaver	2 representatives	Circle	2 representatives
Chalkyitsik	2 representatives	Venetie	2 representatives
Fort Yukon	2 representatives	Stevens Village	2 representatives

Current committee status: The Yukon Flats AC is active and holds at least two meetings a year, mostly by web/teleconference, and will meet in-person in Fairbanks. Nine seats and two alternate positions are currently filled; the designated seats for Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, and Arctic Village are vacant, as well as one of the seats designated for Beaver. Membership elections are facilitated by Boards Support, most recently by teleconference, and alternates are appointed as needed.

Areas of interest: The Yukon Flats AC is concerned with Yukon Chinook and Chum salmon runs, moose and caribou population health, and non-local harvest. The AC covers a large area reflected in a diversity of dependence between communities. Some are dependent on the Porcupine caribou herd, others on the Fortymile caribou herd, while some harvest no caribou at all and are dependent on moose. All members depend on the Yukon River and its tributaries for fish. The communities that comprise the Yukon Flats AC utilize lands in the Yukon Flats and Arctic National Wildlife Refuges, and meetings are frequently attended by both state and federal representatives. Members of this AC are involved with the federal RAC system.

Arctic Region Advisory Committees

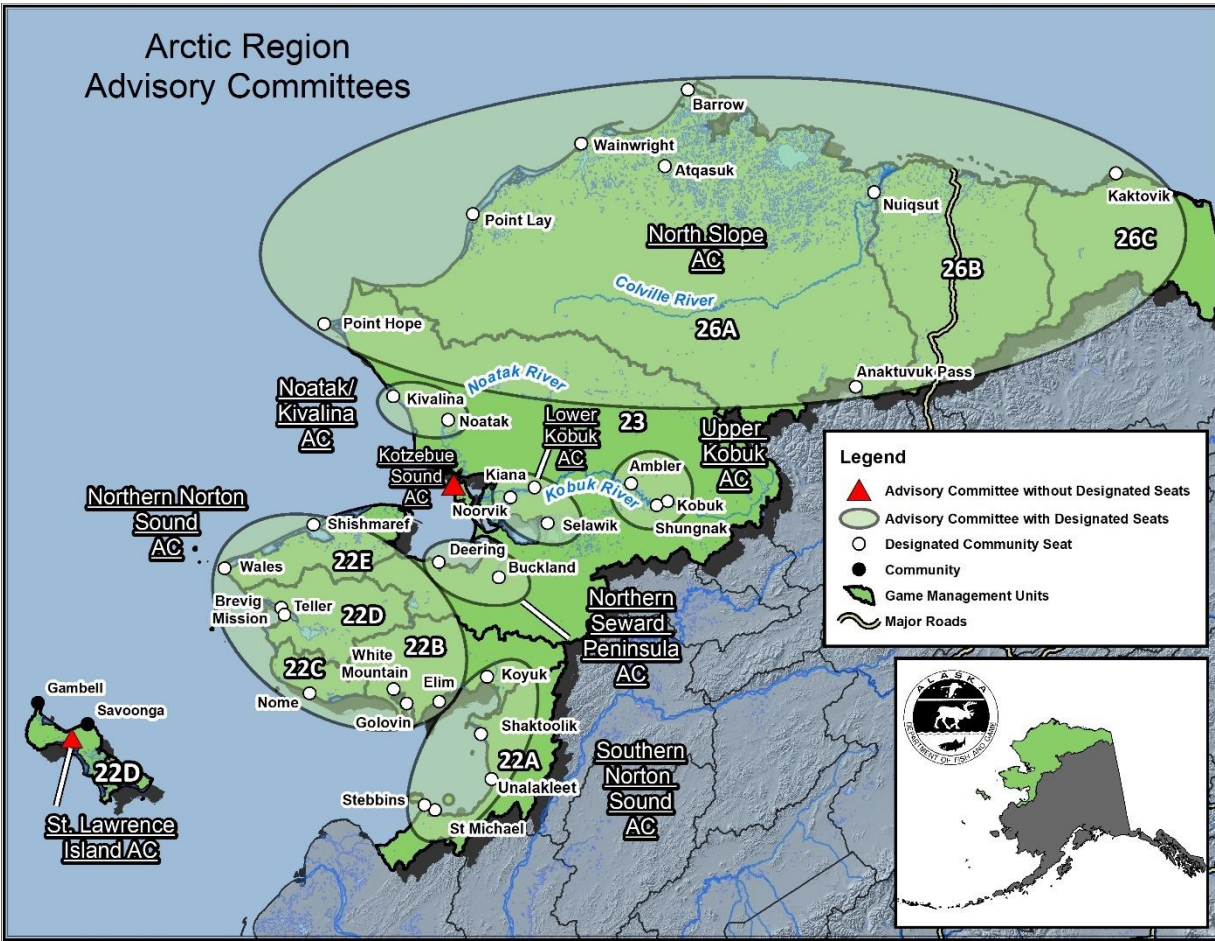


Figure 6. Advisory Committees of the Arctic Region.

The Arctic Region has nine ACs representing 34 communities across the Arctic and Northwestern Alaska (Figure 6). All but one AC in this region, the Kotzebue AC, serves multiple communities. None of the Arctic Region ACs are on a road system that connects to other communities except for the 80-mile Nome-Teller highway used during the summer months. All but one of the ACs serving multiple communities have designated seats. The Saint Lawrence Island AC does not have designated seats but represents the communities of Savoogna and Gambell. Four of the ACs met during the current and previous meeting cycles (Kotzebue Sound AC, Southern and Northern Norton Sound ACs, and the North Slope AC.) The remaining five have not met since before the pandemic. Boards staff has struggled to re-establish contact with these communities, members, and tribal offices for these inactive ACs.

Geographic features: The Arctic Region spans across Northern Alaska, and includes the Seward Peninsula, Saint Lawrence Island, and the Kotzebue area. The region includes GMU's 26, 18 and 23. Major water bodies include the Kobuk, Selawik, Noatak, Buckland, Deering, Unalakleet, Colville, Meade, and Nome Rivers; Kotzebue and Norton Sounds; and the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Large expanses of land are managed by the federal government in the form of preserves, parks, monuments, and national wildlife refuges. There are also many private landholders, including land owned by Native corporations and through Native allotments.

ACs in the Arctic Region have varying jurisdiction across the Norton Sound-Port Clarence and Kotzebue Sound Areas for finfish, and for king crab in the Westward Area Registration Area Q

General areas of interest: There are several overlapping areas of concern shared by the Arctic Region ACs, including the Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH), caribou migration patterns, muskox management, and increasing brown bear and wolf populations and their relationship to declining numbers of caribou and moose.

Northern Norton Sound – Charlie Lean, Chair

The Northern Norton Sound AC represents the communities of Nome, Elim, Wales, Golovin, White Mountain, Shishmaref, Teller, Brevig and Mission. There are also two undesignated seats for a total of 15 members. The communities are located in GMUs 22B, 22C, 22D, and 22E. The areas of jurisdiction GMUs 22, 23, and Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for finfish and king crab in registration area Q. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Nome	6 representatives	Shishmaref	1 representative
Elim	1 representative	Teller	1 representative
Wales	1 representative	Brevig Mission	1 representative
Golovin	1 representative	Undesignated	2 representatives
White Mountain	1 representative		

Current committee status: Thirteen of the Northern Norton Sound AC seats are all currently filled with the two undesignated seats held by Nome residents. The seats for Elim and Teller are vacant. Elections were held for these vacant seats, but no nominations were received. The AC has one at-large alternate and one alternate assigned for the community of Shishmaref. The AC meets on to three times per year depending on the issues before the boards. Elections for the eight Nome seats occur when needed. Elections for the community designated seats are either conducted by the community or during the AC meeting via teleconference.

Areas of interest: The AC actively participates in both BOF and BOG regulatory processes. Recent interests for the AC include moose, muskox, and brown bear hunting in Unit 22, salmon management plans in Norton Sound, and crab pot loss. AC members participate in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council.

Northern Seward Peninsula – Inactive

The Northern Seward Peninsula AC represents the communities of Buckland and Deering and has nine seats. The communities are located in GMU 23. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 22, 23, and the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish. The community-designated seats are:

Buckland	3 representatives	Undesignated	3 representatives
Deering	3 representatives		

Current committee status: The AC’s membership has all expired as of 2019. At that time, there were five members serving, three from Buckland and two from Deering. The AC last met in 2018. A meeting was planned for 2020, but the AC was unable to make quorum. Prior to 2018, the AC would hold one to two meetings per cycle, often by teleconference.

Areas of interest: Past issues of concern for this AC include subsistence harvest of caribou, moose, muskoxen, wolves, sheefish, brown bears, and transporters. Past members of the AC were active on the WACH and the Northwest Arctic RAC.

Upper Kobuk – Inactive

The Upper Kobuk AC represents the communities of Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk with ten seats, two of which are undesignated. The areas of jurisdiction for the AC are GMU 23 and the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish. The community-designated seats listed in regulations for the AC are:

Ambler	3 representatives	Kobuk	2 representatives
Shungnak	3 representatives	Undesignated	2 representatives

Current committee status: The AC’s membership has all expired as of 2020. At that time, there were seven total members serving, two each from each community. The AC has not met since December 2016. Prior to 2016, the AC would hold one to two meetings per cycle, often by teleconference.

Areas of interest: Past issues of concern were game-related including moose, bear, and wolf populations, and caribou migration. The AC was also interested in sheefish issues.

Lower Kobuk – Larry Westlake, Chair

The Lower Kobuk AC represents the communities of Noovik, Kiana, and Selawik with nine seats. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 23 and the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish. The community-designated seats for the AC are:

Noorvik	3 representatives	Selawik	3 representatives
Kiana	3 representatives		

Current committee status: The AC’s membership has all expired as of 2022. At that time, all seats were filed. The last meeting of the AC was in 2020. Prior to 2020, the AC would meet one to two times per meeting cycle, often by teleconference.

Areas of interest: Past issues of concern for the AC include sheefish, research on the Selawik and Kobuk rivers, caribou migration, and predation on moose and caribou. Members observe changing climate may be impacting caribou. Members of the AC actively participated in the WACH working group.

Noatak/Kivalina – Inactive

The Noatak/Kivalina AC represents the communities of Noatak and Kivalina with nine seats. These communities are located in GMU 23. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 23 and the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish. The community- designated seats are:

Noatak	3 representatives	Undesignated	4 representatives
Kivalina	2 representatives		

Current committee status: The AC’s membership has expired since 2022. The Noatak/Kivalina AC last met in 2019. At that time, there were eight members serving: six from Noatak and three from Kivalina.

Areas of interest: Past interests for the Noatak/Kivalina AC were caribou hunting and the migration, and trout. Members of the AC participated in the WACH working group and the Northwest Alaska RAC.

North Slope – Joseph Leavitt, Chair

The North Slope AC represents the communities of Utqiagvik, Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass. There is one undesignated seat for a total of nine members. These communities are located in GMU 26A. The area of jurisdiction is GMU 26. The

AC is not listed for shellfish or finfish jurisdiction. The community-designated seats are:

Barrow (Utqiagvik)	1 representative	Kaktovik	1 representative
Point Hope	1 representative	Nuiqsut	1 representative
Point Lay	1 representative	Anaktuvuk Pass	1 representative
Wainwright	1 representative	Undesignated	1 representative
Atquasuk (Atqasuk)	1 representative		

Current committee status: The North Slope AC community designated seats are currently filled; the one undesignated seat is vacant. The North Slope AC also serves as the North Slope Fish & Game Management Committee, receiving support from the North Slope Borough. The AC meets one to two times a meeting cycle and meets quarterly as the borough committee.

Areas of interest: The AC participates in the Board of Game regulatory process, with strong interests in subsistence hunting of caribou. Other interests include moose, wolves, bowhead whales, polar bears. Members of the AC are active on the North Slope RAC.

Southern Norton Sound – Jacob Ivanoff, Chair

The Southern Norton Sound AC represents the communities of Unalakleet, St. Michael, Stebbins, Shaktoolik, and Koyuk for a total of 15 members. The communities are located in GMU 22A. The area of jurisdiction is GMU 22A, the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for finfish, and Registration Area Q for king crab. The community-designated seats are:

Unalakleet	4 representatives	Shaktoolik	2 representatives
St. Michael	2 representatives	Koyuk	2 representatives
Stebbins	2 representatives	Undesignated	1 representative

Current committee status: Thirteen of the 15 seats for the Southern Norton Sound AC seats are currently filled. There are no alternates currently appointed. The community designated seats for Koyuk and St. Michael are vacant, although a resident from St. Michael serves in one of the undesignated seats. The AC typically meets once or twice per meeting cycle. Elections occur when needed, during the meeting via teleconference. The community of Stebbins conducts an independent election for their community representatives.

Areas of interest: The AC actively participates in both BOF and BOG regulatory processes. Major issues of interest for the AC include moose surveys and hunting opportunity, and commercial and subsistence fishing. Members of the AC have been active on the WACH working group.

Kotzebue Sound – Lance Kramer, Chair

The Kotzebue Sound AC represents the single community of Kotzebue. The committee has 15 seats. The community is located in GMU 23. The areas of jurisdiction are GMUs 22 and 23, the Kotzebue Sound Area for finfish, and king crab in Registration Area Q.

Current committee status: The Kotzebue AC membership is currently at nine members; no alternates have been appointed. The AC holds one or two meetings per cycle, and elections as needed. Meetings are accessible via teleconference.

Areas of interest: Major issues of concern for the AC include caribou in GMU 23 and the changing migration patterns creating difficulties with historical hunts; chum salmon runs; and sheefish in the Kotzebue Sound and Kobuk Lake.

St. Lawrence Island – Inactive

The St. Lawrence Island AC represents the communities of Gambell and Savoonga. The AC has 15 undesignated seats. The areas of jurisdiction are GMU 22, Registration Area Q for king crab, and the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area for finfish.

Current committee status: The AC has not met since 2014 and terms for all members expired in 2016.

Areas of interest: Previously the AC focused on marine mammals and fisheries issues. The AC provided comments to the BOF in 2013 on topics of salmon and crab fisheries.

APPENDIX A: Zahn 1981 Report to the Joint Boards

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A Report to
The Boards of Fisheries and Game
by Mil Zahn
Executive Director
November 18, 1981

Synopsis

This report gives a constructive evaluation of Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Regional Council structure and effectiveness. Issues and problems are identified and various options for improvement are suggested. This review originated at the request of the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game during the spring 1981 meeting.

Advisory Committees and Regional Councils provide a forum for public participation in Boards of Fisheries and Game deliberations on regulation and policy governing fish and game management in Alaska. The system is effective as a mechanism for public involvement but is exhibiting some organizational problems related to growth. The more active committees are quite productive but others have lapsed into oblivion. Public scrutiny of the process is intensifying under the impetus of ANILCA implementation. The public and the Boards both need to know that the system is working.

Background

In general, the committees fall in to three basic categories, to wit:

1. Rural Advisory Committees - membership is drawn from small remote communities. Communication and transportation are cumbersome and the associated costs exceed, by far, those of other Committees.
2. Railbelt/Roadsystem Advisory Committees - members tend to have ready access and communication for committee functions.
3. Urban Advisory Committees - Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau typify this group. Anchorage in particular, with its large population base, has high volume participation with an attendant large work load related to meetings and correspondence.

There are 67 Advisory Committees authorized by the Boards, with an aggregate membership of about 665. The attached chartlet shows committee locations. The geographic distribution clearly is not uniform but the per capita distribution indicates that most citizens have reasonable access to a committee. The per capita representation, however, is much higher in rural areas than in urban ones. One notable disparity in per capita

representation is that three committees represent some 200,000 people in the Anchorage area while three committees represent perhaps 12,000 people on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Delta.

The Boards provide direction and support to the Committees through travel funding, procedural guidelines and communications on Board meeting activities and schedules. New funding for ANILCA implementation will support more committee travel but the extent of demands for funding are not known at this time.

Issues and Trends

Committee effectiveness varies widely and, not surprisingly, is dependent on local initiative by key individuals. Activity in a given area tends to reflect the bias of personal, industry or social influence. Board records indicate that about 60% of the committees are active. More particularly, 28 committees have not submitted meeting minutes to the Boards in 1981 and 17 of those have failed to reveal their presence in any manner. The appended table provides relevant data.

In addition to local community motivation, the level of Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff rapport with area residents determines the effectiveness of the committee process. When staff interest or involvement dwindles, the system breaks down.

Common complaints received by the Boards include:

1. Committee membership not a representative cross section of user groups within a community.
2. Committee biased toward gear groups, racial groups, or political, subsistence, sport or commercial interests. It is a fact, however, that some communities are oriented to narrow interests.
3. Meetings conducted unfairly or illegally, such as in alleged secrecy.
4. Lack of a quorum results in no action.
5. Committees will not willingly accept members from neighboring towns. Feuds between communities result in requests for additional committees.
6. Committee not active.
7. Chairman not providing leadership or information.
8. Members demand full per diem as a condition of holding meetings.
9. Special interest groups control meeting direction.

10. Questionable election of officers. Little turnover in membership.

From the Boards' perspective there is very poor communication from the committees. In particular, minutes of meetings are received sporadically and Boards are not notified of impending travel needs. A memo to all 665 committee members this fall requesting information for this report to the Boards has not received a single reply. The Boards do receive calls for money. There is some tendency for committees to expect Board monitoring of member behavior at meetings to ensure fair dealings. There is little apparent thought to committee member responsibilities for self government.

To a large extent these types of problems are expected in the course of trying to coordinate and support broad public involvement. It is essential, however, to progress toward the original goal of meaningful public involvement without diverting into a morass of intra-group squabbles. As a democratic process, the Advisory Committee tends to reflect community strengths and weaknesses. Several committees are outstanding examples of participatory democracy and provide carefully considered testimony to the Boards. The effective committees emerge through active, local involvement and are not a product of either fragmented public participation or force feeding by State agencies. The issue is analogous to a citizen's voting responsibility.

As a source of proposals to the Boards, Advisory Committees submitted the following approximate percentage of recent proposals:

- 1980 - 21% of all game proposals
- 1981 - 36% of all game proposals

- 1981 - 23% of all March fish proposals
- 1981 - 40% of all December fish proposals

The recent Board practice of funding committee chairmen travel to Board meetings appears to be an educational process of considerable potential. Currently, there is no ready measure of its effectiveness but it would seem most useful where strong leadership conveys information and perceptions back to the committee.

The entire Advisory Committee and Regional Council process is increasingly cumbersome and perhaps would benefit by limiting growth. Expenditures have increased significantly in recent years but it is difficult to identify a commensurate increase in public participation. Board funding since 1974 is shown below:

1974	.....	30.0	1979	.....	312.8
1975	.....	36.2	1980	.....	249.3
1976	.....	78.7	1981	.....	452.8
1977	.....	158.4	1982	.....	1,419.6
1978	.....	158.3			

Board staffing that once was an auxiliary duty of one or two Department staff people has grown to a permanent Board staff of four at present. Immediate plans for this fiscal year include the addition of an Assistant Executive Director plus six coordinators for Regional Councils plus six part time secretarial positions. In addition, the Boards continue to be dependent on Department staff for assistance.

It should be noted that the present demands on Boards and Department relative to committees derives from a small but active fraction of committee potential. If all 67 committees were to hold the required four meetings per year there would be a minimum of 268 meetings needing some kind of Board or Department interface. Regional Council meetings would add to that total.

Inevitably, the Boards are part of the phenomenon of expanding bureaucracy. Board members need to consider the implications of this trend. This expansion has been most evident since the Boards first separated into two groups in 1975.

Board staffing of coordinators for Regional Councils will help resolve existing problems. This new staff role, however, presents some challenges in order to mesh properly with existing Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff functions. Board staff will need to develop good community relations without displacing Department management staff in its public contact. The Department resource managers cannot work effectively without community support. The public, however, will tend to support whichever element of government they believe best conveys their concerns to the Boards. This could lead to appearances of Board advocacy. The considerable potential for competition or friction will need to be resolved by clear policy from the Boards and Commissioner.

A number of questions emerge for Board consideration. In particular, Board members should ask:

1. Would an overall limit on the number of committees be useful? There are about five petitions for new committees before the Boards at this meeting.
2. Should closely adjacent communities have separate committees? A policy of fewer committees could encourage neighboring towns to work together.
3. Is racial balance on committees an issue within Board purview?
4. Would separate committees for fisheries and for game be more effective? Could this apparent need in some communities be better served by the committee splitting its two functions on a local sub-committee basis rather than by Board action?

5. Should the present committee and regional council format be retained or changed? Committees, for example, could merge entirely into the council structure by allowing each town to have a single representative on the appropriate Regional Council.
6. Should inactive committees be dissolved?
7. Is there a point of diminishing effectiveness in the public forum process? If so, what is it? An often heard complaint is that people have too many meetings to attend and issues to consider. Does the number of inactive committees indicate a saturation point?
8. Should Emergency Closure authority be revised?
9. Should Boards expect to settle intra committee disputes regarding conduct at meetings?
10. Should some existing Advisory Committee regulations be repealed in favor of regulations more clearly addressing Regional Council needs? Several pages of concurrent jurisdiction regulations, for example, could be replaced with umbrella language clearly stating the obligation of Committees or Councils to solicit input from adjacent groups.
11. What is the optimum size of field staff assigned directly to the Boards?
12. How far do the Boards wish to become involved in field level council coordination? There is a discernable drift from an exclusively policy role to one of on-scene management. The next step involves the small but important distinction between arranging support services and doing actual research or report writing for a group.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The present structure is of known effectiveness and should remain as the nucleus for the intended public forum. Refinements are needed and the overall subject should receive the benefit of ongoing review.

Immediate or short term actions recommended are:

1. Place an informal freeze on creating new committees, pending identification of key issues and goals.
2. Set a maximum number of Advisory Committees at specified locations.
3. Dissolve inactive committees.

4. Insist on realistic communication from Committee chairmen. The Board staff, for example, is implementing a policy of releasing travel funds only upon a chairman's request prior to meetings. The prior notice provision has existed for some time in the Board regulations. There is no progress to report in this regard.
5. The Boards should develop policy or position statements addressing the 12 questions outlined above. Board resolution of seemingly minor points, such as inactive committees, would demonstrate Board expectations to the public.
6. Continue the practice of funding committee chairmen, or designees, attendance at Board meetings. This is an expensive exercise but can be educational for all involved parties.

Activity by Advisory Committees

The following table provides some indicators of activity by committees. Two important elements NOT shown are the number of proposals submitted via committees and the long-term impact of committee representatives attending and participating in Board meetings. The active committees do submit a significant percentage of all proposals received. The impact of attending Board meetings should be assessed during future reviews.

These figures for calendar year 1981, through mid-November, derive from existing Board records.

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Anchorage	17	Yes	3	Yes
Angoon	12	Yes	0	No
Barrow	4	Yes	0	No
Central Bering Sea Coast	11	Yes	0	Yes
Central Kuskokwim	8	No	0	No
Central Peninsula	11	Yes	1	No
Chignik	17	No	0	Yes
Clear-Healy Valley	10	No	0	No
Copper Basin	9	Yes	0	No
Copper River - Prince William Sound	15	Yes	0	Yes
Craig	5	Yes	0	No
Delta	7	Yes	5	Yes
Denali	10	Yes	0	No
Elfin Cove	9	No	3	Yes
English Bay - Port Graham	6	No	1	No
Fairbanks	10	Yes	2	Yes
False Pass	5	No	0	No
Ft. Yukon	9	No	2	Yes

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Galena	13	Yes	1	No
Gastineau Channel	16	No	1	Yes
Grayling-Anvik-Shageluk- Holy Cross	9	Yes	1	Yes
Homer	13	No	0	No
Hoonah	13	No	0	No
Hydaburg	12	Yes	1	No
Kake	9	No	0	Yes
Kaktovik	5	No	0	No
Kenai-Soldotna	5	No	0	No
Ketchikan	7	No	2	No
King Cove	7	No	0	No
Klawock	4	No	1	No
Kodiak	12	Yes	2	Yes
Kotzebue	11	No	0	No
Koyukuk	12	No	1	No
Lake Iliamna	8	No	2	No
Lower Bristol Bay	5	No	0	No
Lower Kobuk	5	Yes	1	No
Lower Kuskokwim	14	No	0	No
Lower Yukon	14	Yes	2	Yes
McGrath	14	Yes	2	No
Matanuska	10	No	3	Yes
Mt. Yenlo	10	No	1	No
Naknek-Kvichak	13	No	2	No
Nelson Lagoon	5	No	0	No

<u>Committee</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Attended Regional Boundary Meeting</u>	<u>Minutes Received</u>	<u>Other Corres.</u>
Noatak-Kivalina	5	Yes	1	No
Northern Seward Peninsula	6	No	2	No
Norton Sound	4	No	1	No
Nushagak	14	Yes	2	Yes
Paxson	11	No	0	No
Pelican	11	Yes	0	No
Petersburg	15	No	2	Yes
Ruby	15	Yes	2	No
Sand Point	8	Yes	0	No
Seldovia	7	No	4	Yes
Seward	14	Yes	2	Yes
Sitka	13	Yes	2	No
Southern Norton Sound	6	No	0	No
St. Lawrence Island	11	No	0	No
Tanana	11	No	3	No
Togiak	8	No	0	No
Tok Cutoff-Nebesna Road	8	No	2	No
Unalaska-Dutch Harbor	12	No	3	No
Upper Kobuk	3	Yes	1	No
Upper Lynn Canal	6	Yes	3	No
Upper Tanana-Forty Mile	14	No	0	No
Valdez	7	Yes	2	Yes
Wrangell	7	No	0	No
Yakutat	9	No	1	Yes