



September 6, 2022

Dear Alaska Native Leader:

The Department of the Interior (DOI) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recognize that subsistence practices are vital to the life ways and culture of Alaska Native communities and people.

To that end, in partnership with leadership from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in January 2022 DOI hosted and NOAA leadership participated in a virtual listening session and government-to-government consultations on how we can improve the Federal Subsistence Management Program to better protect and facilitate Alaska Native subsistence needs.

In particular, Alaska Native people depend heavily on subsistence fishing practices for their nutritional, social, economic, and traditional cultural needs. Therefore, to build on the January 2022 consultations and to further inform DOI and NOAA's work to improve federal subsistence policy and the management of resources that are important to Alaska Natives, DOI and NOAA invite you to consult on fisheries protection and restoration at in-person and virtual consultations to be held on the following dates. The consultations will be open to representatives of Alaska Native Villages, Tribal Consortia, Alaska Native Organizations, and Alaska Native Corporations, and subsistence users.

The DOI and NOAA welcome all comments, and we are specifically seeking input on the following questions:

1. How can federal agencies better cooperate with Alaska Native Tribes, Alaska Native Consortia, Alaska Native Organizations, Alaska Native Corporations, and subsistence users to better protect and restore fisheries that Alaska Native communities depend on?
2. How has bycatch impacted fish populations and fish availability for Alaska Native communities?
 - a. What are your suggestions for how the federal government can better address the impacts of bycatch?
3. How has climate change impacted fisheries decline?
4. How can the process for federal fisheries disaster declarations be improved to better account for Alaska Native subsistence needs?
5. How can federal agencies better facilitate Tribal co-management of fisheries resources?

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm AK

Location: Bethel, AK (specific venue details will be forthcoming)

Virtual Registration:

Zoom Link:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOirqj4jHt3WM7auYdFwH-rJEYdflo>

You may also join by phone by using the following dial-in information:

1(669) 254-5252
Meeting ID: 161 313 4594
Passcode: 418379; or

1 (646) 828-7666
Meeting ID: 161 313 4594
Passcode: 418379

Thursday, October 6, 2022

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm AK

Location: Nome, AK (specific venue details will be forthcoming)

Virtual Registration:

Zoom Link:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdemqrDgpHwFiQR9hV_t7L8rXiP7m3Ss

You may also join by phone by using the following dial-in information:

1 (669) 254-5252
Meeting ID: 160 202 2335
Passcode: 779212; or

1 (646) 828-7666
Meeting ID: 160 202 2335
Passcode: 779212

Friday, October 7, 2022

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm AK

Location: David Salmon Tribal Hall, 111 Clay Street, Fairbanks, AK

Virtual Registration:

Zoom Link:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdumhrjIoGxwjVVkcNIo4GkwvRDxjV_E

You may also join by phone by using the following dial-in information:

1 (669) 254-5252
Meeting ID: 161 109 0921
Passcode: 384425; or

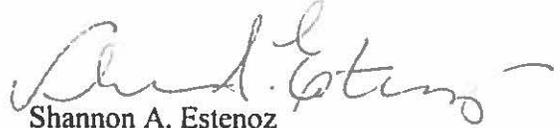
1 (646) 828-7666
Meeting ID: 161 109 0921
Passcode: 384425

Please submit any written comments to consultation@bia.gov by October 28, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET with subject line "Fisheries Consultation". If you have any questions about these consultations, please contact Rose Petoskey, Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, at rose.petoskey@bia.gov or by phone at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,



Laura Daniel-Davis
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary –
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Department of the Interior



Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife
and Parks
U.S. Department of the Interior



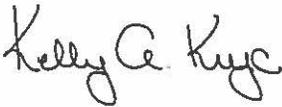
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