



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DEC 20 2021

Dear Alaska Native Leader:

We recognize that subsistence is vital to the cultures and life ways of Alaska Natives and Alaska Native communities. Under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3111–3126), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretaries) jointly implement the Federal Subsistence Management Program. This program provides a preference for take of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence uses on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska.

The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Departments) will conduct a virtual listening session and formal virtual consultations with Tribes, Tribal consortia, and Alaska Native corporations on Federal subsistence policy in January 2022. The listening session and consultations reflect the Departments' commitment to strengthen government-to-government relationships with federally recognized Tribes and meet requirements for consultation with Alaska Native corporations. The Departments' procedures for outreach, notice, and consultation ensure involvement of Tribes and Alaska Native corporations, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, before making decisions or implementing policies, rules, or programs that affect federally recognized Tribal governments or Alaska Native corporation interests.

Alaska Native subsistence virtual listening session open to Tribes, Tribal Consortia, Alaska Native Organizations, and Alaska Native corporations:

Monday, January 10, 2022
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. AKST

Please register in advance using the following Zoom link:

https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdOCuqjksE-FP9_3laOwMiDC0KkTSY0o

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

1 (669) 254-5252

Meeting ID: 1613964269

Passcode 018068; or

1 (646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 1613964269

Passcode: 018068

Alaska Native subsistence virtual consultations with Tribes, Tribal consortia, and Alaska Native Organizations:

Thursday, January 20, 2022
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. AKST

Please register in advance using the following Zoom link:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItc-ivpigrEplmxYnru1AOR773ePbx65U>

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

1 (669) 254-5252

Meeting ID: 1604178318

Passcode: 598591; or

1 (646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 1604178318

Passcode: 598591

Friday, January 21, 2022

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. AKST

Please register in advance using the following Zoom link:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItdOGgqTgsHRk7c4Rxe4bu3OyF_aEw_F8

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

1 (669) 254-5252

Meeting ID: 1603887367

Passcode: 905674; or

1 (646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 1603887367

Passcode: 905674

Alaska Native subsistence virtual consultation with Alaska Native regional and village corporations:

Friday, January 28, 2022

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. AKST

Please register in advance using the following Zoom link:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIteivrz0tH97YP3IOioApp4DvFTmiW0>

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

1 (669) 254-2525

Meeting ID: 1606171675

Passcode: 956167; or

1 (646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 1606171675

Passcode: 956167

The Secretaries are seeking Tribal and Alaska Native corporation perspectives pertaining to the following questions:

1. How has climate change affected subsistence? What changes could be made to subsistence policies, regulations, or laws to help you adapt to those changes?
2. How can federal agencies better cooperate with Alaska Native Tribes, Alaska Native Consortia, Alaska Native Organizations, and Alaska Native corporations to promote subsistence harvest opportunities and protect habitat?
3. How does the state management regime affect implementation of the federal priority for rural residents?
4. How can the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Program be changed to better accommodate Alaska Native subsistence needs?
5. What difficulties have you experienced in accessing subsistence resources?

Please submit any written comments to consultation-ak@ios.doi.gov by February 15, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET with subject line "Subsistence Consultation".

If you have any questions about this listening session, 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,



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior



Raina Thiele
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Alaska Affairs
& Strategic Priorities
U.S. Department of the Interior



Heather Dawn Thompson
Director, Office of Tribal Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture