



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Forest Service

Federal Subsistence Board News Release

For Immediate Release:

July 14, 2011

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Federal Subsistence Board Meets in Work Session, Considers Several Issues

ANCHORAGE --- The Federal Subsistence Board held a work session that was open to the public on July 11-12, 2011. At the meeting the Board denied a request for reconsideration submitted by the State of Alaska on the customary and traditional use determination for Niniitchik for all fish in the waters north of and including the Kenai River drainage, within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and Chugach National Forest within the Kenai Peninsula district.

The Board also discussed whether or not it should stay a past decision on rural/nonrural determinations, in light of the recommendations arising out of the Secretarial Review, and possible changes to that rural/nonrural determination process. After lengthy discussion, the Board decided to have another public meeting to further consider the possibility of extending the compliance date of the 2007 nonrural determinations. The communities that would be affected by this action include Saxman, Prudoe Bay, Point Mackenzie, Fritz Creek East and the North Fork Road area, and an additional portion of Sterling.

Finally, the Board reviewed and accepted interim Tribal and ANCSA corporation consultation protocols. At its January 2011 meeting in Anchorage, the Board directed that protocols to guide the Board through consultations be developed, in keeping with the effort of the Obama administration to improve government-to-government relations.

The protocols will be made available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website: <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/issue.cfml>.

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