



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
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Bureau of Indian Affairs

## Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

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### **Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture Defer Action on Petition to Exert Extraterritorial Jurisdiction**

The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have deferred action on a petition submitted by Kootznoowoo, Inc. to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction into “marine waters adjacent to Admiralty Island and beyond.” As recommended by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Secretaries deferred action for 3 years to allow time for issues identified in the petition to be addressed at the local level. However, in a letter to the petitioner, the Secretaries also recognized “that 3 years is a long time to wait for resolution of an issue so important to Angoon’s customary and traditional harvesting of salmon.” The Secretaries have requested a twice-yearly status report from the Board on the progress to address the issues identified in the petition. If demonstrable progress is not made, the Secretaries may take appropriate alternative measures within the 3-year period.

On May 10, 2010, and in supplemental materials on June 15, 2011, Kootznoowoo, Inc. petitioned the Secretary of Agriculture to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction. The central issue identified in the petition, as supplemented, is whether State management of the commercial purse seine fishery has interfered with subsistence fishing on Federal public lands and waters to such an extent as to result in a failure to provide the subsistence priority to Angoon residents as provided for under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and its implementing regulations.

On March 21-22, 2012, the Federal Subsistence Board met jointly with the Southeast Council in Juneau to consider Kootznoowoo’s petition. The Board and Council were presented an analysis of the petition and heard testimony regarding it. The Council met on the evening of March 22 to develop its recommendation on the petition, which was presented to the Board the following day. In accordance with the Board’s established procedures of July 18, 2005, the Board provided its own recommendation on the petition for consideration by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.

Kootznoowoo’s petition, the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council’s recommendation, and the Secretaries’ letter to the petitioner are available at:  
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/issue.cfml>.