

JOINT BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME
POLICY ON SUBSISTENCE
RESOLUTION 81-9-JB

see also
#79-47-FB and
#76-3-JB,
#79-5-JB

In applying a subsistence priority the Boards will provide for conservation and development of Alaska's fish and game resources pursuant to the following procedures:

(a) Each Board will assess the biological status of fish or game resources and determine whether a surplus may be harvested during a regulatory year consistent with the conservation and development of the resources on the sustained yield principle and compatible with the public interest;

(b) Each Board will identify subsistence uses of fish or game resources, recognizing that subsistence uses are customary and traditional uses by Alaska residents for food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, transportation, making handicrafts, customary trade, barter, and sharing, in rural communities and bush areas where such uses have been made in the past. This policy recognizes customary and traditional uses for subsistence purposes are generally identified as characteristics of rural ways of life, but that all users meeting the customary and traditional use criteria must be considered.

Customary and traditional uses by Alaska residents shall be identified by reference to the following criteria:

- (1) a long-term, consistent pattern of use (excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the users' control such as regulatory prohibitions);
- (2) a use pattern recurring in specific seasons of each year;
- (3) a use pattern consisting of methods and means of harvest which are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost, and conditioned by local circumstances;
- (4) the consistent harvest and use of fish or game which is near or reasonably accessible from the user's residence;
- (5) the means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or game which has been traditionally used by past generations (but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate);
- (6) a use pattern which includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation;

- (7) a use pattern in which the hunting or fishing effort or the products of that effort are distributed or shared among others within a definable "community" of persons, including customary trade, barter, sharing, and gift-giving. Customary trade may include limited exchanges for cash, but does not include significant commercial enterprises. A "community" for purposes of subsistence uses may include specific villages or towns, with a historical preponderance of subsistence users and in addition encompasses individuals, families, or groups who in fact meet the criteria described in this policy;
- (8) a use pattern which includes reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide diversity of the fish and game resources of an area, and in which that pattern of subsistence use provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence user's life.

After identifying subsistence uses based upon these criteria, each Board will determine the approximate amount of fish or game necessary to provide fully for opportunities to engage in these customary and traditional uses.

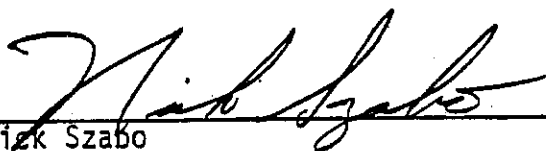
(c) Each Board will adopt regulations that provide an opportunity for the subsistence taking of fish or game resources in amounts sufficient to provide for the customary and traditional uses identified in paragraph (b) and consistent with sound conservation and management practices. In no instance may such taking jeopardize or interfere with the maintenance, on a sustained yield basis, of a specific fish stock or game population.

(d) These regulations may also provide an opportunity for non-subsistence uses of the resource, to the extent that such uses do not jeopardize or interfere with the conservation and development of fish or game resources, on a sustained yield basis, or with the opportunity for taking these resources for customary and traditional subsistence uses as provided in (c) above.

(e) When circumstances such as increased numbers of users, weather, predation, or loss of habitat may jeopardize the sustained yield of a fish stock or game population, each Board will exercise all practical options for restricting non-subsistence harvest before subsistence uses are restricted. If all available restrictions for non-subsistence uses have been implemented and further restrictions are needed, each Board will reduce the take for subsistence uses in a series of graduated steps, by giving maximum protection to subsistence users who (1) live closest to the resource, (2) have the fewest available alternative resources, and (3) have the greatest customary and direct dependence upon the resource. In no event, however, will a Board allow uses which will jeopardize or interfere with the conservation and management of fish stocks or game populations on a sustained yield basis.



Clint Buckmaster
Chairman, Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game
Chairman, Board of Game



Nick Szabo
Chairman, Board of Fisheries

Adopted: Anchorage, Alaska
December 8, 1981

Vote: Adopted 10/3