

YOUR SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS ARE AT RISK!



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT FILING SCOPING COMMENTS ON THE OFFICE OF SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT AND FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

What's Happening:

- ▲ In May 2025, the Safari Club, a recreational hunting and fishing lobbying group, filed a Petition for Rulemaking with the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to amend the regulations governing the Federal Subsistence Management Program, the Office of Subsistence Management, and the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB). The Safari Club petition asked to reduce the staff of the FSB to only seats held by federal agency heads (who are political appointees) and eliminate all public seats, including the three Tribally-nominated seats recently added to the FSB. The Safari Club also asked the Secretaries to order the FSB to defer to the State of Alaska in setting regulations. Since the State of Alaska cannot legally implement any rural subsistence priority, ordering the FSB to defer to the state would effectively end the rural subsistence priority.

How You Can Get Involved:

- ▲ The Department of the Interior is calling for scoping comments in response to the Safari Club's petition for rulemaking: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-12-15/pdf/2025-22837.pdf>. The scoping period, and scoping comments, ensure that an agency considers all the aspects of a potential new decision while drafting a new rule – in other words, to define the “scope” of its investigation. These are different from comments provided in response to a proposed rule. You will get a chance to file comments on any proposed changes once the Department of the Interior has drafted its proposal, probably sometime in the spring of 2026.

At this stage, we ask that you file comments explaining how the FSB impacts your region and ask the Department to fully consider all potential impacts to your region from changes to the FSB, which could include the total loss of the rural subsistence priority. The Alaska Federation of Natives can provide a template letter for you to supplement with your concerns. Please reach out to afninfo@nativefederation.org for a copy.

Comments are due by February 13, 2026, and can be submitted by email to subsistence@ios.doi.gov, or through www.regulations.gov, docket number DOI-2025-0170.

DOI will be holding Tribal Consultation sessions on this review, but only by request. Make sure your Tribal government reaches out to DOI to request consultation. DOI will also be holding a public meeting in Anchorage, but no date has been announced for that meeting. Please monitor https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/FSMP_Scoping_Process for announcements.

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