



*City
of
Pelican*

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**CITY OF PELICAN, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2026- 2**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PELICAN, ALASKA REGARDING
THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REVIEW**

Whereas, this Resolution is submitted as both a formal statement of position and a public scoping comment in response to the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture's (Secretaries) noticed limited review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program (FSMP) under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

Whereas, Title VIII of ANILCA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 3111–3126, was enacted to protect the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska, recognizing that subsistence is essential to the physical, cultural, economic, and social existence of Alaska Native and rural communities; and

Whereas, Congress expressly found in ANILCA Section 801(5) that the national interest in conservation and regulation of fish and wildlife requires an administrative structure that enables rural residents with personal knowledge of local conditions to participate meaningfully in subsistence management; and

Whereas, the Alaska Supreme Court's 1989 decision held that a rural subsistence preference violates Alaska's Constitution resulting in the FSMP authority on federal public lands and waters; and

Whereas, the FSMP was enacted to fulfill this federal responsibility and has evolved into an effective mechanism for incorporating local traditional ecological knowledge through Regional Advisory Councils (RAC), Tribal participation, and co-management partnerships; and

Whereas, the Secretaries have announced a limited review of the FSMP to evaluate whether it is meeting the needs of subsistence users and the obligations of ANILCA Title VIII, including review of specific regulatory and procedural topics;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That: Co-management and the FSMP are affirmed as essential to fulfilling the intent and requirements of ANILCA by ensuring Alaska Natives and rural residents have a meaningful and effective voice in fish and wildlife management; and

This Resolution is submitted as formal input into the Secretaries' public scoping process and addresses the identified review topics as follows:

Be It Further Resolved That:

The 2024 relocation of the Office of Subsistence Management should be evaluated based on whether it strengthens accountability, accessibility, and responsiveness to rural subsistence users, and that administrative restructuring strengthens the Program's local community engagement; and

RAC membership must continue to prioritize federally qualified subsistence users with direct, lived experience and local traditional ecological knowledge, as the RAC's are the mandated mechanism for implementing ANILCA 801(5); and

The Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) must retain meaningful rural and Alaska Native Tribal representation to ensure management decisions reflect subsistence uses and integrate local knowledge with scientific expertise; and

Efforts to reduce regulatory duplication must not undermine the rural subsistence priority established by Title VIII, and that the FSMP must remain intact due to the State of Alaska's inability to implement a rural preference; and

Special action authorities are essential for addressing localized conservation concerns, environmental change, and subsistence emergencies, and that these authorities must remain flexible and informed by RACs and community input; and

While the State of Alaska and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game provide valuable biological and technical expertise, their role must remain consistent with the federal responsibility to implement Title VIII and must not supplant federal authority to protect rural subsistence users; and

Rural determinations must be based on the cultural, social, and economic realities of Alaska's rural residents and reflect place-based conditions rather than rigid or abstract criteria; and

The Secretaries should explicitly evaluate and strengthen Tribal co-management partnerships and federally supported subsistence monitoring and research programs, recognizing that traditional ecological knowledge improves conservation outcomes, regulatory compliance, and food security; and

Any changes resulting from this review should strengthen, not weaken, the FSMP's ability to fulfill the congressional intent of ANILCA Title VIII; and

Alaska Native Tribes and rural residents must remain central to subsistence decision-making through meaningful participation, co-management, and respect for local knowledge; and

Copies will be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture and the Federal Subsistence Board at subsistence@ios.doi.gov, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, and the Governor of Alaska

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF February, 2026.

Signed:



Derek Stewart, Mayor Pro Tempore

Attest:



Lattieca Stewart, City Clerk

