

Overview of Regional Advisory Committees

Report to the Joint Board of Fisheries & Game

March 25, 2024

Board Support Staff

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director

Art Nelson, Executive Director

Annie Bartholomew, Southeast Region

Vacant, Arctic Region

Kyle Campbell, Interior Region

Fari Fernandez, Southcentral Region

Natalie Romo, Southwest Region

Savannah Hollingworth, Western Region



Boards Support Section Executive Directors



Kristy Tibbles
Executive Director
Board of Game

Art Nelson
Executive Director
Board of Fisheries



Regional Advisory Committee Coordinators Southeast Region

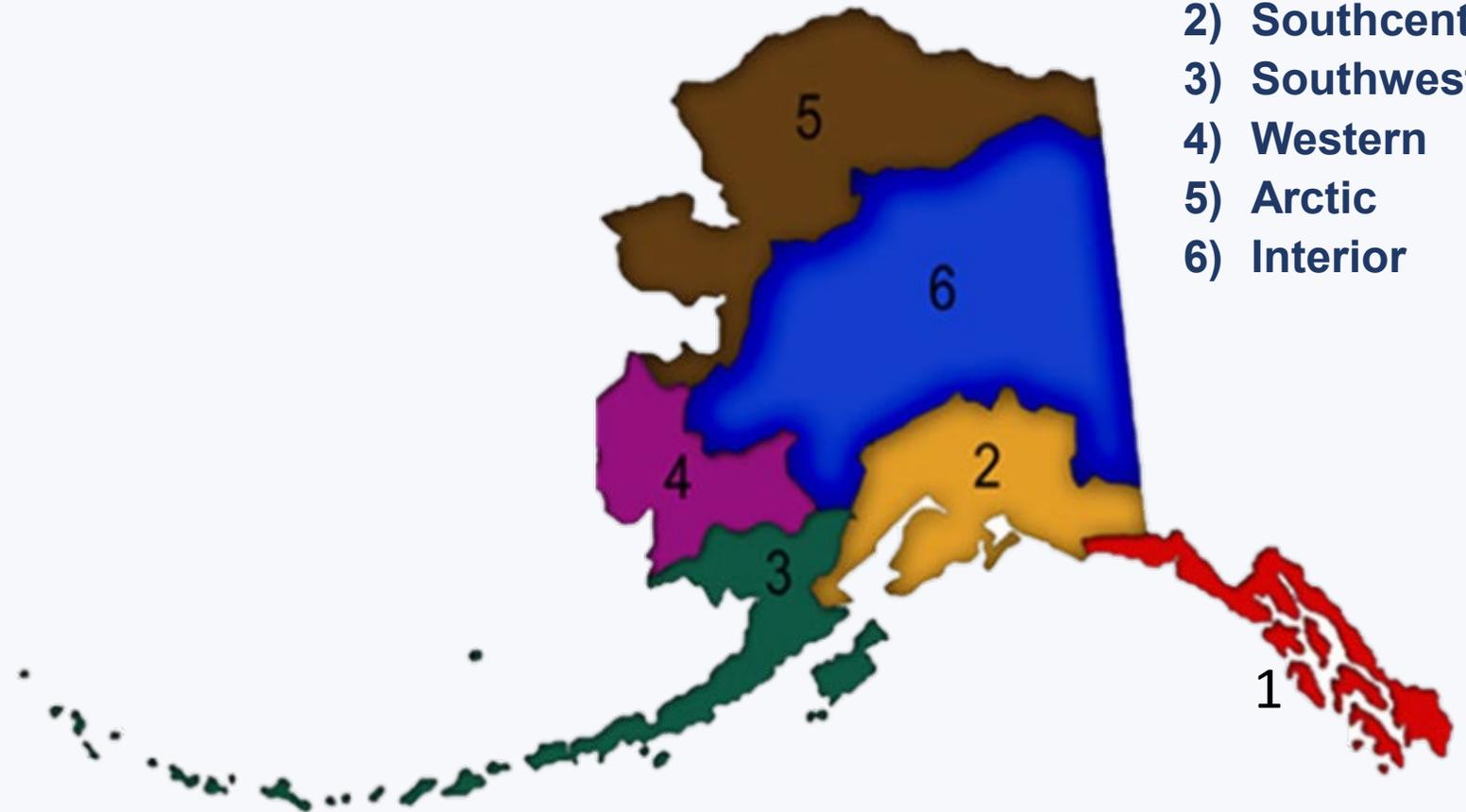


VACANT

**BOG Publications Specialist
Southern SE AC Coordinator**



- 1) **Southeast**
- 2) **Southcentral**
- 3) **Southwest**
- 4) **Western**
- 5) **Arctic**
- 6) **Interior**



Regional Advisory Committee Coordinators Southeast Region



Annie Bartholomew
BOF Publications Specialist
Northern SE AC Coordinator



- 1) **Southeast**
- 2) **Southcentral**
- 3) **Southwest**
- 4) **Western**
- 5) **Arctic**
- 6) **Interior**

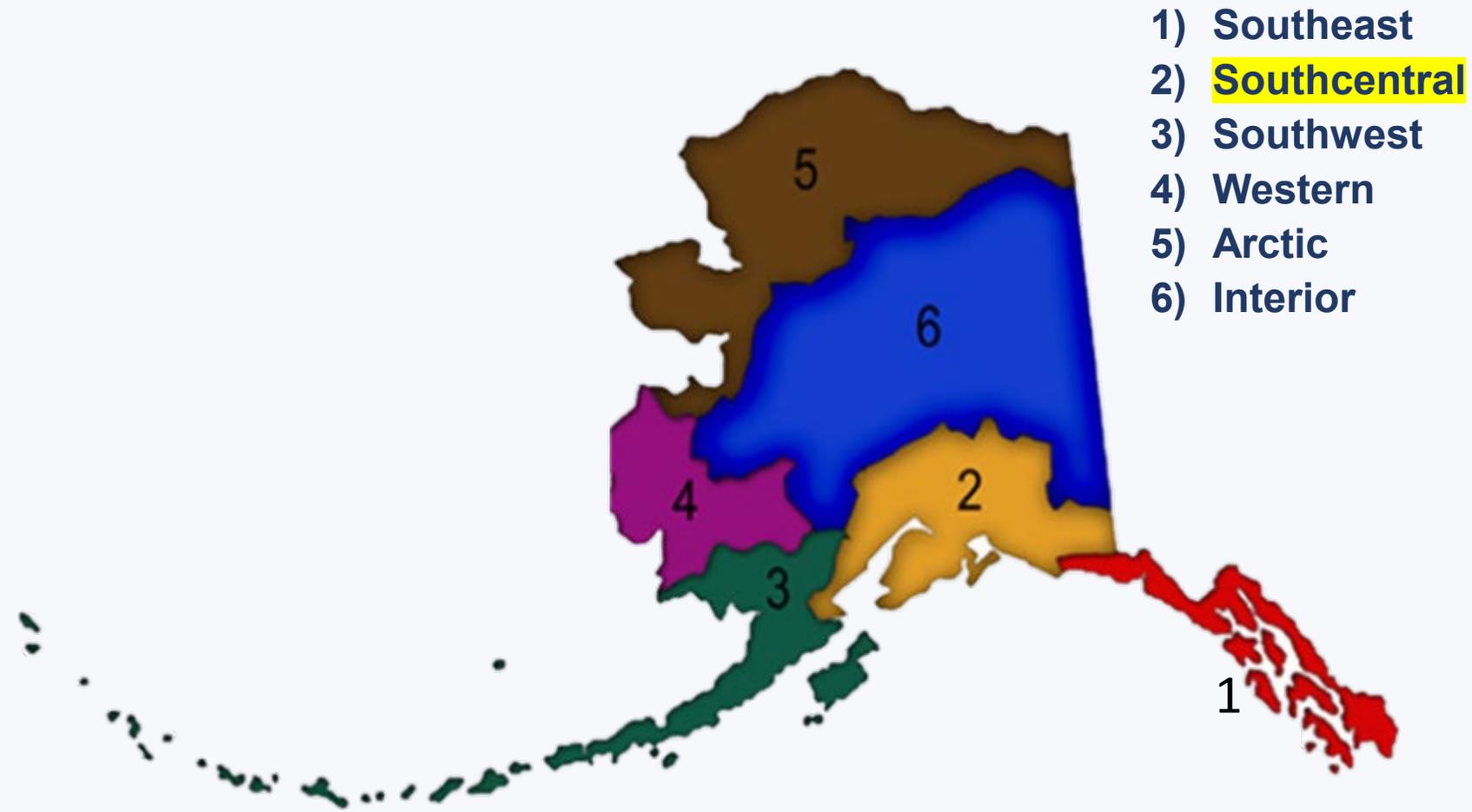


Regional Advisory Committee Coordinators

Southcentral Region



Fari Fernandez
Southcentral AC Coordinator

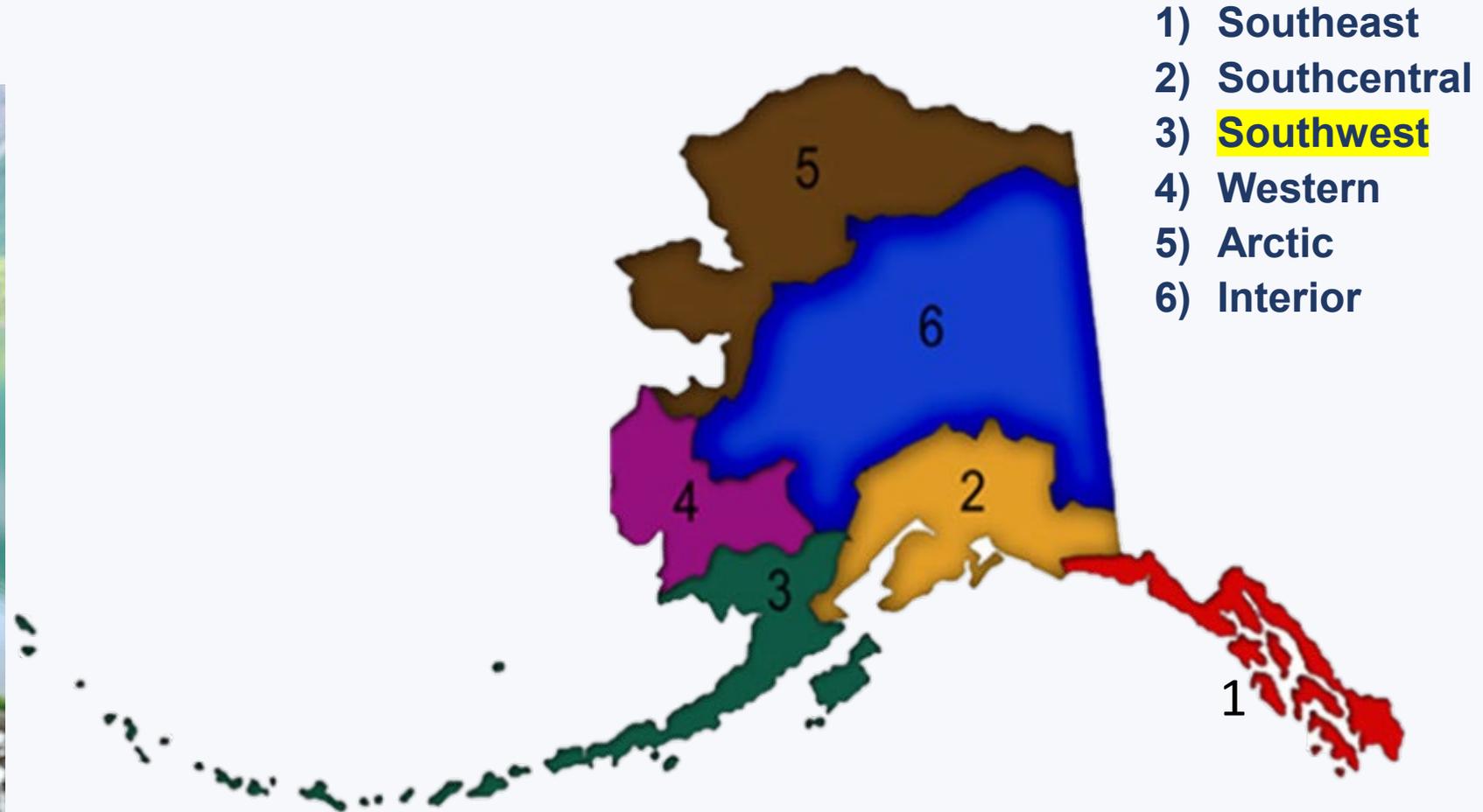


Regional Advisory Committee Coordinators

Southwest Region



Natalie Romo
Southwest AC Coordinator

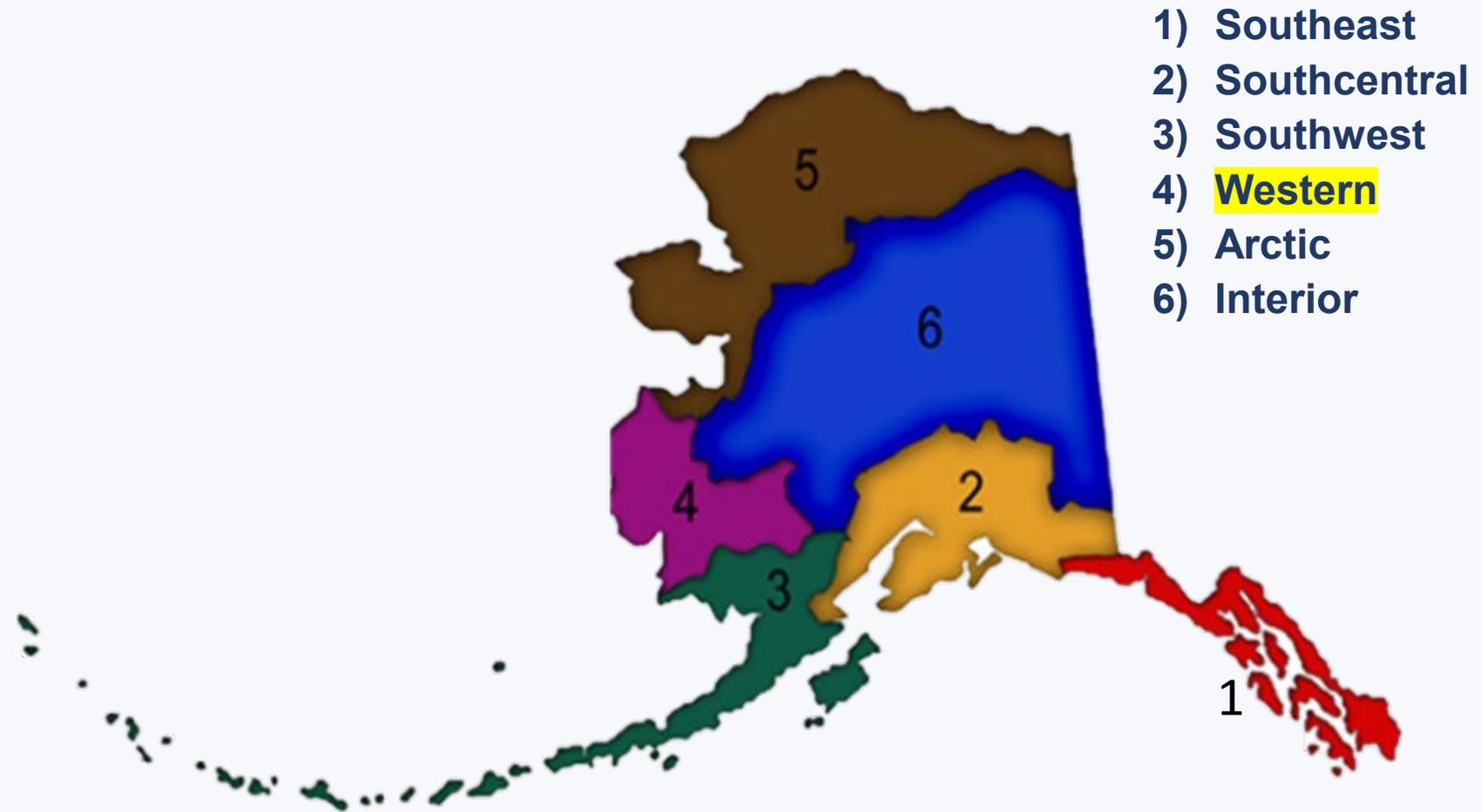


Regional Advisory Committee Coordinators

Western Region



Savannah Hollingworth
Western AC Coordinator

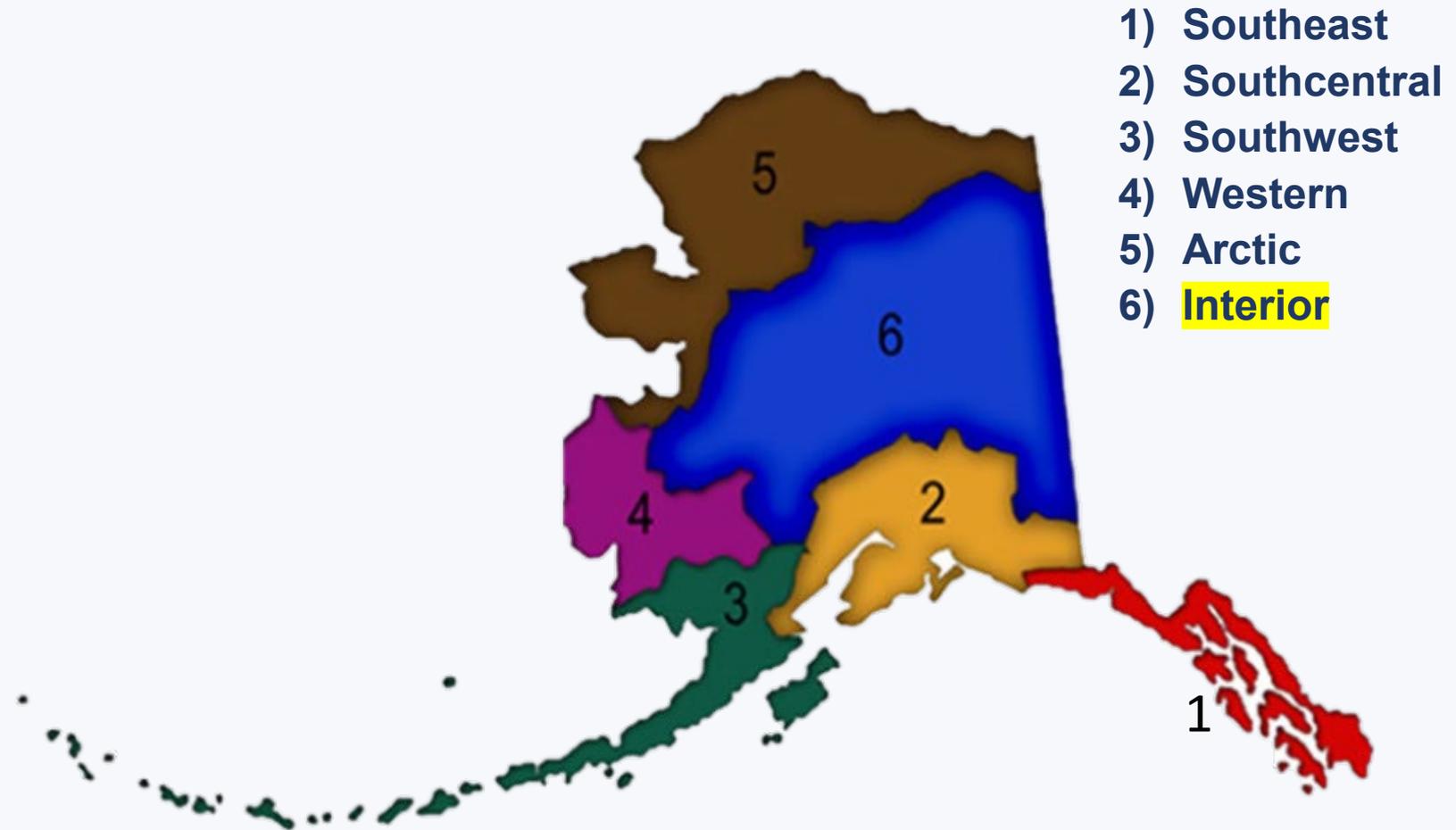


Regional Advisory Committee Coordinators

Interior Region



Kyle Campbell
Interior AC Coordinator



Regional Advisory Committee Coordinators

Arctic Region



Your name here!!
Arctic AC Coordinator



- 1) Southeast
- 2) Southcentral
- 3) Southwest
- 4) Western
- 5) **Arctic**
- 6) Interior

Boards Support Section Administrative Staff



**Carrie Graham
Admin Officer 2**

**Vacant
Admin Assistant 2**





Advisory Committees by Region

There are 84 advisory committees throughout six regions of the state, each with expertise in a particular local area.

- 1) Southeast**
- 2) Southcentral**
- 3) Southwest**
- 4) Western**
- 5) Arctic**
- 6) Interior**

~1,100 Total AC Seats in Regulation
~ 170 Communities Represented
68 Active ACs



ADF&G Boards Support Section



 **Boards Support Section Program**

 **Roles of Regional Coordinators**

 **AC Regulations**

 **General Challenges**

 **Other**

LOCAL FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEES www.adfg.alaska.gov

ARCTIC REGION – 9 ACs

Kotzebue Sound
Lower Kobuk
Noatak/Kivalina
Northern Norton Sound
Northern Seward Peninsula
North Slope
St. Lawrence Island
Southern Norton Sound
Upper Kobuk

Regional Coordinator
Vacant
(907) 442-1717

INTERIOR REGION – 16 ACs

Central
Delta
Eagle
Fairbanks
Grayling, Antik, Shageluk and Holy Cross (G.A.S.H.)
Koyukuk
Lake Minchumina
McGrath
Middle Nenana River
Middle Yukon River
Minto/Nenana
Ruby
Stony-Holista
Tanana/Rampart/Manly
Upper Tanana/Fortymile
Yukon Flats

Regional Coordinator
Kyle Campbell
(907) 459-7263
kyle.campbell@alaska.gov

WESTERN REGION

Bethel
Central Bering Sea
Coastal Lower Yukon
Lower Kuskokwim
Mid-Lower Yukon
Central Kuskokwim

SOUTHEAST REGION – 11 ACs

N. Frederick Sound
Angoon
Elfin Cove
Icy Straits
Juneau-Douglas
Kake
Klukwan
Pelican
Sitka
Tenakee Springs
Upper Lynn Canal
Yakutat

Regional Coordinator
Annie Bartholomew
(907) 465-4046
annie.bartholomew@alaska.gov

S. Frederick Sound – 12 ACs

Craig
East Prince of Wales Island
Edna Bay
Hydaburg
Hyder
Ketchikan
Klawock
Petersburg
Port Alexander
Saxman
Sumner Strait
Wrangell

Regional Coordinator
Vacant

Regional Coordinator – 6 ACs
Savannah Hollingworth
(907) 543-2931
savannah.hollingworth@alaska.gov

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION – 18 ACs

Anchorage
Central Peninsula
Cooper Landing
Copper Basin
Copper River/Prince William Sound
Denali
Homer
Kenai/Soldotna
Matanuska Valley
Mt. Yenlo
Paxson
Prince William Sound/Valdez
Seldovia
Seward
Susitna Valley
Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road
Tyonek
Whittier

Regional Coordinator
Fari Fernandez
(907) 267-2354
fari.fernandez@alaska.gov

SOUTHWEST REGION – 12 ACs

Chignik
False Pass
King Cove
Kodiak
Lake Iliamna
Lower Bristol Bay
Naknek/Kvichak
Nelson Lagoon
Nushagak
Sand Point
Togiak
Unalaska/Dutch Harbor

Regional Coordinator
Natalie Romo
(907) 842-5142
natalie.romo@alaska.gov



Southeast Region

Annie Bartholomew



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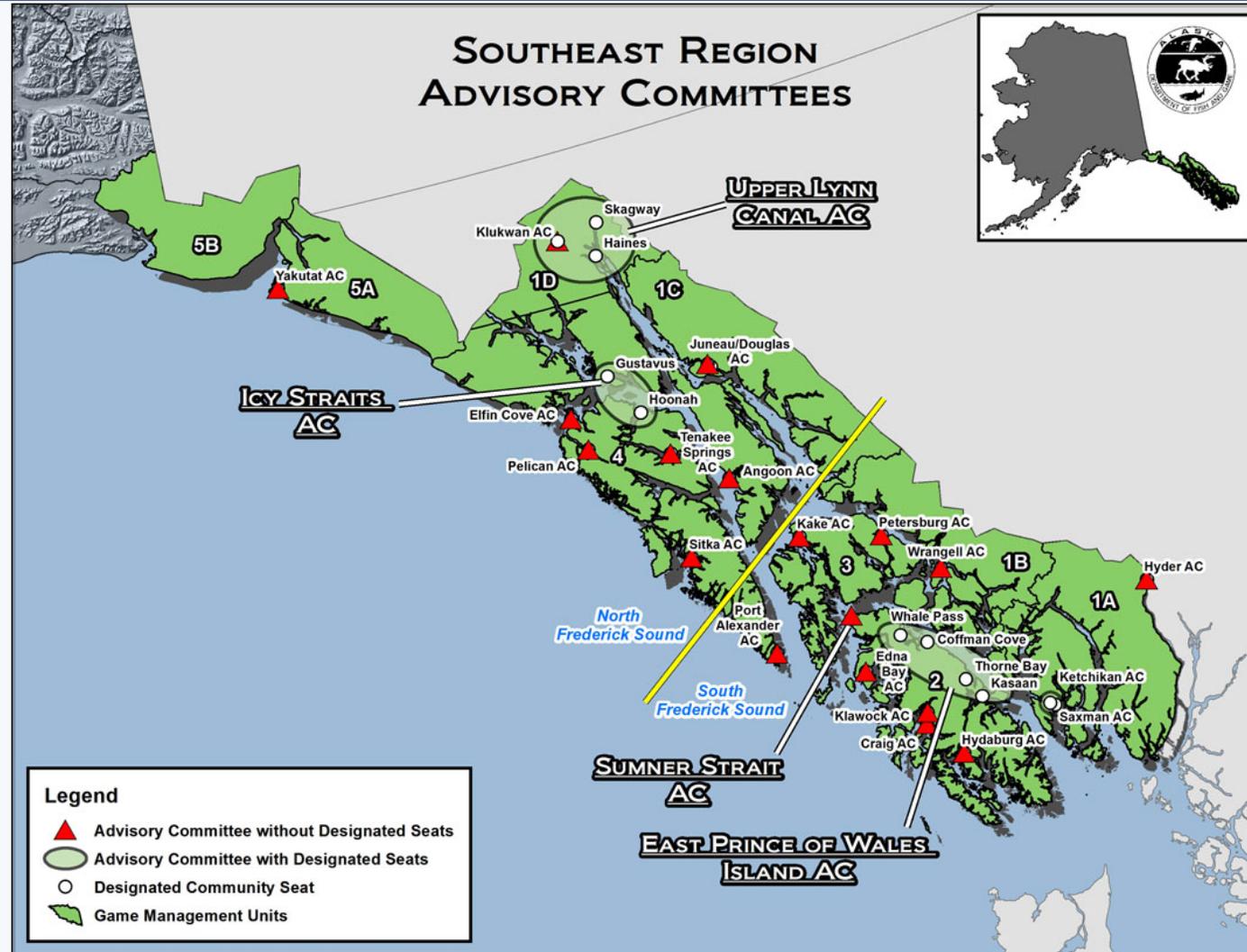
Southeast Region: Overview



Southeast (23 advisory committees)

Angoon • Craig • East Prince of Wales Island • Edna Bay • Elfin Cove • Hydaburg • Hyder • Icy Straits • Juneau-Douglas • Kake • Ketchikan • Klawock • Klukwan • Pelican • Petersburg • Port Alexander • Saxman • Sitka • Sumner Strait • Tenakee Springs • Upper Lynn Canal • Wrangell • Yakutat

- ➔ Represents 29 SE Communities
- ➔ 12 ACs active regularly
- ➔ 8 ACs Inactive
- 🏠 Located in GMUs 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 3, 4, 5A, 5B
- 🏠 Southeastern Alaska Area finfish, except the Yakutat AC, which has jurisdiction in Yakutat-Yakataga Area
- 🏠 Multiple Areas of federally owned land
- 🏠 Many members additionally serve on other councils, committees and working groups



Southeast Region AC Membership



- ➔ Total seats – 331
 - ➔ 21 ACs have 15 seats
 - ➔ The remainder have 7 and 9 seats
- ➔ 16 Single community ACs
- ➔ 6 ACs have community designated seats; the most having 4 represented communities (East Price of Wales)
- ➔ Recent & future re-activation
- ➔ Regional, state, federal, international cooperation



Southeast Region AC Meetings



- ➔ In-person, remote, and mixed participation
- ➔ Inactive ACs
 - ➔ Angoon, Elfin Cove, Hydaburg, Hyder, Klukwan, Saxman, Sumner Strait, and Tenakee Springs, Edna Bay, Kake, and Port Alexander
- ➔ Recent re-activation Interest:
 - ➔ Angoon, Kake, and Elfin Cove



Southeast Region AC Elections Process



- Getting word out
- Undesignated vs. community designated seats
- User group designated: Sitka, Juneau-Douglas, Craig, and Petersburg
- Alternates



Southeast Region AC Challenges



- ➔ Inactive ACs
- ➔ Recent & future re-activation
- ➔ Varying levels of technology
- ➔ Geographic separation/mixed ACs
- ➔ Aging communities & declining populations



Southeast Region AC Interests and Concerns



- ➔ Commercial fisheries
- ➔ Subsistence access
 - ➔ Sitka Herring, Black-tailed deer
- ➔ Human & bear interactions
- ➔ Tourism, guiding, sport fisheries

IN FOCUS: SITKA BLACK-TAILED DEER

Examining trends in ABC island deer populations, harvest and hunter participation



Fish and Game raises concerns over record high number of brown bear kills in Haines

Posted by Henry Leasia | Nov 12, 2020 | Featured Stories, News | 0

Researchers and managers with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game presented grim data about brown bears in Haines on Monday. High mortality rates have wildlife biologists concerned about the future of the local population. A record number of bears have been killed in defense of life and property this year.



Southeast Region AC Elections Process Proposals



Proposal #16: Eliminate seven advisory committees in the Southeast Region.

— *Proposer: Department of Fish and Game*

Proposal # 20: Assign seats on the East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee by community.

— *Proposer: East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee*



Southcentral Region

Fari Fernandez



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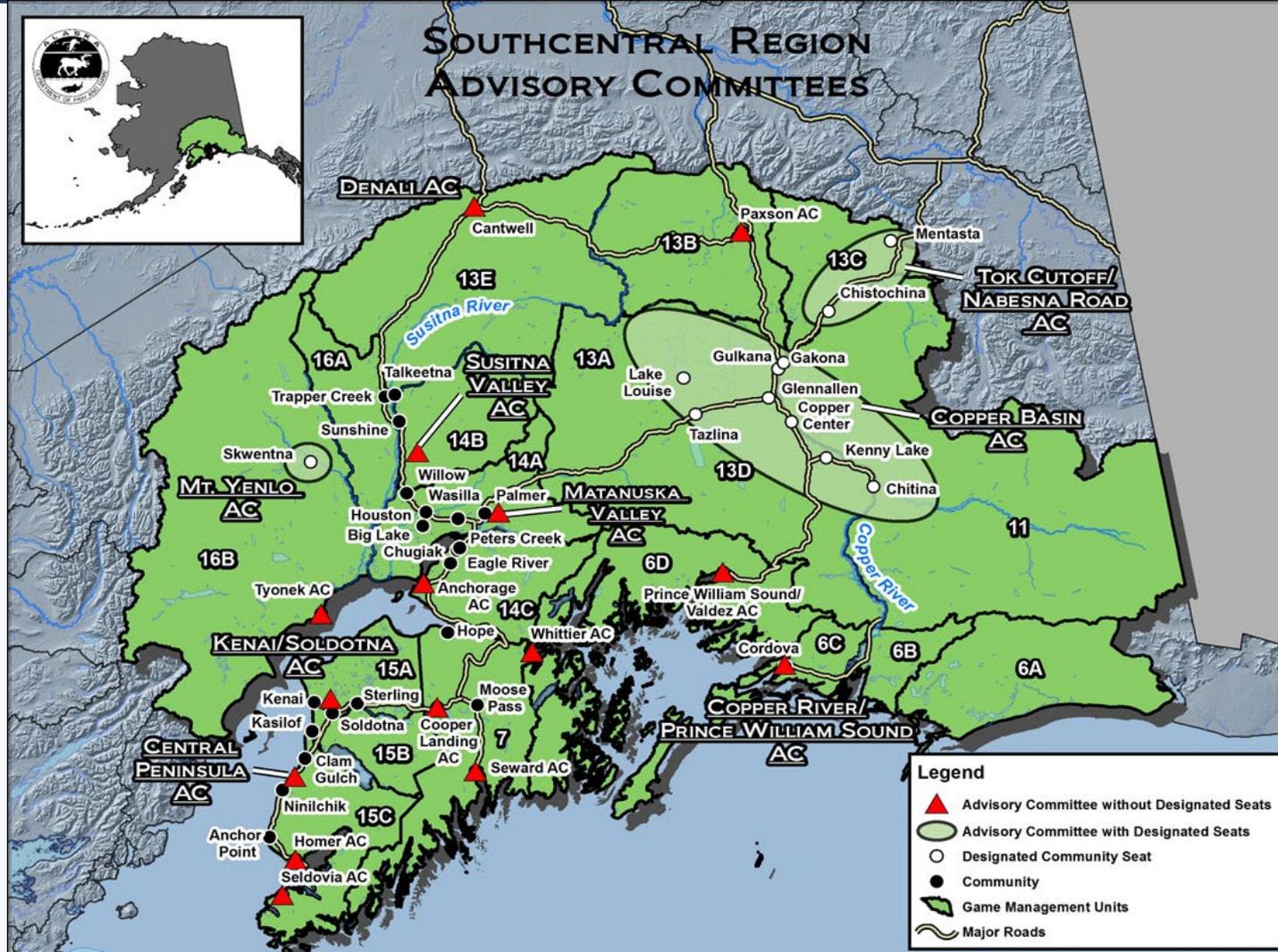
Southcentral Region Overview



Southcentral (18 advisory committees)

- Anchorage • Central Peninsula • Cooper Landing • Copper Basin • Copper River/Prince William Sound • Denali • Homer • Kenai/Soldotna • Matanuska Valley • Mt. Yenlo • Paxson • Prince William Sound/Valdez • Seldovia • Seward • Susitna Valley • Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road • Tyonek • Whittier

-  Located in GMUs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 15, 16
-  Represent 34 Communities
-  16 ACs met in the 2022/2023 meeting cycle & 15 ACs met during the 2023/204 meeting cycle
-  6 ACs offer meetings accessible via web conference





Southcentral Region AC Meetings

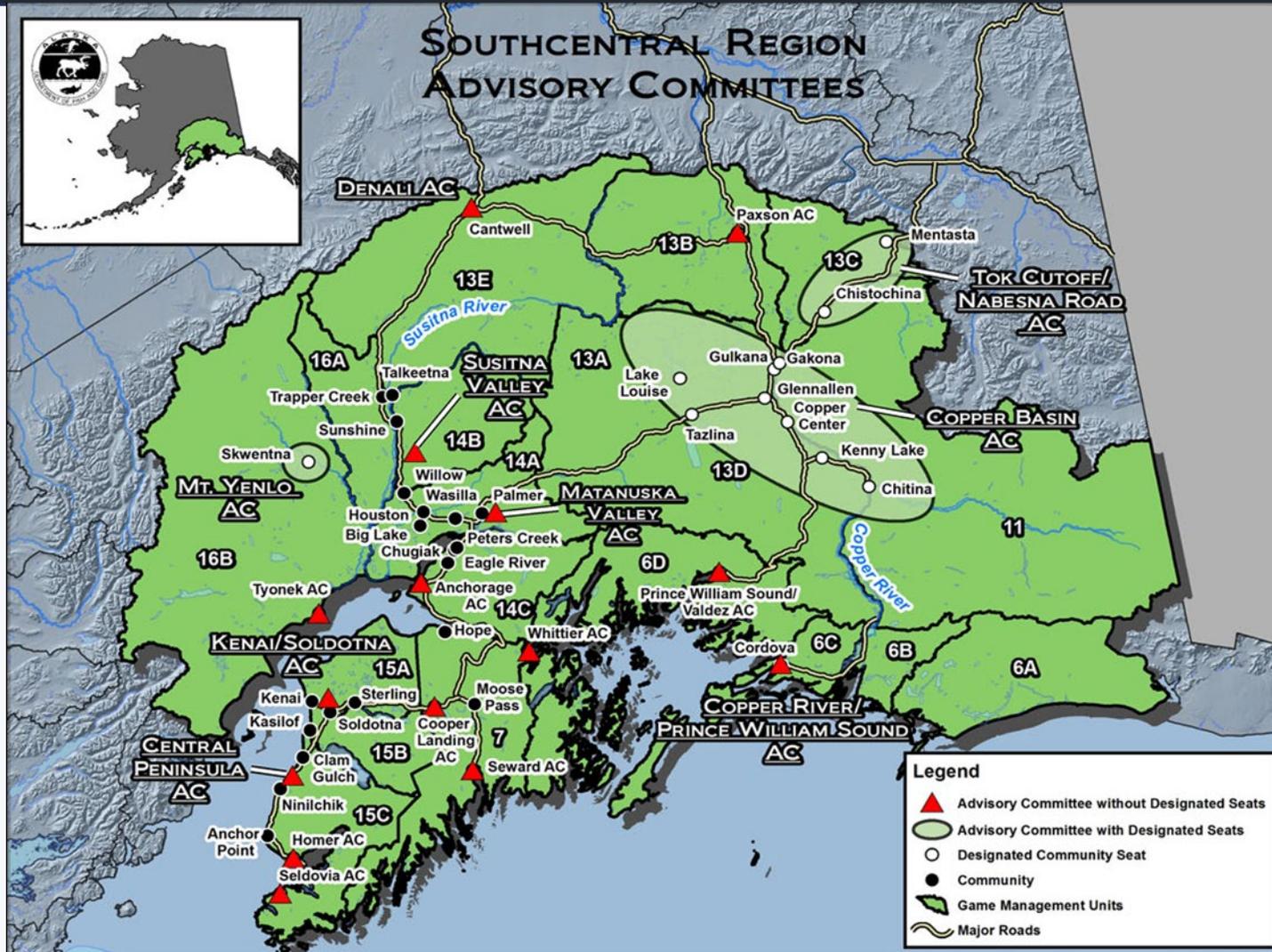
- 🐾 16 ACs met during 2023/2024 Cycle and 2022/2023 Cycle
- 🐾 Active ACs:
 - 🐾 4 ACs meet monthly
 - 🐾 12 ACs meet 1-3 times per cycle
 - 🐾 2 ACs utilize subcommittees
- 🐾 8 ACs offer web/teleconference accessible meetings.



Southcentral Region AC Membership



- 14 ACs have 15 members; the remainder have 7, 9 and 11 members.
- 15 ACs have undesignated seats
- 3 ACs have Community Designated Seats
- About 100 AC members have served multiple terms.
- Several members serve on other councils, committees and working groups.



Southcentral Region AC Election Process



- 🐐 Elections for designated and undesignated seats occur during AC meetings.
- 🐐 7 ACs offer web/teleconference participation.
- 🐐 2 ACs hold elections in the spring, 1 AC hold elections in the summer, and the remainder hold elections in the fall or the 1st meeting of the season.
- 🐐 Most ACs nominate alternates during election meetings from nominees that did not get enough votes for full membership.



Southcentral Region AC Challenges



- 🐐 Dual Management of resources
- 🐐 Different Challenges for each AC
- 🐐 Frequent meetings for the larger community ACs



Southcentral Region AC Proposals



Proposal 8: Allow advisory committees the discretion to set membership term dates.

Proposed By- Homer AC





Southwest Region

Natalie Romo



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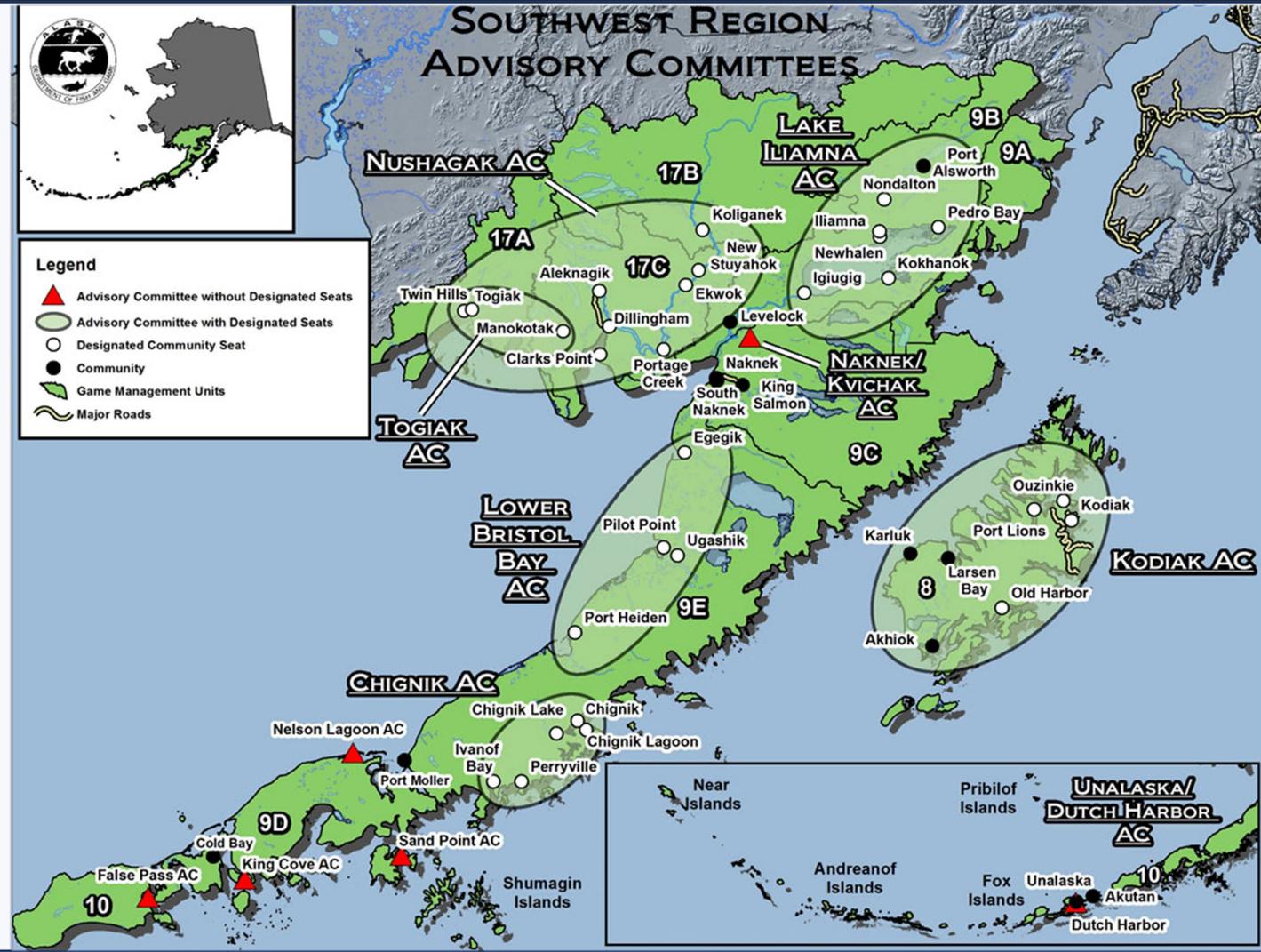
Southwest Region Advisory Committees



Southwest (12 advisory committees)

- Chignik • False Pass • King Cove • Kodiak
- Lake Iliamna • Lower Bristol Bay • Naknek/Kvichak • Nelson Lagoon • Nushagak • Sand Point • Togiak
- Unalaska/Dutch Harbor •

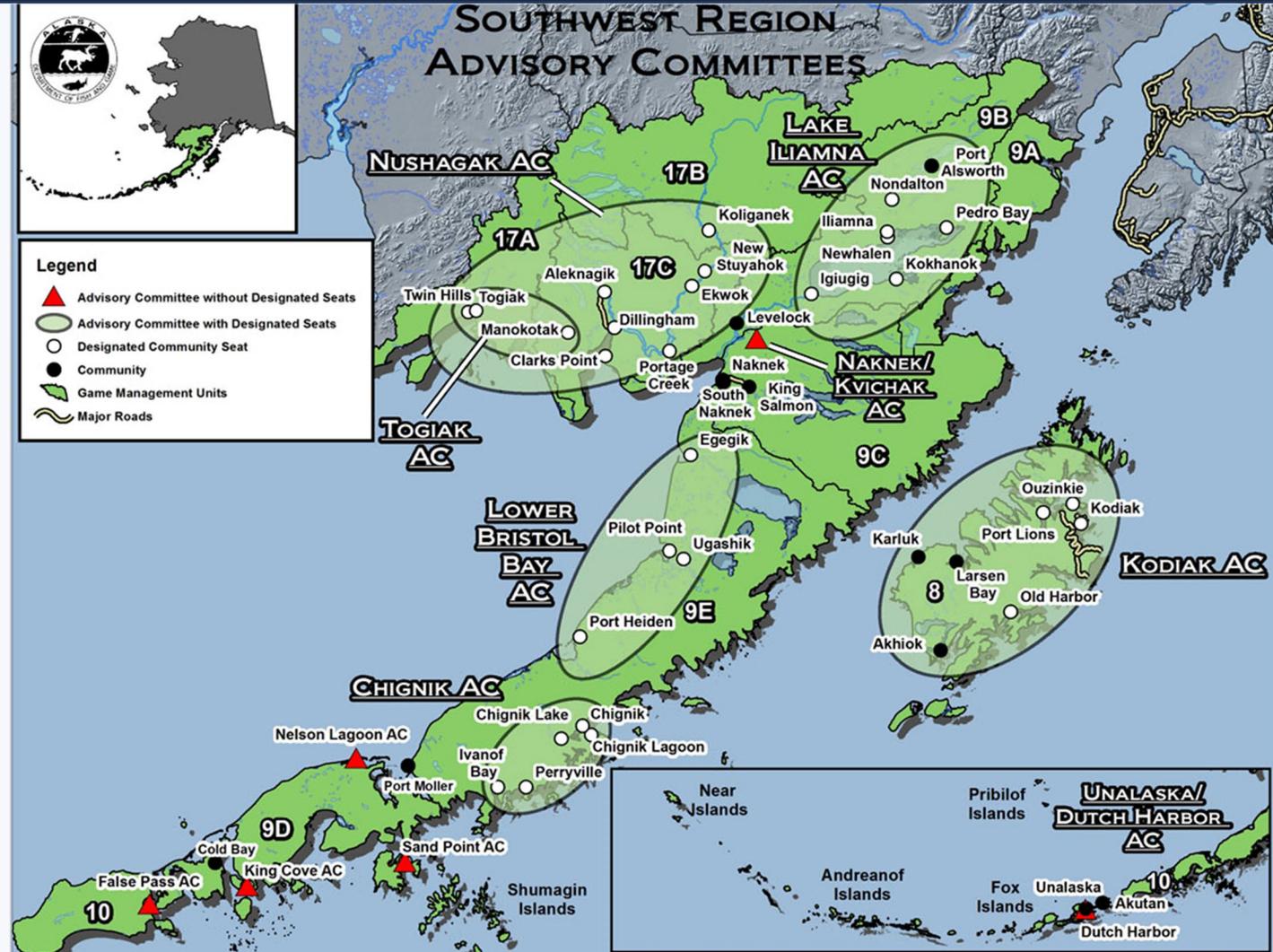
- 🐾 Located in GMUs 8, 9, 10 and 17
- 🐾 Finfish Registration areas K, L, M, O, and T.
- 🐾 Multiple Areas of federally owned land
- 🐾 All ACs Active
- 🐾 Many members additionally serve on other councils, committees and working groups
- 🐾 Ac's collaborate with other entities to foster effective communication



Southwest Region AC Membership



- 🐾 12 AC's represent of 44 Communities
- 🐾 5 ACs are Single Communities (all located in the Ak Peninsula and Aleutian Island AC's)
- 🐾 6 ACs have Community Designated Seats, the most being 9 (Nushagak AC)
- 🐾 3 ACs have 15 members; the remaindering AC's membership range between 14 and 5 members.
- 🐾 Most AC's have community designated alternates
- 🐾 Many Long-serving Members
- 🐾 Membership for 1 AC adjusted by the Joint Board in 2019



Southwest Region AC Meetings



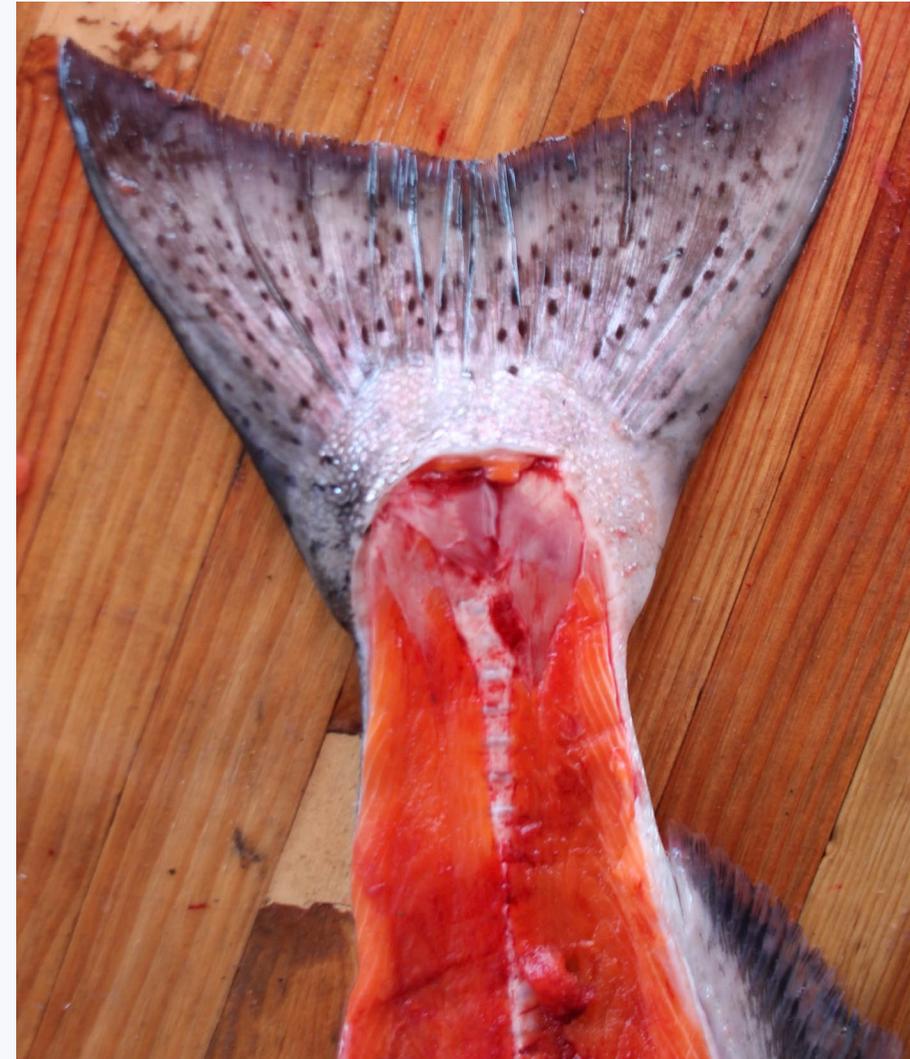
- 🐻 Holding in-person meetings can be difficult
- 🐻 All meetings accessible via Zoom or teleconference.
- 🐻 5 ACs met during 2023/2024 Cycle
- 🐻 ACs that have this the current cycle have held 1 to 4 meetings.
- 🐻 3 AC's are cyclically active



Southwest Region AC Election Process



- 🐻 Elections occur during AC meetings and at the local level including via teleconference.
- 🐻 Elections for community designated seats are held in person in their respective communities
- 🐻 Elections for AC's representing multiple communities with no seat designations take place via Zoom/teleconference.
- 🐻 Difficulty finding Nominations for Community Designated Seats.
- 🐻 Challenging to find help with Elections at the Community Level



Southwest Region AC Challenges



- None on the road system; 6 Serviced by the Alaska Marine Highway
- year round fisheries in the Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island areas.
- Multi season Hunts in the Bristol Bay area
- Schedule conflicts with members who serve on other regional entities in addition to serving on the AC
- Finding interested individuals to serve.



Southwest Region AC Interests and Concerns



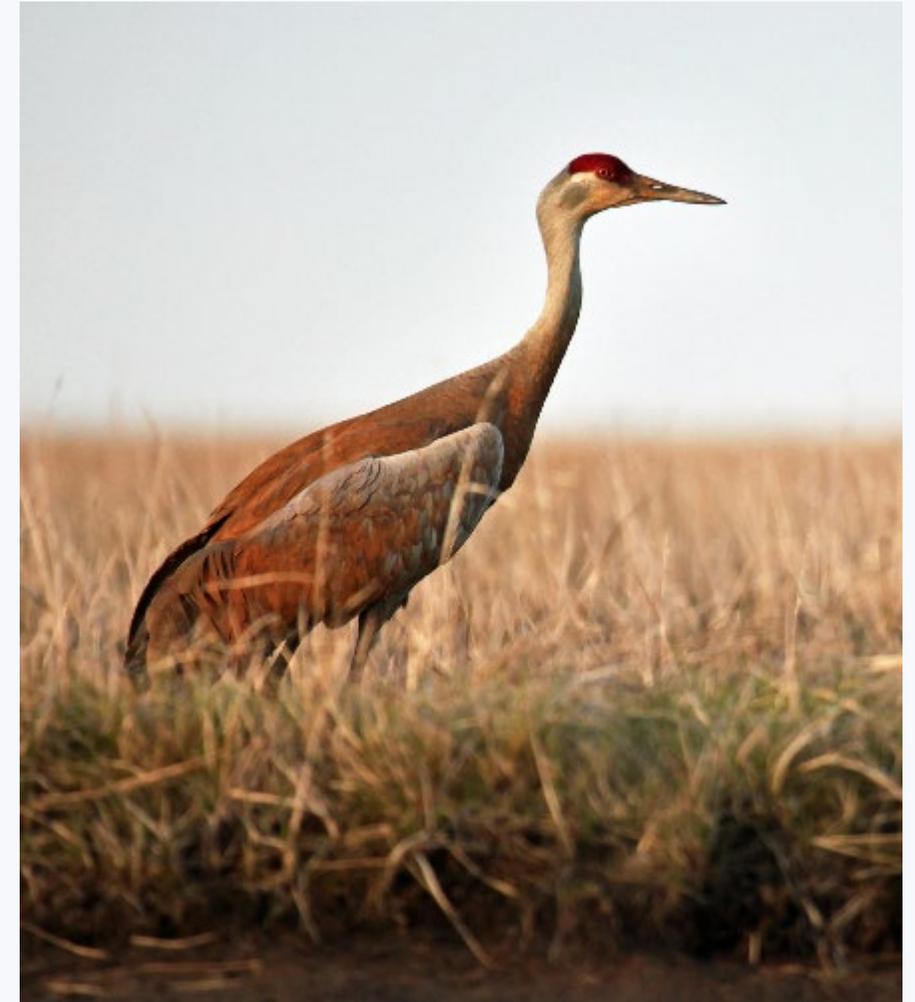
- 🐻 Effects of changing weather patterns
- 🐻 Subsistence food availability
- 🐻 Commercial and Sport fisheries
- 🐻 Local hunts and guided activities
- 🐻 Intensive management and habitat designations
- 🐻 Preservation of local/cultural lifestyle and traditions





Western Region

Savannah Hollingworth



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Western Region Advisory Committees



Western (6 advisory committees)

- Bethel • Lower Kuskokwim • Central Kuskokwim • Central Bering Sea • Coastal Lower Yukon • Mid-Lower Yukon



Represent 42 Communities; 56 federally recognized tribes



Located in GMUs 18 and 19, with jurisdiction in GMUs 18, 19 and 21



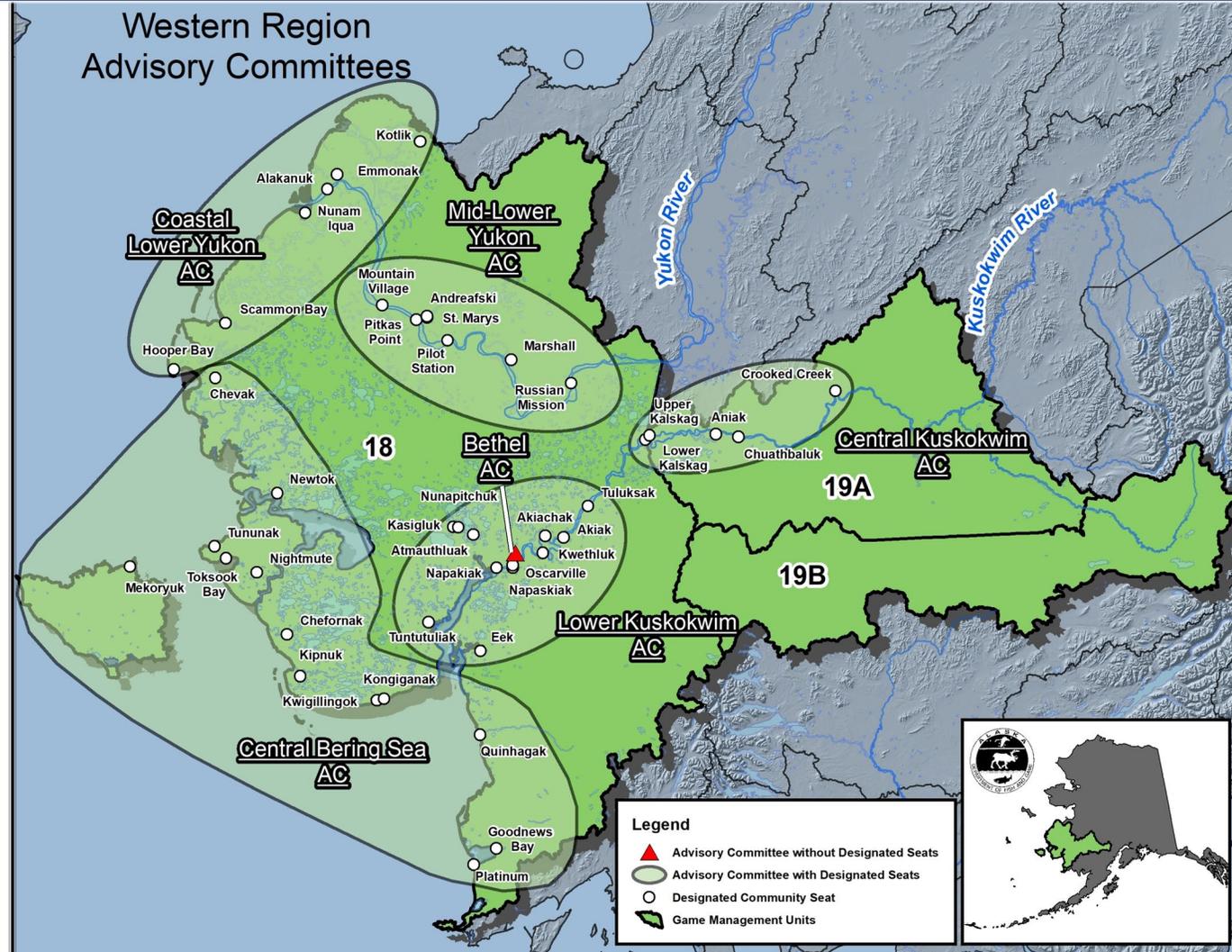
Finfish jurisdiction in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers Federal, State, Tribal and some private land



Two AC's created in 2013: Bethel AC and the Lower Yukon AC was split creating the Coastal Lower Yukon



1 AC is Inactive – but hope to be active again in the fall



Western Region AC Membership



- 2 ACs represent more than 12 communities; 2 ACs have less than 10 seats, remainder have 10 or 11 members.
- 5 ACs have Community Designated Seats, most of them being Sole Community Designated Seats
- 1 AC is a Single Community (Bethel)
- 3 ACs have undesignated seats. The other 3 ACs are made up entirely out of community designated seats
- Several Long-serving Members
- Several members serve on other councils, committees and working groups.
- Alternates are rarely used and are handled differently by each AC



Western Region AC Meetings



Western (6 advisory committees)

-  5 ACs Met in the 2022/2023 & the Current meeting Cycle
-  All meetings Accessible via Teleconference and/or Zoom
-  Regularly face weather issues, leading to rescheduling, quorum issues or members stuck which can drive up costs for both the department and members.
-  Funding limits in person meetings for 5 ACs.
-  Central Bering Sea AC mtg Expenses are up to \$10,000 - \$20,000, depending on participation, hall use, interpreter fees, etc.
-  A translator is needed for 1 of the Acs, but most could benefit.
-  Long meetings, typically 1-2 full days



©Anna Rose McArthur-KYUK

Western Region AC Election Process



- ✂ Elections are completed at the local level by the Tribal Council or city government with assistance from the coordinator.
- ✂ Challenging to find help with elections at the community Level.
- ✂ Not all villages administer elections the same way.
- ✂ Many villages would prefer appointments, disruption of common practices, outside their culture.
- ✂ Difficulty finding nominations for Community Designated Seats.
- ✂ Participation at meetings is often limited, especially from outlying villages, so doing community designated elections at AC meetings is not practical.
- ✂ The coordinator administers elections for a few of the AC seats and the Bethel AC.



Western Region AC Challenges



- 🐄 Weather and Travel Difficulties
- 🐄 Spread out ACs with many sole designated seats
- 🐄 Finding willing individuals to serve.
- 🐄 Cultural Differences and Language Barriers
- 🐄 Lack of Infrastructure and up to date technology, such as computers
- 🐄 Lack of communication with some communities
- 🐄 Slow communication; ie no email, slow mail delivery, unreliable faxes.
- 🐄 Socio-Economic Issues
- 🐄 Some members struggle with the financial stability to participate



©Elwood Brand, BSAR

Western Region AC Interests and Concerns



-  Food Security
-  Continuation of Culture and inclusion of TEK in the Boards' decisions
-  Subsistence Rights and Indigenous Sovereignty
-  Climate Change and how it effects the region
-  Multi-species salmon declines on the Yukon and Kuskokwim
-  Decline/Disappearance of Commercial Fisheries, limiting economic opportunities
-  Socio-economic Issues
-  Being able to afford participation in the program



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Interior Region

Kyle Campbell



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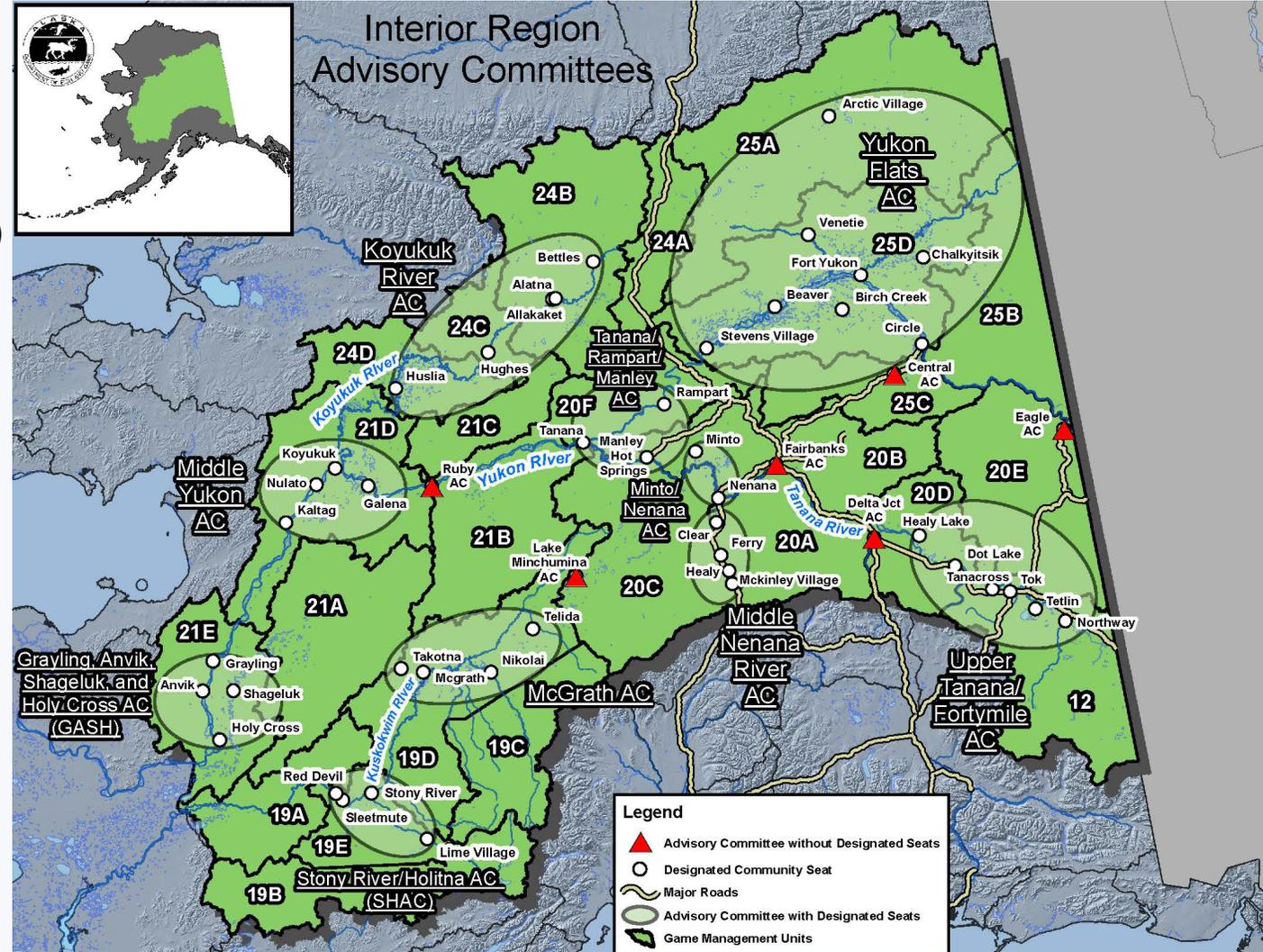


Interior Region Overview

Interior (16 advisory committees)

- Central • Delta • Eagle • Fairbanks
- Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross (GASH)
- Koyukuk River • Lake Minchumina • McGrath
- Middle Nenana River • Middle Yukon River
- Minto/Nenana • Ruby • Stony/Holitna
- Tanana/Rampart/Manley
- Upper Tanana/Forty Mile • Yukon Flats

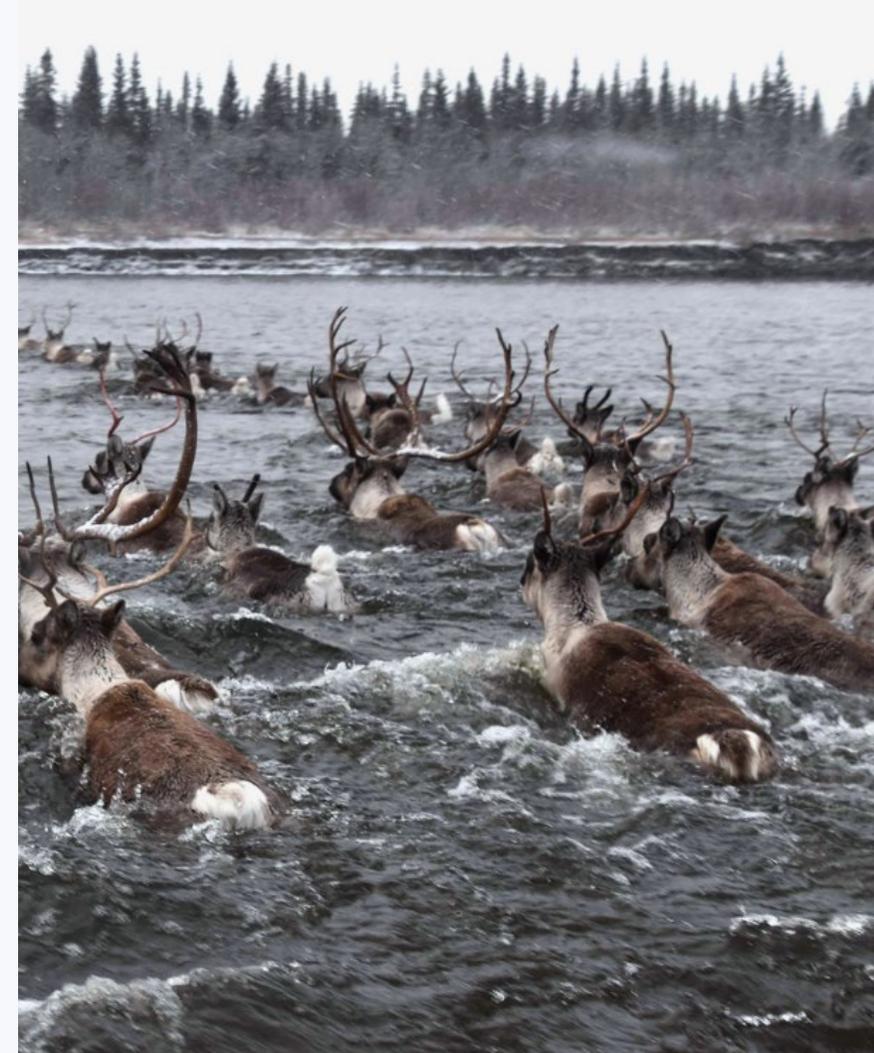
-  13 Active
-  10 Rural
-  4 Road System



Interior Region AC Membership



- 🐾 4 ACs have 15 members, the remainder have 8, 9, 11, or 13 members
- 🐾 11 ACs have community designated seats; the most having 8 represented communities (Yukon Flats AC)
- 🐾 5 ACs represent single communities (Central, Delta, Eagle, Fairbanks, Ruby)
- 🐾 Most ACs utilize alternates to achieve quorum and/or to fill vacancies that arise mid-cycle
- 🐾 Most ACs include members that serve on other councils, committees, and working groups



Interior Region AC Meetings



- 🦌 13 ACs met during the 2023/2024 Cycle
- 🦌 Road System ACs meet 4-10 times per cycle
(cost of meetings varies from \$0 to \$100 per meeting)
- 🦌 Most non-road system ACs meet in person at least once per cycle, with additional meetings held by web/teleconference
(cost of in person meetings varies from \$0 to over \$12,000 per meeting)
- 🦌 All meetings accessible by web/teleconference
- 🦌 Weather often disrupts travel for in person meetings



Interior Region AC Elections Process



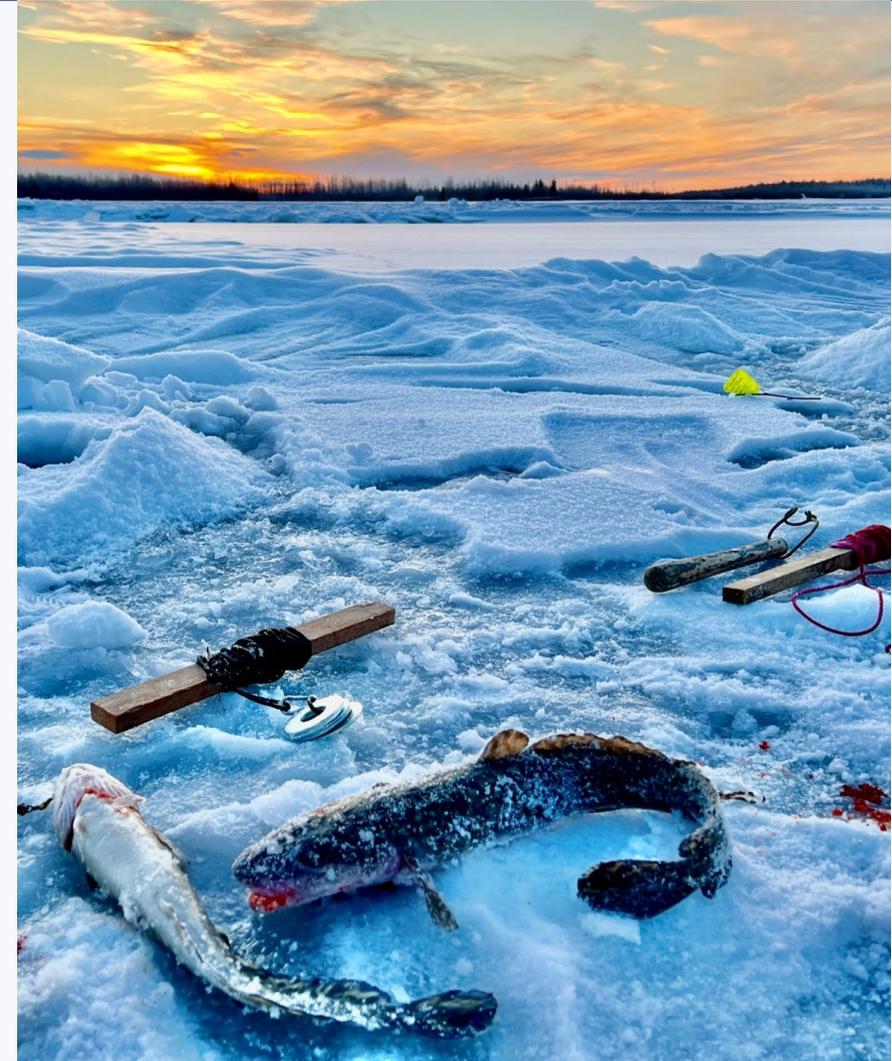
- 🐾 Elections for designated and undesignated seats typically occur during AC meetings, including via web/teleconference
- 🐾 Difficulty holding elections for community designated seats as terms expire
- 🐾 Challenging to find help with elections at the community level
- 🐾 Low public engagement in non-road system AC elections



Interior Region AC Challenges



- 🦌 Vast Area
- 🦌 Dual Management
- 🦌 Attendance & Retention
- 🦌 Lost Opportunities
- 🦌 Records of Meetings



Interior Region AC Highlights



- 🦌 Working together with other organizations
- 🦌 Sharing knowledge between generations
- 🦌 Hybrid Meeting Model = accessibility
- 🦌 Emerging leaders





Interior Region: Proposals

Proposal # 7: Allow advisory committees with community designated seats to appoint alternates for those communities.

— *Proposer: Minto/Nenana AC*

Proposal # 19: Change the Fairbanks Non Subsistence Use Area Boundary

— *Proposer: Mike Tinker*



Arctic Region Vacant

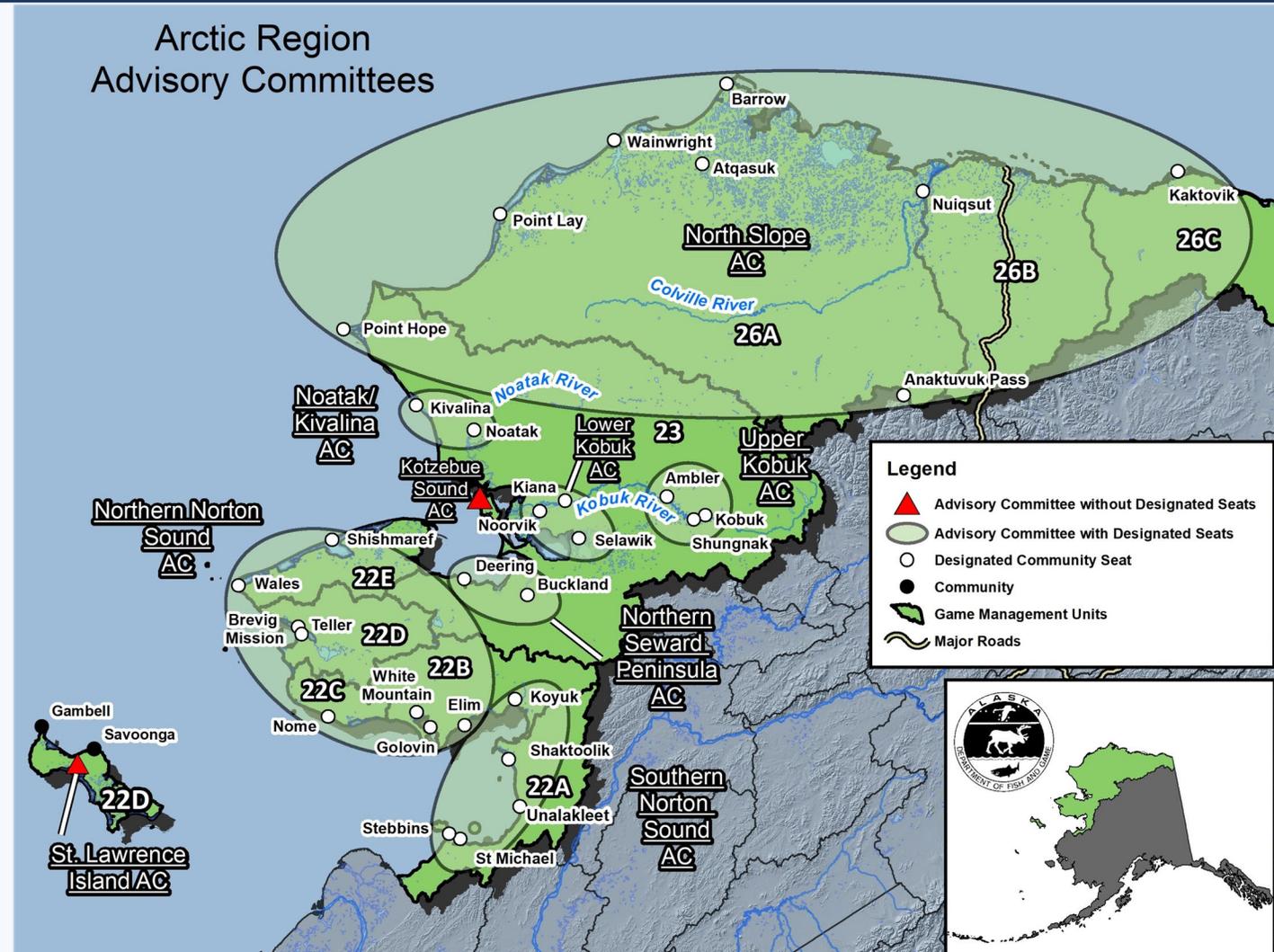


© Jim Dau

Arctic Region AC Membership



-  4 ACs have 15 members; remainder have 9 & 10 members.
-  7 ACs have community designated seats, the most having 8 (Northern Norton Sound AC)
-  Membership for 3 ACs adjusted by Joint Board in 2019.
-  North Slope AC serves as the North Slope Borough Fish and Wildlife Committee
-  Only 1 AC currently utilizes alternates.



Arctic Region AC Meetings



🐾 4 ACs met during 2023/2024 & 2022/2023 Cycle

🐾 Active ACs:

🐾 Meet 1-2 times per cycle

🐾 Meetings are accessible with web or teleconference.

🐾 Inactive ACs:

🐾 Prior years would hold 1 to 2 meetings per year, depending on topics and issues before the boards.

🐾 Meetings accessible with teleconference

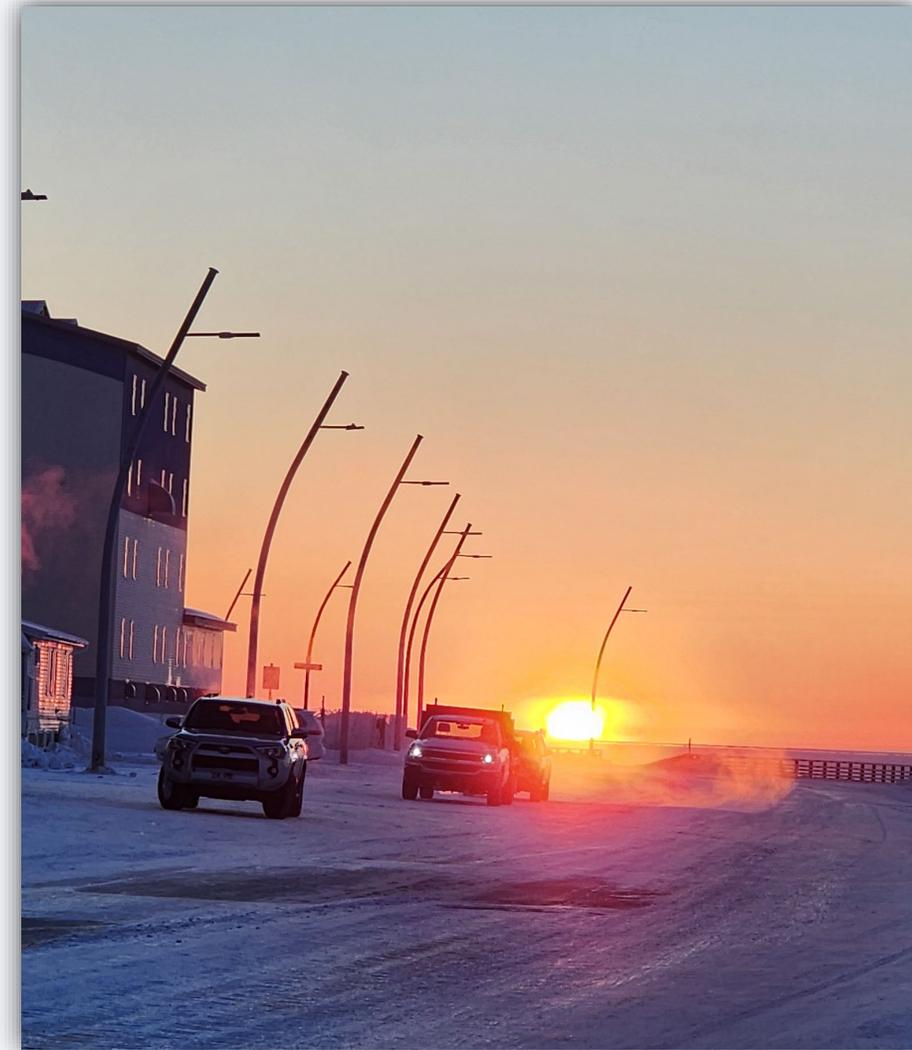
🐾 Funding limits all in person meetings except for Kotzebue.



Arctic Region AC Election Process



- 🐾 Elections occur during AC meetings and at the local level.
- 🐾 Difficulty finding nominations for community designated seats.
- 🐾 Challenging to find help with elections at the community level



Arctic Region AC Challenges



- 🐾 Regional Coordinator Position Currently Vacant
- 🐾 Lack of communication with several communities and former AC officers and members.
- 🐾 Finding interested individuals to serve.

