

## Subsistence and Harvest

Subsistence use refers to the customary and traditional uses of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation. Subsistence use also includes the making and selling of handicrafts made from nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption, for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption.

The harvesting of fish, game, and other wild resources for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, handicrafts, and trade is an important part of subsistence culture for the Iñupiat and other residents within the planning area. Subsistence and harvest activities throughout the planning area are diverse, with unique regional and temporal concentrations. Subsistence use is extensive not only in terms of geographic extent but also in terms of the number and variety of species harvested and used. Oftentimes, these activities are based on important cultural traditions that are intertwined with the existence of the rural indigenous communities across the North Slope. Within the planning area nearly all lands and waters are used for traditional subsistence activities, including the harvest of fish, game, and other wild resources; however, the most important areas for these uses are specifically identified in this plan. These areas will be retained in public ownership and managed to maintain subsistence and traditional use harvest opportunities.

This section will consider the subsistence needs of rural Alaska residents that extensively utilize these resources. The Goals, Objectives, and Management Guidelines that follow apply to areas classified as Habitat with a designated use for Harvest.

### Goals

**Maintain Resource Areas.** Maintain in public ownership and protect subsistence resources sufficient to conserve a diversity of biological resources to support traditional harvest opportunities in areas that receive high levels of subsistence uses.

**Maintain Traditional Use of Resources.** Maintain resources necessary to support traditional use for cultural activities and practices.

**Manage for Sustained Yield.** ADNR management of state land and resources is to be consistent with the requirements of sustained yield, as expressed in the State Constitution.

**Contribute to Economic Diversity.** Protect fish and wildlife resources which contribute directly or indirectly to local, regional, and state economies through subsistence, personal use, and non-consumptive uses.

## Objectives and Management Guidelines

**Objective A.** Use and implement adequate protection measures to ensure the sustainability of fish and wildlife habitat, populations, and the continuation of other uses of the area.

- **Guideline A-1.** The management of state land and resources are to be consistent with the requirements of maximum use and sustained yield consistent with the public interest, as described in Article VIII of the State Constitution.
- **Guideline A-2.** Consider subsistence and harvest needs of Alaska residents and the North Slope communities that extensively utilize these resources.
- **Guideline A-3.** Consult ADF&G regarding uses and activities that potentially impact the harvest of subsistence resources in areas designated for Harvest.

**Objective B.** Maintain and enhance the natural environment in areas known to be important as habitat for fish and wildlife necessary for subsistence harvest.

- **Guideline B-1.** Maintain to the maximum extent practicable the underlying integrity of the ecological systems supporting this traditional way of life within the planning area.
- **Guideline B-2.** When resource development projects occur, avoid or minimize changes in the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Guideline B-3.** ADNR decisions are to carefully consider the effects of a proposed project or activity upon these uses and resources, and authorizations are to ensure that adverse impacts are avoided, minimized, or mitigated consistent with the requirements of this section of Chapter 2 and, specifically, with Management Objective A within areas designated for Harvest.

**Objective C.** *Other Guidelines affecting Subsistence and Harvest.* Nearly all of the resource guidelines found within Chapter 2 either directly or indirectly affect subsistence and harvest activities within the planning area. The most commonly affected resource sections include Public Access, Transportation and Infrastructure, Materials, Water Resources, Subsistence and Harvest, Subsurface Resources, and Recreation and Tourism; however other resources addressed in this chapter's sections should also be considered.