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Diomed: Environmental Services Worker & Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Maintenance Worker \$31.73 + DOE

Elim: Direct Care Attendant Relief \$25.00 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE

Gambell: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41+ DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist \$26.41 + DOE

Golovin: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE

Koyuk: Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE

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Savoonga: Dental Assistant Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE

Shaktoolik: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$26.41

Shishmaref: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE

Stebbins: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Environmental Services Worker Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant \$25.00 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Maintenance Worker \$31.73 + DOE; Village Based Counselor Trainee \$27.41 + DOE

Teller: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist Relief \$26.41

Unalakleet: Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist & Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Assistant Care Coordinator \$34.25 + DOE; Pharmacy Technician \$27.41 + DOE

Wales: Village Based Counselor Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Community Health Aide Trainee \$27.41 + DOE; Clinic Travel Specialist & Relief \$26.41 + DOE; Maintenance Worker \$31.73 + DOE; Personal Care Attendant Relief \$25.00 + DOE

For more information or an up-to-date vacancy list, go to www.NortonSoundHealth.org or contact Human Resources at (907) 443-4573

NSHC is a drug-free workplace and will apply Alaska Native/American Indian preference for hire (under PL 93-638 and Veteran Preferences). NSHC will also initiate a criminal history/background check for all positions.

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Classifieds

WANTED – Mark Knapp at The Cutting Edge in Fairbanks is buying legal ancient walrus ivory, musk ox horn, mammoth ivory and teeth.
Very good prices. 907-452-7477.
Knapp's Cutting Edge 1971 Fox Ave Fairbanks AK 99701.
cuttingedge@gci.net

Legal

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT NOME

In the Matter of the Estate of:
CASE NO. 2NO-23-00081PR

Sandra Medearis
DECEDENT

DOB: January 8, 1941

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

You are notified that the court appointed as personal representative Kevin Hall of this estate. All persons having claims against the person who died are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

DATED this 6th day of November, 2023.

S/Kevin Hall
Personal Representative of the Estate of Sandra Medearis
1920 Drake Ave.
Panama City, Florida 32405
11.9-16-23.2023

Seawall

Nome Police Department
Weekly press releases
Activities reported between
10/30/9023 – 11/5/2023

During this period there were 200 calls for service received at the Nome Police Communications Center; 52 (26%) of these calls involved alcohol.
The Nome Volunteer Ambulance Department responded to 7 ambulance calls. The Nome Volunteer Fire Department responded to 2 fire calls during this period. NPD responded to 12 calls reporting intoxicated persons needing assistance. No-body was remanded to AMCC as protective hold; and 3 persons remained at the hospital for medical evaluation/treatment.

Arrests

A total of 11 arrests made with 11 (100%) alcohol related.

Monday, Oct. 30, 2023
Charge: Violating Conditions of Release. Name: Justina Adams. Location: Belmont St.
Charge: Assault in the fourth degree. Name: Kimberly Aluska. Location: Kings Place.

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023
Charges: Assault in the fourth degree; Resisting or interfering with arrest. Name: David Tom. Location: Kings Place
Charge: Disorderly conduct. Name: Adam Saccheus. Location: Front St.

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023
Charge: Disorderly conduct. Name: Jonathan Moses. Location: Greg Kruschek Ave.
Charge: Assault in the first degree. Name: Shane Koozaata. Location: W. Kings Pl.
Charge: Assault in the first degree. Name:



Nome Eskimo Community

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY: NEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEC is seeking a team leader. We offer great benefits and competitive salaries. The rate of pay is dependent on experience.

Responsibilities include:

- » Administration and management of Nome Eskimo Community Tribal operations;
- » Immediate supervision of administrative staff and program directors;
- » Overall financial management of NEC;
- » Monitoring state and federal legislation;
- » Negotiating funding agreements;
- » Working closely with the NEC Tribal Council;
- » Review and approve all personnel evaluations, and meet employee needs;
- » Develop working relationship with local organizations and various entities while promoting NEC.

Salary: Depends upon experience.

The job description and application are available on our website: www.necalaska.org

Questions? 907-443-2246 • jobs@necalaska.org

HIRING PREFERENCE: When possible, NEC extends a hiring preference for employment in accordance with section 7(b) of Public Law 93-638.

WE ARE A DRUG FREE WORKPLACE! When required, applicants must pass a criminal history check to be considered.

JOB OPENINGS

NMS is seeking to hire for several openings within its Custodial and Maintenance Department at the Nome Public Schools. Each position makes a significant difference and plays a vital role to maintain NPS facilities. Seeking **FT & PT Custodians**, a **Custodian Services Manager** and **Maintenance Technician** Positions. Each position requires some knowledge and experience. Come work with us! Apply today by visiting www.careers.nmsusa.com to get started. Have questions? Contact Facility Manager/Jonathan Duarte, at (907) 244-4121.







NSED
Job Opportunities

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation offers an attractive compensation and benefits package including competitive pay, 401K retirement program, and comprehensive healthcare options.

Quota Analyst (Anchorage, Nome or Unalakleet):
The Quota Analyst assists in managing and administering all quota activities and fishery acquisitions/investments (primarily non-regional). This includes, but is not limited to, Community Development Quota (CDQ) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) harvest related negotiations, allocations, monitoring, reporting, and regulations.

Facility & Fleet Manager (Nome or Unalakleet):
The Facility & Fleet Manager develops and provides oversight of maintenance and repair programs and procedures for NSED-owned facilities and vehicles. The position oversees repair and maintenance personnel.

For an application or a complete job description, visit www.nsedc.com or contact NSED Human Resources via phone: (907) 274-2248 (Anchorage) or 800-650-2248 (toll-free), or via email: hr@nsedc.com.

Advertise in The Nome Nugget newspaper

Call us at (907) 443-5235 or send an email to ads@nomenugget.com

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Photo by Nils Hahn

NOME RIVER MOUTH— The mouth of the Nome River is frozen on Tuesday, November 7.

Court

Week ending 11/3/2023
Civil
Samantha Ozenna v. Peter Ozenna; Spouses With Minor Children do NOT Agree on all Issues to End Marriage
Jeff Appel v. Wells Fargo Bank NA; Other Real Estate Matter
Jhon Sacett v. William Oquilluk, and Norma Jeanne Oquilluk; Eviction - District Court (may include rent and damages)
Thu Lan Munn v. Angelina Kogassagoon; Eviction - District Court (may include rent and damages)
Robert Burton Bue v. Leanne O'Connor; Eviction - District Court (may include rent and damages)
Jeanette D. Evan v. Robert Norris; Unmarried Parents do NOT Agree (or are unsure) on Parenting Plan
Florence Seetook v. Gary Amarak; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Windrow Sackett v. Deon Ellison and Azure Stanford; Eviction - District Court (may include rent and damages)
Melinda Anowlic v. Mark Adams; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Reila Okpowruk v. Gideon H. Okpowruk; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Lisa Larsen v. Christopher Aningayou; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Sang Y. Yi, and Jin J. Yi v. JPS Enterprises Inc.; Foreclosure
Capital One NA v. Richard J. McFarlane Clark; Debt Collection
Bank of America NA v. Rebecca Leigh Horton; Debt Collection
Vanessa Johnson v. Louis Ozenna; Un-

married Parents do NOT Agree (or are unsure) on Parenting Plan
Tuesday Iknokinok v. Barrett Penayah; Stalking: Short-Term
Miesha Niksik v. Christopher Miklahook; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Brad Soske v. Dannita Malewotkuk; Stalking: Short-Term
Terry Lee Jackson Toolie-Wongittilin, Old Name; Terry Lee Jackson Toolie, New Name; April A. Wongittilin, Petitioner, and Mitchell M. Toolie; Change of Name - Minor
Benjamin Weitzel v. Bryan Eady; Stalking: Short-Term
Department of Public Safety v. Ski-Doo 2019, Renegade; Other Superior Court Complaint
Discover Bank v. Veronica M. Lirios; Debt Collection
Arctic Gold Mining LLC v. Rolland Trowbridge; Other Real Estate Matter
Arthur Morton, and Jeanette Morton v. Catherine Dickson, and Council Native Corporation; Quiet Title (establish ownership)
Roger Ozenna v. Inalik Native Corporation, and All Persons Unknown; Other Superior Court Complaint
Kierra Rae Wicken, Old Name; Kierra Rae Parker, New Name; Trisha Parker, Petitioner and Ray Parker; Change of Name - Minor
Lydia Oyagak v. Catherine Ahkinga; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Benjamin Weitzel v. Bryan Eady; Stalking: Short-Term
Charlotte E. Key v. Erick Chapa; Stalk-

ing; Short-Term
Jamie Panariello v. Noah James Thompson; Stalking: Short-Term
Reila Okpowruk v. Gideon H. Okpowruk; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Wells Fargo Bank NA v. Alfred Sahlin, and Unknown Occupants; Eviction - District Court (may include rent and damages)
Kenneth Aaron Lee, Decedent; Julia Ann Lee, Petitioner; Presumptive Death (when there is no body, a legal declaration that a person has died)
Tadd Vandyke v. Jen Winkleman; Other Superior Court Complaint
Global Federal Credit Union aka Alaska USA FCU v. Sean C. Komonaseak, and State of Alaska Department of Administration DMV; Debt Collection
Henry Kakaruk v. Florence Habros; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
Wanda I. Iya v. Dylan Iya; Domestic Violence: Long-Term
Wanda I. Iya v. Dylan Iya; Spouses With Minor Children do NOT Agree on all Issues
Autumn Brown v. Thomas Amaktoolik; Domestic Violence: Short-Term
This is a record of court filing activity. The civil filings of protective order petitions do not reflect that the court issued an order or made a judgment.

Small Claims
No current claims distributed or available via CourtView

Criminal
State of Alaska v. Wilmer Campbell (8/17/99); CTN 003: Assault 4 - Recklessly Injure; Date of Violation: 8/15/22; CTNs Dismissed 001, 002, 004; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; 360 days, 272 days suspended; Unsuspended 88 days shall be Time Served; Surcharges due; Probation until 11/1/25; Comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall obey all state, federal and local law and ordinances; Do not consume or possess alcohol; Must submit to a portable breath test when requested by law enforcement upon probable cause of an alcohol violation; Subject to warrantless arrests upon probable cause of a probation violation; Any driver's license or state ID is subject to cancellation under cited AS; Any new license or ID must list the cited AS restriction until the restriction expires.
State of Alaska v. Gabriel Komakhuk (5/15/75); 2NO-22-312CR Assault 4 - Recklessly Injure; DV; Date of Violation: 8/20/22; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; 60 days, 0 suspended; Unsuspended 60 days shall be served immediately with credit for time served.
State of Alaska v. Gabriel Komakhuk (5/15/75); 2NO-23-302CR Assault 4 - Recklessly Injure; DV; Date of Violation: 7/25/23; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; 60 days, 0 suspended; Unsuspended 60 days shall be served immediately with credit for time served; Surcharges due.

State of Alaska v. John J. Topkok (11/18/65); Assault 4 - Cause Fear Of Injury; DV; Date of Violation: 7/31/22; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; 60 days, 60 days suspended; Must obtain Behavioral Health Assessment and follow all recommended treatment; Surcharge due; Probation until 11/2/24; Comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall obey all state, federal and local law and ordinances; Do not consume or possess alcohol; Do not enter a place where alcohol is the primary item for sale; Subject to warrantless arrest upon probable cause of a probation violation.
State of Alaska v. Tadd Vandyke (11/3/84); Violating Conditions of Release of a Misdemeanor; Date of Violation: 8/26/23; Any appearance or performance bond in this case is exonerated; 60 days, 60 days suspended; No Contact, effective immediately, and until unconditional discharge, defendant will have no direct or indirect contact with: Valerie Noongwook without her consent; Consent can be withdrawn; Surcharge due; Probation until 11/2/24; Comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall obey all state, federal and local law and ordinances; Do not consume or possess alcohol; Do not enter a place where alcohol is the primary item for sale; No bars or liquor stores; No alcohol in his residence; Subject to portable breath test when requested by law enforcement upon probable cause of an alcohol violation.

Trooper Beat

Stebbins
Assault - DV: On 10/23/23 at approximately 10:02 a.m., Alaska State Troopers received a report of an Assault - DV. Investigative results were forwarded to the DA's office for review and charging determination.

Norton Sound Region
Sexual Abuse of a Minor: On 10/24/23 at approximately 2:04 p.m., AST received a report of a Sexual Abuse of a Minor. The investigation is ongoing.

Elim
Assault - DV: On 10/25/23 at approximately 9:36 a.m., AST received a report of an Assault - DV. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Daniel Davis 26, of Elim for Assault 3, Assault 4, Criminal Mischief 4, and Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance 6.

Nome
Assault - DV: On 10/26/23 at approximately 10:15 a.m., AST received a report of an Assault - DV. Troopers responded and upon further investigation determined the incident occurred in the Nome city limits. Incident responsibility was transferred to NPD.

Unalakleet
Violate Conditions: On 10/29/23 at approximately 7:33 pm, AST received a report of a person Violating their Conditions. Investigative results were forwarded to the DA's office for review and charging determination.

Brevig Mission
Assault - DV: On 10/30/23 at approximately 3:40 p.m., AST received a report of an Assault - DV. Investigative results were forwarded to the DA's office for review and charging determination.

Stebbins
Assault - DV: On 11/1/23 at approximately 2:36 p.m., AST received a report of an Assault - DV. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Billie Jean Thrasher, 26, of Stebbins for Assault 2 and 3.

Nome
Driving Under the Influence: On 11/2/23 at approximately 6:51 a.m. AST received a report of a vehicle in a ditch. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Leroy Bradley, 20, of Nome for Driving Under the Influence.

Norton Sound Region
Sex Offense: On 11/3/23 at approximately 2:28 p.m., AST received a report of a sexual assault. The investigation is ongoing.

Stebbins
Assault - Non DV: On 11/3/23 at approximately 10:43 a.m., AST received a report of an Assault- Non DV. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Cosmas Pete, 42, of Stebbins for Assault 4 and Criminal Mischief 4.

Stebbins
Assault - Non DV: On 11/4/23 at approximately 3:29 p.m., AST received a report of an Assault- Non DV. Investigative results were forwarded to the DA's office for review and charging determination.

lating conditions of release. Name: Andrea Irrigoo. Location: Seppala Dr.

Traffic

A total of 3 traffic stops were conducted, with 3 warnings issued. NPD responded to 4 reports of a Motor Vehicle accident during this reporting period.

Disclaimer: This is a record of activity by the Nome Police Dept. The reports are provided by the Nome Police Department and are not independently verified by The Nome Nugget. The issuance of citations or the act of arrest does not assign guilt to any identified party. Officers refer all cases to the District Attorney.

Legal

NOTICE OF RUNOFF ELECTION 2023 Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAA) Friday, November 24, 2023

REAA #2 Bering Strait School District, Seat F

Absentee voting official located at:

**REAA 02, Unalakleet City Office
Monday – Friday, Nov 9 – Nov 22, Nov 24
8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m., 1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.**

This is a by-mail election. No polling places will be open on Election Day. The Division of Elections mailed ballots to registered voters in Koyuk, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet no later than Thursday, November 2, 2023. If you are not at your current mailing address or if you did not get a ballot in the mail, please contact the Region IV Elections Office.

Ballots must be voted, signed, witnessed, and postmarked by Friday, November 24, 2023.

Absentee Voting – November 9 – November 24

Absentee voting will be available in the Juneau, Anchorage, Wasilla, Fairbanks and Nome Elections Offices, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Offices will be closed on November 23. For more information on absentee voting procedures and polling place locations, please call your Regional Election Office or visit our website at: www.elections.alaska.gov.

Assistance

If you need assistance while voting, you may ask an election board member or bring a person of your choice to assist you, as long as that person on not a candidate, your employer, agent of your employer, or an agent of a union you belong to.

For more information, contact the Region IV Election Office in Nome at 907-443-5285 or toll-free at 1-866-953-8683

For Alaska Native language assistance, call 1-866-954-8683

The State of Alaska, Division of Elections, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special assistance and/or accommodations to vote, please contact your local Division of Elections office to make necessary arrangements. STATEWIDE TDD 1-888-622-3020

•Seawall

continued from page 12

Marilena Koozaata. Location: W. Kings Pl. Charges: Criminally negligent burning; Criminal Mischief in the third degree; two counts Violating Conditions of Release. Name: Renee Ellanna. Location: E. 4th Ave.

Friday, Nov. 3, 2023
Charge: Probation violation. Name: Marissa Shwooko. Location: E. 3rd Ave.

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023
Charge: Assault in the fourth degree. Name: Donald Weyanna. Location: Bering St.
Charges: Assault in the third degree; Vio-

With little movement on salmon bycatch, Alaska advocates look to Biden administration for action

By: Nathaniel Herz,
Northern Journal

Amid catastrophic shortfalls in salmon harvests in some of Alaska's rural, Indigenous communities, advocates have pleaded for a crack-down on unintentional catch of those same salmon by the trawl vessels that harvest billions of pounds of whitefish in the Bering Sea.

But the politically appointed regional council that manages Bering Sea fisheries has largely resisted those requests.

So instead, advocates are now taking another approach. They're pushing the Biden administration for a workaround: a rewrite of the federal guidelines that tell the regional council, and its counterparts across the country, how to manage all the fisheries under their supervision.

The idea has broad support from conservation groups, Alaska Native tribes, small-boat fishermen and Alaska Democratic U.S. Rep. Mary Peltola, who made her opposition to the unintentional salmon harvests, known as "bycatch," a key plank in her recent congressional campaigns.

But the Biden administration, after asking for feedback earlier this year on possible revisions to the guidelines, has not yet committed to take action. And any such efforts face opposition from politically connected fishing businesses and industry groups that say tougher bycatch rules and limits could cut into their profits or even shut down entire fishing fleets.

"There's a lot of question in my mind about whether they're going to really follow through," said Peltola, referring to the Biden administration. "There are so many things that the administration could do...that they haven't done."

Council inaction amid crisis

The new debate comes after several years in which salmon have returned to Western Alaska's Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers in numbers far below usual, forcing outright closures of fisheries or strict limits.

Residents of dozens of Indigenous

communities along those rivers depend on salmon to feed their families and generate cash income in a region where groceries are expensive and well-paying jobs can be hard to find.

Families would once catch hundreds of salmon every summer and fall. The absence of fish, in recent years, has posed what some tribal leaders describe as an existential crisis.

Scientists say that warming ocean waters, more than bycatch in Bering Sea fisheries, are driving the declines.

But advocacy groups and Western Alaska leaders have nonetheless aggressively pushed the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to set stricter bycatch limits, arguing that it's unjust for corporate-owned vessels to accidentally catch thousands of salmon when subsistence harvesters face fishing bans. The council — most of whose voting members were chosen by Alaska Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy — has not agreed to the requested caps on the trawl vessels. For now, it's chosen to study such proposals.

That's prompted advocates' more recent push for executive action from the Biden administration.

The effort centers on provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act — the landmark federal law passed in 1976 that still sets out the framework for America's federally managed fisheries.

The act contains 10 "national standards" that the council and its other regional counterparts must follow as they draft management plans for each fishery. To help the councils, the law also called for the executive branch, through the National Marine Fisheries Service, to publish guidelines with more detail about each of the different standards.

The guidelines aren't technically law. But judges can still look to them when deciding fisheries-related lawsuits because of what's known as "deference" — the idea that agency interpretations of laws should carry significant weight in court.

Climate change, environmental justice goals prompt review

Earlier this year, the fisheries service, known as NMFS, published a formal notice saying it was considering revisions to the guidelines for three of the 10 national standards, including the one that applies to bycatch. The two other guidelines under review apply to allocation — the division of fish harvests between different groups of harvesters — and impacts to communities.

NMFS officials say they're doing the review in part because it's been more than a decade since some of the guidelines were last updated. They also say they want to make sure that the language is aligned with overarching Biden administration directives to incorporate climate change planning, environmental justice and equity goals into federal policy.

"Those issues are very real for our fishermen across the country," Kelly Denit, the director of NMFS' Office of Sustainable Fisheries, said in an interview. "There is a general interest in making sure that we're looking at our system as a whole and trying to think about how we adjust and adapt to changing climates in particular."

The notice, which asked the public for feedback and ideas about possible revisions to the guidelines, generated a tidal wave of responses. "We understand that fisheries management is complex and there are multifacets to the decline in returns," the group's letter said. "However, it is critical to address the compounding issues of bycatch and its impacts to communities across Alaska. Policy should prioritize equity for Indigenous fishing communities."

Others endorsing revisions include a small-boat cruise line, The Boat Co.; an array of tribal governments ranging from Southeast Alaska to a Bering Sea island; small-boat fishing groups; and conservation organizations like Oceana and SalmonState.

NMFS is now reviewing the hundreds of comments it received and has not yet decided its next steps, said Denit. If the agency decides to

move forward, it aims to propose its revised guidelines in the spring, she added — a step that would kick off more public comment and participation.

"We recognize the national standard guidelines are important to all our regional fishery management councils. And we also understand that changes to those guidelines can cause potentially significant complications to our fishery management system," Denit said. "If we do decide to pursue any changes, we will be doing it in a very thoughtful and engaging way."

Some 400 formal comments came in from individuals, fishing industry interests and coalitions, tribal advocacy organizations, state government agencies and conservation groups.

The responses from fishing businesses and groups involved in the harvest of Bering Sea whitefish — and the bycatch of salmon — largely argued against any changes.

Seattle-based United Catcher Boats, which represents dozens of whitefish trawlers, said in its four-page letter that the Biden administration is considering "skirting Congress to advance partisan goals" — an idea that it called "deeply concerning."

Another industry trade group, Seafood Harvesters of America, said it supports the intent behind the Biden administration's idea. But it urged "extreme caution" and suggested that the Biden administration is contemplating changes to broad, national fisheries policy to address what's really a narrow problem.

"We are aware of the growing calls for better bycatch management in certain regions," the group's leaders wrote. "However, we strongly urge NMFS to resist the urge to make significant changes to fundamental management principles and guidelines to appease one specific region or sector."

Other stakeholders opposing guideline revisions include Dunleavy's administration and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

itself — which, like many others, criticized NMFS for ignoring requests to extend its four-month comment period until after the summer fishing season.

Peltola blasts "status quo"

Alaska's two Republican U.S. senators, Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, both requested an extension but didn't submit substantive feedback in response to NMFS' formal call for comments.

A spokesman for Murkowski declined to comment, while a spokeswoman for Sullivan, Amanda Coyne, said the senator is "closely following" the process.

Given the importance of the guidelines, "it is critical that any revisions be carefully thought through and done intentionally in an effort to avoid unintended consequences," Coyne added.

Peltola submitted her own five-page comment letter saying that "the status quo is failing most Alaskans, and NMFS needs to ensure the National Standards reflect the ocean's changing conditions and decreased productivity."

"The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has a moat around it. It is not interested in listening to citizens," Peltola said in the interview.

Dozens of other Alaska commenters said they want NMFS to follow through with revisions, including Anchorage-based Native Peoples Action. The group's letter included more than 200 co-signers and said inaction on the guidelines would result in "cultural genocide."

This article is printed with permission and was originally published in Northern Journal, a newsletter from Nathaniel Herz.



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