



# Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Recommendations 3E, 3F and 3G

Joint Meeting of the House Committee on Economic  
Development, Tourism, and Arctic Policy and the Senate  
Committee on the Arctic



Glenn Haight, Alaska Department of Fish and Game – 3E and 3F  
Brad Meyen, Alaska Department of Law – 3G  
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# Support Healthy Communities

**3E – Education & Outreach**

**3F – Food Security**

**3G – Endangered Species  
Listings**



# Strategic Line of Effort 3E

**Develop and support public education and outreach efforts that (a) enhance the understanding of Arctic conservation including biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources and management of natural resources and (b) promote public participation in development of fish and wildlife management plans within existing management systems and policies.**



# Education and Outreach 3E

*Education and outreach are integral to effective fish and wildlife management.*



## **ADF&G works to:**

- Connect people to fish and wildlife
- Promote awareness of Alaska fish and wildlife law
- Build support and advice for conservation, management and research efforts



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# Education and Outreach 3E

*Generate & strengthen people's connection with the natural environment.*



## **ADF&G Education in Action**

- Locally relevant hunter education
- Student, educator and parent resources
- Teacher workshops and webinars
- Events and programs
- Alaska Natural Resource & Environmental Literacy Plan



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# Education and Outreach 3E

*Engage Alaskans in learning about and getting involved in issues they care about.*



## Community Engagement

- Western Arctic & Teshekpuk Caribou Herds
- Moose of the Upper Koyukuk
- Sheefish in the Kobuk River
- Dolly Varden in the Wulik & Noatak Rivers
- Marine Mammal programs in the Chukchi, Bering, and Beaufort Seas



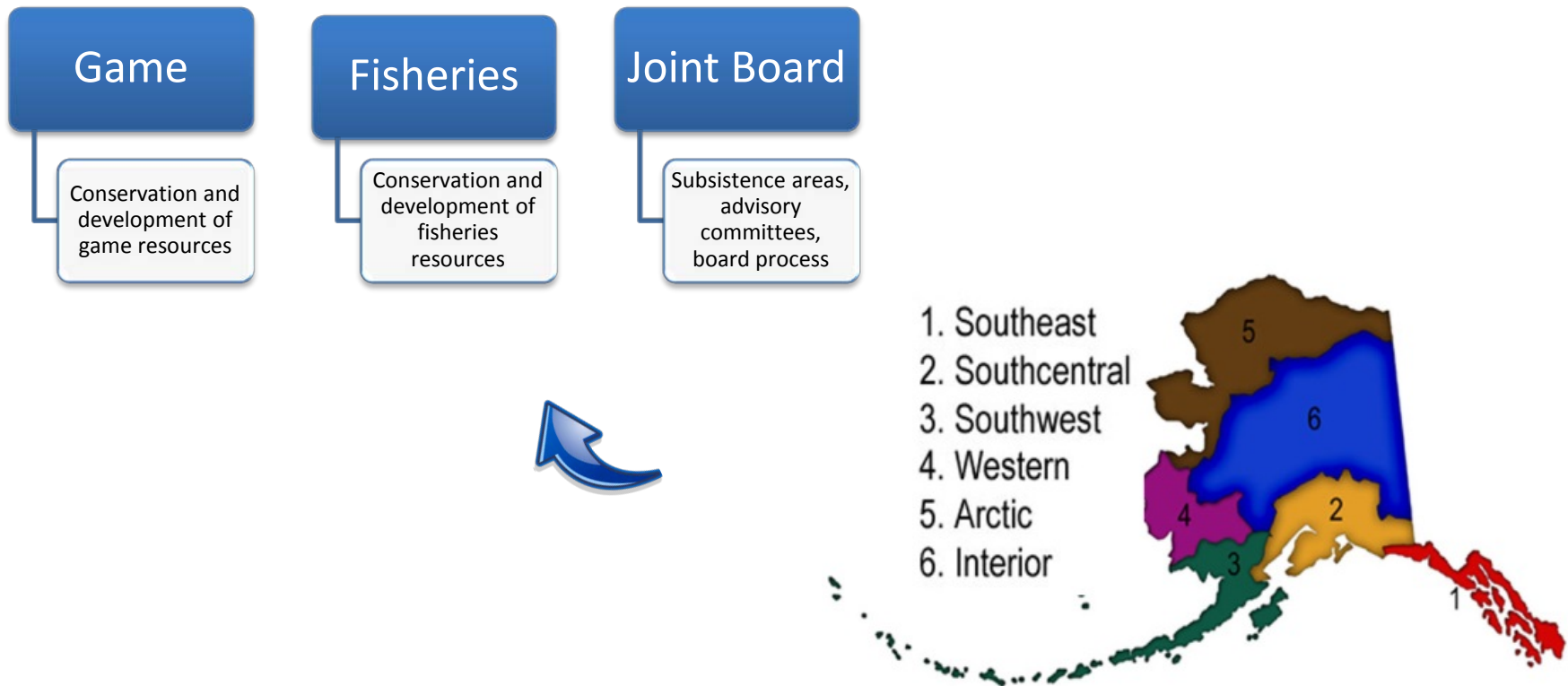
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# Education and Outreach 3E

*Publically led fish and game management system.*

## Boards and Advisory Committee System



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# Education and Outreach 3E

*Publically led fish and game management system.*



## Role of Advisory Committees

- Develop regulatory proposals
- Make recommendations on proposals
- Provides local forum for input
- Cooperate and consult with interested persons and organizations



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# Strategic Line of Effort 3F

**Enforce measures that protect and help further understanding of food security of Arctic peoples and communities.**

# Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

*Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.*



Photo courtesy of Cyrus and Joanne Harris

## Subsistence foods

- Researched and measured
- First priority in consumptive uses
- Are managed for sustainability

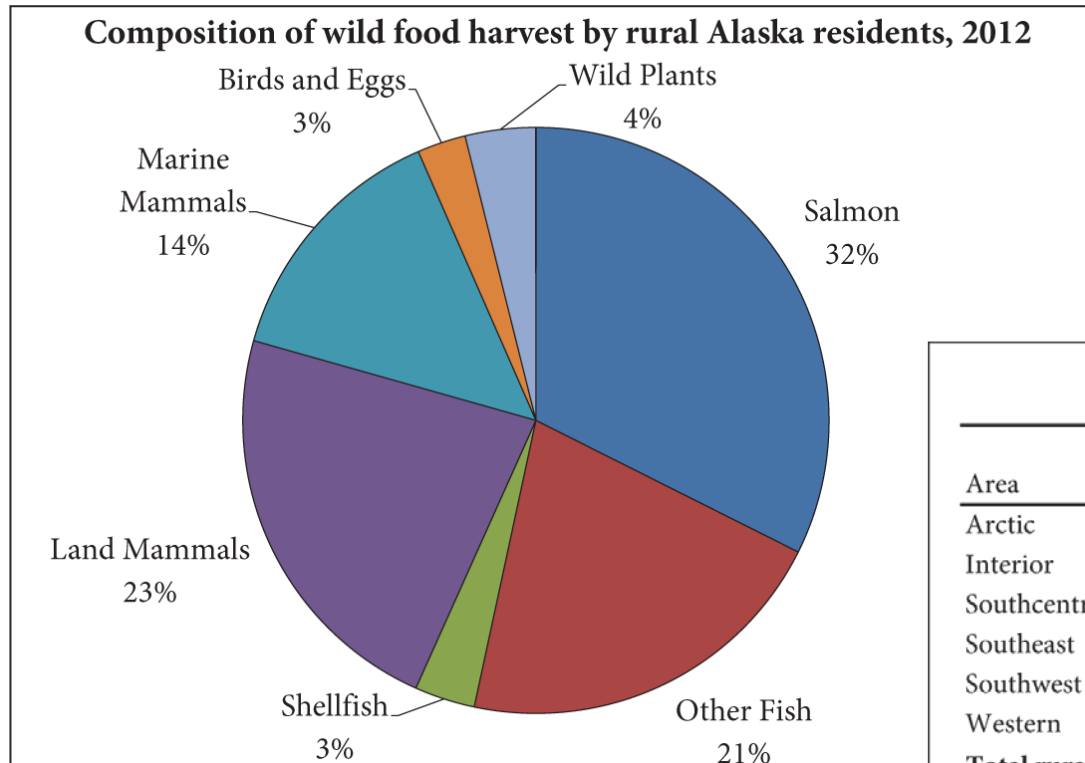


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# Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

*Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.*

## Subsistence Food Use



Percentage of households participating in subsistence activities in rural areas				
Area	Harvesting game	Using game	Harvesting fish	Using fish
Arctic	63%	92%	78%	96%
Interior	69%	88%	75%	92%
Southcentral	55%	79%	80%	94%
Southeast	48%	79%	80%	95%
Southwest	65%	90%	86%	94%
Western	70%	90%	98%	100%
<b>Total rural</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>95%</b>



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# Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

*Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.*



## Subsistence Research

- Targeted research and analysis includes understanding:
  - Food security, adapted for Alaska's nutritional and cultural environments
  - Food sharing networks
  - Subsistence foods contaminants
  - Subsistence patterns and trends



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# Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

*Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.*



## **Subsistence is the Priority**

- Subsistence use measured
- Subsistence use and amount approved by Boards of Fisheries and Game
  - Through customary and traditional use findings, and amount necessary for subsistence level
- First among consumptive uses

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# Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

*Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.*



## Resource Management

- Resources managed for sustainability.
- Resides with the Divisions of Wildlife Conservation, Sport Fish, and Commercial Fisheries.
- Annual assessments on critical stocks.
- Game led through intensive management.



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# Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

*Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.*



## Food Security & Climate Change

- Provide fish and wildlife data for climate change analyses
  - Changes in fish and wildlife distribution
  - Changes in timing of fish and wildlife migrations
- Document local knowledge of climate change impacts to ecosystems and the subsistence cultural landscapes



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# Strategic Line of Effort 3G

**Identify and promote industry, community and state practices that promote sustainability of subsistence resources while protecting against undue ESA listings and broad-brush critical habitat designations.**



# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

## *Endangered Species Act related activities*



Yellow-billed loon former Candidate ESA species  
– nests on North Slope

## **Protecting against undue ESA listings**

- Conduct research on *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*
- Close collaborative partnership between the Departments of Law and Fish & Game
- Influence federal decision making



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# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

## *Endangered Species Act related activities*



### **Response to Listing**

- Conduct research
- Participate in technical reviews
- Work with Department of Law



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# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

*Endangered Species Act related activities*

## Endangered Species Act Primer

- Public petition or agency initiate review
- 90-Day findings
- 12-Month status review and 12-month finding
- Proposed decision with economic impact analysis
- Final decision and critical habitat designated
- Establishment of recovery team and develop recovery objectives



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# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

*Endangered Species Act related activities*

## Endangered Species Act State Role

In passing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, Congress documented its intent to establish a cooperative process between federal agencies and states.



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# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

## *Endangered Species Act related activities*

### **State Role in 1994 Policy**

Provides that during consultation, Services to:

- Section 7—Inform State agencies of any Federal agency action likely to adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat
- Request an information update from State agencies prior to preparing final biological opinions



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# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

## *Endangered Species Act related activities*

### **Section 4(i)Response to States**

- The Secretary shall submit to the State agency a written justification for [the] failure to adopt regulations consistent with the agency's comments.”
- Polar Bear Critical Habitat Case – Won, Now in 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit on Appeal by USFWS and others
- Bearded Seal Listing Case—Won, Now in 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit on Appeal by NMFS and others
- Ringed Seal Listing Case—filed March 6, 2015

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# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

## *Endangered Species Act related activities*

### **Polar Bear Critical Habitat Case, 4(i)**

- Court disagreed that FWS had properly responded to Alaska's concerns under 4(i)
- “Because questions involving the Service's response to state agency comments are procedural issues, the Court's review differs from that under the arbitrary and capricious standard.”





# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

## *Endangered Species Act related activities*

### **Polar Bear Critical Habitat Case, Section 4(i)**

- “The Court here does not analyze the sufficiency of the Service’s justification for its responses to Alaska State Fish and Wildlife Management Agency’s (“ADF&G”) comments, which is given over to Service discretion, only the procedure the Service followed in carrying out its responses.”



# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

## *Endangered Species Act related activities*

### **Bearded Seal Listing Cases**

- Listed by NMFS based on 100-year model
- Numerous in population
- Science showing impact lacking
- State filed extensive comments
- Lack of meaningful response
- Won in 2014 NMFS Appealed to 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit
- Ringed Seal Case filed March 2015



# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

## *Endangered Species Act related activities*

### **State Collaboration**

- Build partnerships
  - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
  - Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
  - Western Governor's Association
  - Include Native Organizations, Industry, Local Governments, and Private Landowners
  - Participate in a state-federal ESA Joint Task Force
- Take concerns to Congress

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# Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

*Endangered Species Act related activities*

## **Collaboration--Ringed Seal Example**

- State of Alaska cooperated with industry, local governments, Alaska-Native regional corporations, and a regional tribal government in northern Alaska, all as plaintiffs in the listing challenge.
- Ringed Seal Case filed March 2015



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# Conclusion



**Thank you.**

**Questions?**