



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
and the
North Slope Borough

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describes the terms of an understanding between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the North Slope Borough (NSB) relating to common issues on the North Slope of Alaska, including the management of fish and wildlife and their uses; the assessment of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife by households, issues related to the management of marine mammals under Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, involvement in forums/delegations formed under various national and international agreements, and waterfowl management.

This MOU is entered into for ADF&G by the Commissioner pursuant to AS 16.05.050; and for the NSB by the Mayor, pursuant to sections 2.030 and 5.010 of the Charter of the North Slope Borough.

This MOU has been reached on the basis of the following shared conclusions, which should be used as a guide to interpret the terms of this memorandum:

1. ADF&G and the NSB have a mutual interest, recognized in Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution, in ensuring responsible management of fish and wildlife that provides for sustained populations and their uses. Responsible management has provided many benefits to the State of Alaska and the NSB, including maintenance of subsistence uses and traditions.
2. ADF&G and the NSB recognize the value of enhanced collaboration, communication, and coordination in the management of fish and wildlife and their uses.
3. ADF&G and the NSB recognize that synergies can be gained by collaboration on research and monitoring, including assessment of subsistence uses by NSB residents and avoidance

or minimization of conflicts with competing uses.

4. ADF&G and the NSB have mutual interests associated with both agencies' involvement in forums/delegations formed under various national and international agreements concerning fish and wildlife management. Given this, there is value in cooperation between ADF&G and the NSB on issues of common interest (e.g., arctic policy, climate change, scenario planning, Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammals Protection Act) that extend beyond direct management, research and monitoring.

Having reached these conclusions, ADF&G and the NSB agree to the following Definitions, Resolutions, and Miscellaneous Provisions to the extent consistent with Alaska law, the powers and responsibilities of the ADF&G under AS 16.05, and the NSB under sections 2.030 and 5.010 of the Charter of the NSB.

DEFINITIONS

1. "ADF&G" means any office or division within ADF&G that is authorized under the laws of the State of Alaska.
2. "NSB" any office, department or other subdivision of the NSB.
3. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of ADF&G.
4. "Mayor" means the Mayor of the NSB.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The ADF&G Commissioner and the NSB Mayor and/or their representatives, as appropriate, will meet at least twice annually according to a mutually agreed schedule to discuss issues of concern. Each year, at least one of these meetings will be held in Utqiagvik or an alternate North Slope community.
2. The ADF&G and NSB primary contacts (see below) will schedule and coordinate meetings and identify personnel to participate in them. The results of these meetings will be reported to the Commissioner and Mayor.
3. ADF&G and the NSB Department of Wildlife Management will identify opportunities for collaboration on research and monitoring, including assessment of subsistence uses by NSB residents and mitigation of any impacts occurring to those uses.
4. ADF&G and the NSB will identify opportunities for collaboration on national and international issues of mutual concern, including Arctic policy, federal land management and leasing programs, and issues related to a changing climate.
5. ADF&G and the NSB will identify opportunities for collaboration on issues associated with migratory stocks including caribou, marine mammals, and waterfowl.
6. ADF&G and the NSB will share information and data to the extent practicable, when permissible under statute, regulation, or agreement relating to confidentiality.

PRIMARY CONTACTS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game:
Eddie Grasser, Director
Div. of Wildlife Conservation
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(907) 444-1973

North Slope Borough:
Raynita Taqulik Hepa, Director
Dept. of Wildlife Management
taqulik.hepa@north-slope.org
(907) 852-0350

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. Either party to this agreement may withdraw at any time by providing a 60-day written notice.
2. This MOU may be modified by the Parties through a mutually agreed written amendment.
3. This MOU shall not be construed to require ADF&G or the NSB or any other state or municipal agency to expend additional funds or otherwise commit to actions that will require additional funding.
4. This MOU does not create any legal authority nor does it create legal or equitable rights.
5. This MOU is effective on the date that it is last signed below.
6. This MOU will terminate in five years unless modified by the parties through a mutually agreed written amendment.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

North Slope Borough



Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

Harry K. Brower, Jr.
Mayor

Date: 3/23/21

Date: 3/25/2021

Dunleavy Administration, North Slope Borough Sign Fish and Wildlife MOU

March 25, 2021 (Juneau, AK) – Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy, in coordination with Mayor Harry Brower, Jr of the North Slope Borough (NSB) and Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) today announced the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance cooperation on common issues related to fish, wildlife, and their uses.

“Life changing decisions are being made in Washington D.C., by individuals and groups who do not live on the North Slope. These decisions are occurring without consultation or respect to both the Inupiat people – who have lived in the Arctic for tens of thousands of years – or the State of Alaska,” **said Governor Dunleavy**. “They are also affecting the State of Alaska’s and the NSB’s long-term economic health and viability. This MOU between ADF&G and the North Slope Borough will enable further cooperation and work to advance critical issues, especially studies of fish and wildlife, and impacts of resource development for the North Slope residents. A strong, stable, and sustainable North Slope economy is good for the North Slope and good for the State of Alaska.”

“The people of the North Slope need to have greater control and influence about decisions that affect the resources we depend on, **said NSB Mayor Harry Brower**. These subsistence resources were vital to our smallest villages during the Covid 19 shutdown and prevented some of our most vulnerable residents from being malnourished when air travel was halted. Enhancing the communication, coordination, and collaboration between the NSB and ADF&G is an important step in this process. I want to thank Commissioner Vincent-Lang and Governor Dunleavy for their efforts on making this happen and we look forward to continuing our partnership.”

“It is more imperative now than ever to look for ways to enhance cooperation on common issues facing us,” **ADF&G Commissioner Vincent-Lang states**. “This includes how marine mammals, which are important subsistence resources to residents of the NSB, are managed under Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.”

This MOU adds to ongoing collaborative efforts on Alaska’s North Slope to ensure local residents have a meaningful voice on issues affecting them, including the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat.