

BYLAWS

ALASKA BELUGA WHALE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

The name of this committee shall be the "Alaska Beluga Whale Committee."

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee is to:

- A. Facilitate and promote wise conservation, management, and use of beluga whales based on the best available information and socioeconomic considerations;
- B. Provide information to the public, appropriate resource management agencies, or other interested parties, and to serve as a contact point for exchange of information on beluga whales;
- C. Identify important beluga habitat and encourage its protection in the face of resource development and increased human activity in the coastal zone;
- D. Promote development of a management plan for beluga whales;
- E. Promote hunter education and use traditional knowledge to improve hunting and harvest techniques;
- F. Promote and encourage planning, prioritization and carrying out of research required for wise conservation, management, and use of beluga whales;
- G. Compile harvest statistics with active participation by coastal hunters in the development and implementation of harvest monitoring efforts;
- H. Advocate cooperation by the United States with other nations and indigenous groups in exchanging information that contributes toward improved conservation and management of beluga whales;
- I. Educate and promote understanding about beluga whale issues among users, resource managers, and other interest groups.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership

- A. Voting members of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee shall consist of:
 - 1) Representatives from communities that harvest belugas in each of the following Alaska regions: North Slope, northeastern Chukchi Sea, Kotzebue Sound, Norton Sound, Yukon Delta, Kuskokwim, and Bristol Bay. Each region may also appoint an at-large regional representative.

- 2) Two representatives each from the US National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, North Slope Borough, and others as determined and voted on by the Committee.
 - 3) Charter members. Charter members include those who were present at either the first or the second meeting of the Committee.
- B. Other members may be added by a vote of the Committee.
 - C. At its discretion, the Committee may include non-voting technical advisors who may attend meetings and participate in Committee discussions.
 - D. The Executive Committee, with input from the membership, shall determine the communities to be invited to attend the annual meeting. This will be based on community beluga harvest, past participation, regional beluga conservation and management issues, and the annual budget available for meeting travel.
 - E. Any beluga hunting community or region that is not covered by the Committee budget may send a representative to the annual meeting at its own cost. The name of that person must be submitted to the Executive Committee in advance.

Section 2. Selection

Committee members shall be selected and/or removed in the manner determined by the appropriate tribal council or regional organization. Each member should have a designated alternate to act in the absence of the regular member. Members will serve until their community appoints a different representative. Because ABWC representatives report and discuss matters related to beluga hunting, communities are strongly encouraged to appoint beluga hunters as their representatives.

Section 3. Withdrawal

Withdrawal from the Committee by a community, region or agency automatically relieves its member(s) or alternate member(s) from voting privileges and office (service or eligibility).

Section 4. Removal

Members will be removed for willfully disregarding the Committee's Management Plan or any agreements made with other parties by majority vote of Committee Members in a meeting. Members will be automatically removed from the Committee for felony convictions in local, state, or federal courts.

Section 5. Voting

Each member shall have one vote on all matters except for hunting matters defined in this paragraph. Alternates may vote at meetings in the absence of regular Committee members but shall not be eligible to hold office. Only native (1/4 native or tribal definition of native) representatives shall vote on matters relating to hunting. Votes on hunting matters related to specific beluga whale stocks which include limitations on take, issues relating to struck and loss rates, and other such matters as determined by the Committee shall be done by those affected.

Section 6. Addition of Members

Upon request, the Committee may consent to the seating of new members. A new member may be seated upon a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

Section 1. Election of Officers

Committee officers shall include a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and two Officers-at-Large. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Committee members. Committee Officers shall compose the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Term of Office

Each officer shall serve for a two-year term or until the end of their appointment to the Committee. Officers may serve for consecutive terms. The Chairman and Secretary shall be elected the same year, and the remaining officers in the alternate year to ensure continuity.

Section 3. Replacement of Officers

If there is a vacancy of an office for any reason, that vacancy shall be filled at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee. If the Chairmanship becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairman shall assume the duties of Chairman until the next scheduled meeting.

Section 4. Removal of Officers

Officers may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of Committee members (refer to Article 4).

Section 5. Power of Officers

A. The Chairman shall have the following powers:

- 1) to call and preside at all meetings of the Committee or the Executive Committee;
- 2) to speak on behalf of the Committee and the Executive Committee;
- 3) to authorize statements of Committee positions;
- 4) to sign documents on behalf of the Committee; and
- 5) to perform the duties of the office as prescribed by the Committee or the Executive Committee.

B. The Vice-Chairman shall have the following powers:

- 1) in the absence of the Chairman or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman; and
- 2) to perform other duties as prescribed by the Chairman, the Committee, or the Executive Committee.

C. The Secretary shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1) to keep the minutes of all meetings of the Committee and Executive Committee and to make sure they are typed and distributed to all Committee members;

- 2) to attest to the action of the Committee and the Executive Committee; and
 - 3) to perform other duties as prescribed by the Chairman, the Committee, or the Executive Committee.
- D. The Officers-at-Large shall perform duties as may be assigned by the Chairman, the Committee, or the Executive Committee.
- E. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and the two Officers-at-Large. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on matters that cannot be brought before the entire Alaska Beluga Whale Committee because of lack of time or funding. A majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee shall be required for action. On urgent matters, the Executive Committee may take action on the basis of a telephone conference or poll or by electronic mail. An attempt must be made to contact each Executive Committee member. The minutes from any Executive Committee meeting shall be presented at the next scheduled meeting of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee.

Section 6. Hearing Committee

The ABWC Hearing Committee shall consist of the ABWC Executive Committee and appropriate regional and hunter representatives as determined by the Executive Committee. The Hearing Committee will hold special hearings, as necessary, to resolve any infractions of the ABWC Management Plan that cannot be resolved at a local or regional level. A majority vote of the members of the Hearing Committee shall be required for action. The minutes from any special hearing by this committee must be made available to the full ABWC unless there is a compelling reason not to do so.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. Scheduling

Meetings shall be called as least once a year by the Chairman at times and places convenient to the Committee members. Meetings shall be preceded by no less than 14 days advance notice. Every effort should be made, given financial considerations, to convene the meetings at a variety of locations to allow local users or other interested parties to participate.

Section 2. Quorum.

A quorum for meetings shall require the presence of at least two-thirds of the committee members. A majority vote of the Committee members present at a meeting shall be required for Committee action.

ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Administration

A Liaison Officer may be appointed by the Committee from its membership and shall coordinate with the Committee to implement the directives of the Committee.

Section 2. Office

The registered office of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee shall be c/o North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management, Box 69, Barrow, AK 99723.

Section 3. Records

The official books and records of the Committee shall be maintained at the registered office of the Committee in Barrow, Alaska.

ARTICLE VI. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

These bylaws of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee shall be considered in effect when they are adopted by the Committee.

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Committee members present at the annual meetings. Members must receive prior notice that proposed amendments will be considered as an agenda item. Notice of the meeting must be mailed at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which the amendments are proposed and a copy of the proposed amendments must be included. If the required 30-day notice is to be waived, it must be waived in writing by each member in attendance at the meeting at which the action is taken without the required notice period.

CERTIFICATION

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Alaska Beluga Whale Committee Bylaws were adopted as amended at a duly convened meeting of the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee on November 15, 2018. A quorum was present, and the Bylaws were approved by a unanimous vote in favor of adoption.



Tom Gray 11/15/2018
Chairman



Attested by: Kathryn J. Frost 11/15/2018
Secretary