Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Southcentral Intertribal Subsistence Cooperative
Management Alliance
Constitution and Bylaws

Preamble
We, the Tribes and inhabitants of the Chugach region, proclaim that our subsistence harvests are essential to our cultural, nutritional, economic and spiritual well-being and way of life. Since time immemorial, we have served as stewards of this land, relying on detailed observation and knowledge of the environment to sustain both our people and our lands and seas. Over and over again, our way of life has been threatened, from slavery under Russian fur traders to the devastating effects of the 1918 flu pandemic in our region, the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake that decimated the region, and the Exxon Valdez oil spill that followed 25 years later. Today, we face the dual threats of climate change and development continuing to impact our environment and affect our livelihoods and well-being. We recognize our responsibility and authority to exercise our tribal rights as stewards to our traditional territories and resources and enter into this agreement to promote the health and wellbeing of our tribal members, our future generations, all Alaskans, and the plants, fish, and wildlife upon which we depend.

Mission
Direct and enhance advocacy efforts to protect Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights central to traditional way of life and wellbeing.

Objectives
1. Protect Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources.
2. Ensure Alaska Native management of traditional lands and resources.
3. Speak and act with a unified voice at regulatory meetings.
Article 1: Name, Membership, and Representatives

Section 1: Name: This organization shall be the Southcentral Intertribal Subsistence Cooperative Management Alliance (Alliance).

Section 2: Alliance Membership

Membership in the Alliance is open to any Tribes who:

1. Is a Tribe of the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC), federally recognized or not; and
2. Ratifies this constitution and joins the Alliance by a duly adopted resolution. A Tribe may withdraw from the Alliance at any time by resolution.
3. Non-voting members (e.g., Alaska Native Fisheries Alliance, Cordova District Fishermen United, United Cook Inlet Drift Association, etc.) may be invited at any time by a majority vote and resolutions by member Tribes.

Section 3: Representatives

1. Each member’s Tribal Council shall appoint one person to serve as that member Tribe’s Representative.
2. Each Tribal Council may designate an alternate to serve as a Representative.
3. Upon ratification of this document, each member’s Tribal Council thereby authorizes the Representative’s authority to vote on behalf of the member Tribe.
4. The form of appointment or election of the Representative and the term of service shall be at the discretion of the member Tribe. The member shall also determine the process for removal of the Representative and filling any vacancies. For the first year, member Tribes have passed Resolutions appointing their representatives to the CRRC Board as Representatives to the Alliance. This policy may be re-evaluated for compliance with any new grant requirements one year after the formation of the Alliance.
5. Representatives or their alternates shall attend all Alliance meetings. If a member Tribe is not represented at three consecutive meetings, CRRC staff shall work with the Representative and Alliance member’s Tribal Council to identify the best solution for Alliance representation.
II. Article 2: Purpose, Powers and Limitations of the Alliance

Section 1. Purpose
The purpose of the Alliance is for CRRC member Tribes of the Chugach region to:
1. Provide a platform to speak and act with a unified voice on hunting and fishing regulations.
2. Provide a forum for education, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building around indigenous and scientific management principles and knowledge systems.
3. Protect Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights in Southcentral Alaska, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources.
4. Enhance Alaska Native management of traditional lands and resources through cooperative agreements with land managers.
5. Develop management plans that are based upon indigenous knowledge systems and scientific principles.

Section 2. Powers
To accomplish the purpose, the Alliance will have the power to:
1. Adopt plans, policies, procedures and resolutions by consensus.
2. Enter into formal, cooperative agreements with land management agencies (e.g., the Department of the Interior) for the purpose of formalizing the subsistence wildlife management partnership.
3. Authorize CRRC staff to seek and accept funding from state and federal agencies, and public and private persons and organizations, and expend such funds in support of Alliance goals.

Moreover, the Alliance and CRRC will have the power to:
1. Actively advocate for and coordinate Alliance positions on fish and wildlife management.
2. Keep up to date with current fish and wildlife management trends in Alaska and update Alliance member Tribes on occurrences of note and opportunities to influence policy.
3. Assist individual Alliance member Tribes and Tribal citizens with the development of fish and wildlife management proposals.

Section 3. Limitation of Alliance Authority
Any and all sovereign rights and powers vested in the members shall not be abridged by this Constitution or powers authorized to the Alliance. The Alliance’s authority is limited to the powers specifically delegated through this constitution and any other authority that may be delegated through the resolution of member Tribes. Participation in the Alliance does not prevent member Tribes and Alliance Representatives from submitting testimony or taking public positions that differ from official Alliance positions.
Article 3. Meetings and Voting

1. The Alliance shall meet at least quarterly, but suggested monthly, in-person or via video/teleconference. This schedule may be reevaluated for compliance with any grant agreements and may be amended by Alliance vote.
2. A majority of the Representatives shall constitute a quorum.
3. In the absence of a quorum, meetings shall continue as scheduled with those Representatives present.
4. Each Representative or their designated alternate shall be entitled to one vote.
5. All actions related to developing proposals and submitting testimony on behalf of the Alliance must be approved by a majority of member Tribes located in that game management unit (Eyak, Valdez Tatitlek, and Chenega for Unit 6, Quteckak for Unit 7, and Port Graham and Nanwalek for Unit 15).
6. All other actions must be authorized by motion and approved by a majority of Representatives in attendance if there is a quorum, or a majority of Representatives by e-mail poll if there is not a quorum.
7. If approval on an action is not reached, CRRC staff may continue to work with member Tribes individually or as a group to develop proposals, testimony, and other resources outside of the framework of the Alliance.
8. Meetings may be opened via teleconference or video conference to interested Tribal citizens and the public.
9. One Representative or designated alternate from each member Tribe is eligible to receive a stipend for participating and providing leadership in Alliance meetings. Designated Alternates shall be invited to receive an honorarium on a rotating basis to help build familiarity with Alliance work.
10. The conduct and procedure of the meetings may be further defined by appropriate modification of this document by the Alliance.

IV. Article 4: Duties of Alliance members and staff

Section 1: Role of Alliance Representatives

1. Alliance Representatives shall attend Alliance meetings or designate an Alternate to attend if they are unavailable.
2. Alliance Representatives shall work with their Tribal Councils and Tribal citizens to develop positions on fish and wildlife issues impacting their communities.
3. Alliance Representatives shall update CRRC staff on Tribal concerns around fish and wildlife management and provide direction for CRRC staff to assist with research or proposal development.
Section 2: Role of Chugach Regional Resource Commission Staff

1. The Executive Director, or designated alternate, shall preside over all Alliance meetings, shall perform all duties of a Chairperson and shall exercise any authority delegated to him/her by the Alliance.

2. The Inter-Tribal Liaison shall act as the main point of contact for member Tribes. The Inter-Tribal Liaison shall notify member Tribes about upcoming fish and wildlife management meetings, conference and training opportunities offered through the program, and other news related to fish and wildlife management in the region. The Inter-Tribal Liaison shall summarize notes from meetings and develop written and/or oral public testimony on behalf of the Alliance at regulatory meetings.

3. Other CRRC staff shall support the Executive Director and Inter-Tribal Liaisons in their tasks through research, proposal development, and other duties as requested by the Alliance.

V. Article 5. Vacancies and Removal of Officers

1. If a Representative resigns, is removed, passes away, or otherwise permanently leaves the Alliance, the Alliance shall declare the position vacant and the Alliance member’s Tribal Council shall elect replacement for the balance of the unexpired term. If a position is vacant for over 120 days, the Alliance may select a representative from the community with a majority vote of Alliance representatives.

2. The Alliance may remove a Representative for any cause or reason deemed necessary by the Alliance. Removal shall be through a majority vote of the Alliance Representatives.

VI. Article 6. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by consensus of the Representatives. Alliance member Tribe’s Tribal Councils must receive a written copy of proposed changes to this document at least 60 days prior to any vote on a Constitutional amendment.

VII. Article 7. Ratification

This Constitution becomes effective upon the receipt of a vote adopting the Constitution from a majority of the members.