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YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

YUPIIT PICIRYARAIT CULTURAL CENTER
Bethel, Alaska
August 21, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacqueline Cleveland, Acting Chair
Henry Parks
Norma Evan
John Andrew
Walter Morgan
Alissa Nadine Rogers
Phillip Peter
Robert Hoffman
Myron Naneng

Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 8/21/24)

(On record)

MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining us. Quyana for joining us at the fall 2024 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council. Before we get started today, Mr. Henry Parks is going to give an invocation.

MR PARKS: (Gives invocation un Yup'ik)

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us. (In Native) Amen.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana Henry. Hi, I'm Jacqueline Cleveland from Quinhagak and I'll be Acting Chair today. Welcome to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. I'm looking (distortion) for your comments. Okay.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Acting Chair Cleveland. I'll do the roll call now. Henry Parks.

MR. PARKS: Present.

MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

MS. EVAN: Present.

MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Here.

MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Here.

MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Here.

MS. MCDAVID: Alissa Nadine Rogers.

MS. ROGERS: Present.

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Alissa is joining us on the
2 phone today. Phillip Peter.

3
4 MR. PETER: Here.

5
6 MS. MCDAVID: Wassily Alexie. Wassily
7 let me know he has a family emergency, so he'll be
8 excused. Raymond Oney. Mr. Oney also let me know he's
9 not going to be able to make it because of the flooding
10 on the coast. He's on standby for emergency response.
11 Myron Naneng.

12
13 MR. NANGEN: Here.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Robert Hoffman.

16
17 MR. HOFFMAN: Here.

18
19 MS. MCDAVID: Chair Cleveland, we have
20 nine of eleven members present. We have a quorum.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
23 you. So now we can do our work. (Indiscernible -
24 Distortion) I'm part of the Native Village of Point Hope
25 Council. And part of the RAC, I am part of the
26 (Indiscernible) AC. (Indiscernible - distortion) Happy
27 to be here today and the rest are under report.

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline, would it be
30 okay if I did a couple of announcements before we moved
31 in for the rest of the introduction? Thank you very
32 much. Sorry to interrupt. There's just a couple of things
33 I wanted to say before we get going. Again, good morning
34 and welcome to everyone joining us here in the room at
35 the Cultural Center in Bethel. And thank you to everyone
36 joining us on the phone and online so that we can use
37 this technology to all connect over these important
38 subsistence issues. My name is Brooke McDavid and I'm
39 the Council Coordinator for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
40 RAC, and I am also the designated Federal officer for
41 this meeting. So, I just have a few housekeeping
42 announcements before we get started. This is a public
43 meeting, and it's being recorded, and it will be
44 transcribed. For everyone that's attending here in
45 person, if you could please remember to sign in at the
46 information table every day of the meeting. It just helps
47 us (indiscernible - distortion) and we'll do
48 introductions in a little bit for folks online so we can
49 get a record of everyone attending. And Council set to
50 meet for three days. We won't go the full day on Friday.

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1 We'll probably end at lunch or sometime in the afternoon
2 because folks will be traveling home. For those joining
3 us via distance on the phone or online, you can find the
4 agenda and meeting materials on the Federal Subsistence
5 Management Program website. The internet address is
6 doi.gov/subsistence and under the regions tab, you can
7 choose Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and then meeting material.

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED: Excuse me.

10

11 UNIDENTIFIED: I'm sorry. That was
12 forward slash. What?

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: Subsistence. DOI
15 (distortion) forward slash subsistence. And then the
16 regions tab and then under Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. And
17 for all participants on the phone, please remember to
18 keep yourselves muted when you're not speaking. You can
19 press star six if you're on your phone and you don't
20 have a mute button, and star six to unmute. If you're
21 online or on the phone and you would like to make a
22 comment, please raise your hand if you're online. If
23 you're on the phone, you can press star five, and that
24 will put you in line to comment. For folks that might
25 be helping us moderate the meeting online, just a
26 reminder, please do not select the mute all button. That
27 will also mute us here in the room and you won't be able
28 to (distortion). Throughout the meeting today and
29 tomorrow, we have Mr. Patrick Sampson joining us. He's
30 going to be providing Yup'ik-English interpretation. So,
31 we have headsets on the table in the back. If you would
32 like to listen to the translations, please pick up a
33 headset, you can turn it to make sure it's on channel
34 number one, and you can listen to the translation. And
35 then you can turn it off to save the battery when it's
36 not (distortion).

37

38 Yes, that's correct. When the Council
39 members are speaking in Yup'ik, then the English
40 translation (distortion). And the city Council members,
41 if there's a time in the meeting you need -- you want
42 us to restate something or say something again in Yup'ik
43 that may be difficult to understand in English, we can
44 pause and work with (distortion). So throughout the
45 meeting, there will be opportunities for public comment.
46 Each morning of the meeting, we'll have an opportunity
47 for public comment on non-agenda items that are related
48 to subsistence. And that will be a little bit later this
49 morning because it's the first day, and we have other
50 things to do first, but if you'd like to give a comment

1 there and you're here in the room, there's some blue
2 comment cards on the table in the back. You can fill
3 those out with your name, and I'll give them to the
4 Chair and call on you to comment when that comes up. And
5 if you're online and you want to comment again, you can
6 use the raise hand feature by pressing star five on your
7 phone or raising your hand (distortion). And we do ask
8 you -- when you're online (distortion). We also accept
9 written comments. So, if you would rather provide any
10 written comments instead of oral comments, you can
11 submit those to me here in the room or you can email
12 them to subsistence@iof.doi.gov. Just be sure to include
13 your name. Also, for everyone's information, I wanted
14 to let you know that we don't -- we are no longer working
15 with the court reporter that we used to work with in the
16 past. We have a new contractor with us here today. We
17 have Jonathan from Talking Circle Media, and under this
18 new contract, we're going to be helping us do an audio
19 recording of the meeting and then send that recording
20 to type up and transcribe. So, with that said, it's very
21 important to please introduce yourself when you're
22 speaking so that the person that will be listening to
23 the meeting later can know who is talking. And lastly,
24 just a friendly reminder about conduct and ethics during
25 the meeting. The meeting will be conducted using
26 Robert's Rules of Order, and the meeting will be led -- be
27 led by our Acting Chair Cleveland, today and I'll be
28 helping. Please do not speak out of turn. and please
29 wait to be called on by the Chair. Please, no name
30 calling or use of profanity. Point of order can be called
31 by anyone if any misconduct happens. We're all here
32 because we care about the subsistence, and it's okay to
33 be passionate about issues, but we want to foster a
34 respectful environment where we can all work together.
35 And a reminder for any Council members, if you feel that
36 you might have a conflict of interest on any of the
37 items today, you can just state that for the record, and
38 you can abstain from voting. And that was all I had.
39 I'll turn it back over to Chair Cleveland. Thank you.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
42 you, Brooke. And apologies for getting (indiscernible -
43 distortion) for the introduction. So yeah. Okay.

44
45 MS. MCDAVID: All right. We apologize to
46 folks online. If you're having difficulty hearing us,
47 we will try to speak loudly and clearly. So, if everyone
48 can be sure to try to speak into your mic.

49
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1 MR. NANENG: Make sure, at least your mic
2 is up and (indiscernible - distortion).

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks,
5 everyone. We'll go back to introductions. I have
6 introduced myself. And maybe, I'll add that my Yup'ik
7 name is (In Native). (Distortion) Thank you so much.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: You can just say a quick
10 introduction with your name and where you're from, and
11 we'll do our Council member reports.

12
13 MS. EVAN: My name is Norma Evan from
14 Marshall.

15
16 MR. MORGAN: Walter Morgan from Lower
17 Kalskag.

18
19 MR. NANENG: Myron Naneng. My Yup'ik name
20 is (In Native). (Indiscernible - distortion).

21
22 MR. ANDREW: My name is John Andrew from
23 Kwethluk. Yup'ik name is (In Native). Thank you.

24
25 MR. PETER: Phillip Peter from Akiachak.

26
27 MR. PARKS: Good morning, everyone. Henry
28 Parks from the village of Nunapitchuk. And my Yup'ik
29 name is (In Native).

30
31 MR. HOFFMAN: Robert Hoffman, Bethel.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: The folks in the audience
34 could please come up to the table and introduce
35 yourselves at the microphone. We appreciate it. Thank
36 you.

37
38 MS. KENNER: Good morning, everyone. My
39 name is Pippa Kenner, and I'm an anthropologist at the
40 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage, Alaska.
41 I'm really happy to be here.

42
43 MR. AYERS: Good morning, everyone. My
44 name is Scott Ayers. I'm the Fisheries Division
45 Supervisor at the Office of Subsistence Management, and
46 I'm happy to be here with you all today. Thank you.

47
48 MS. HOOPER: Delen Hooper, ONC.

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50 MS. HENRY: Briana Henry, ONC.

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MR. SHEPPARD: Stanislaus Sheppard (In Native). My name is Stanislaus Sheppard from Lower Yukon Mountain Village. I'm here as a refugee information technician newly hired by (indiscernible - distortion). I'll be stepping down from my position. Representing myself. Thank you.

MR. TULIK: Christopher Tulik, for the National Wildlife Refuge.

UNIDENTIFIED: (Distortion) Fish and Wildlife in Bethel.

MS. CARROLL: Holly Carroll. Yukon River Fishery management from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MS. MATTHIAS: Mary Herrera-Matthias U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

MR. FOLEY: Good morning, everyone. Kevin Foley. Fisheries Biologist with Office of Subsistence Management. Happy to be here and seeing everybody's smiling faces today.

MS. MCDAVID: The folks online were sorry about the audio issues. We're still trying to address them here in the room. But if folks online can hear me, we'll go through. I'll call on different agencies and organizations. So, we can introduce ourselves online. We'll start with folks from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MS. KLEIN: Good morning, Brooke. This is Jill Klein, the Regional Subsistence Coordinator with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm based out of the regional office, and we have a few others online that would like to introduce themselves as well. Some of our leadership staff from our Fairbanks and Anchorage field offices and also the regional office. So, I'll let them introduce themselves next.

MR. FASBENDER: I can start out. Good morning. This is Pete Fasbender. I'm the assistant regional director for fish in U.S. and I'm glad to be part of this. I also sit on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council as a non-voting member. So, I want to get more engaged in these RAC meetings so I can better then connect at the Council. So, thanks for having me.

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1 And look forward to meeting some of you in person. All
2 right. Thanks.

3
4 MS. STELLRECHT: Good morning, everyone.
5 I'll go next. This is Neesha Stellrecht, and I'm in the
6 Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife field office. I'm the field
7 supervisor for this office. Work closely with Holly and
8 like Pete, also want to get more engaged in the RAC
9 meetings and some of the issues you all are facing.
10 Thank you.

11
12 MS. MCDAVID: Anyone else from U.S. Fish
13 and Wildlife Service online?

14
15 (No response)

16
17 Okay, we'll move on.

18
19 MS. KLEIN: Hi, Brooke. Can you hear me?
20 So, I just wanted -- This is Jill again. I just wanted
21 to introduce that we did have and still might have Trent
22 Lebeck online. He's our Southern Alaska Fisheries
23 Project Leader. Field staff uh -- project leader for our
24 Southern Alaska Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.
25 So, he is having a hard time hearing with his audio, but
26 he's online.

27
28 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks, Jill. And I believe
29 Alyssa, I'm sorry we skipped over you during Council
30 member introductions.

31
32 MS. ROGERS: Hi, (indiscernible) Thanks,
33 Brooke. (In Native) I'm the granddaughter of Alice and
34 John Hanson, daughter of Mariqa Hanson, granddaughter
35 of Ala Bridget Hill Joseph and Cyril Keoran Qiuran Fred
36 Joseph of Hooper Bay and Toksook Bay, the daughter of
37 Alan Joseph. I was the five years Chairman on my first
38 year of being on the RAC, and I'm currently now the Vice
39 Chair. I also am the Madam Co-Chair of the Kuskokwim
40 River Salmon Management Working Group, Madam Secretary
41 of the Alaska State Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
42 First Nations Futures Leadership through the Stanford
43 University. Co-founder of the (indiscernible) Donlin
44 Gold Working Group. Co-founder of the Yukon Kuskokwim
45 River Alliance. Co-founder of the Calista Women's Group.
46 Ambassador for NOAA and Alaska U.S. Congressional
47 Delegate. I'm also a member of the Alaska Community
48 Action on Toxics. Member of the Alaska Derelict Vessel
49 Task Force. A member of the AFN Subsistence Committee,
50 a member of the Leo Networking Committee, and an owner

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1 of the Rogers LLC Contract of Education Outreach
2 Development on Environmental Fisheries and Wildlife
3 Proposal Regulations Process. Thank you.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Alyssa. And now
6 we'll go to folks from Bureau of Land Management.

7

8 MR. MCKEE: Morning, Brooke. This is
9 Chris McKee. I'm the statewide subsistence coordinator
10 for the Bureau of Land Management out of the regional
11 office in Anchorage. Thanks.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Chris. Anyone
14 else from BLM?

15

16 (No response)

17

18 If not, we'll move on to Bureau of
19 Indian Affairs.

20

21 (No response)

22

23 Okay. We'll move on to Office of
24 Subsistence Management staff.

25

26 MR. PLANK: Good morning, everybody.
27 This is Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist OSM.

28

29 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning. This is Corey
30 Graham, fisheries biologist with OSM.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: All right. Thank you—

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. This is Katya
35 Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor with
36 OSM, calling from Utqiaġvik Barrow. We just finished
37 with the North Slope Council meeting yesterday, and I'm
38 wishing all the YK Delta Council members to have a
39 wonderful meeting. Thank you.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. Anyone else from
42 OSM?

43

44 (No response)

45

46 All right, we'll move on. Anyone from
47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

48

49

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1 MS. JOHN: Hi. Yeah, this is Dina John
2 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Yukon
3 River Summer Season Manager up here in the Fairbanks
4 office.

5
6 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, Dina. Thanks
7 for joining us. Anyone else from the department online
8 today?

9
10 MR. BRAZILE: Yeah. Good morning. This
11 is Chuck Brazile, Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim Regional
12 Management Coordinator with the Department of Fish and
13 Game.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, Chuck. Thank
16 you. All right. We'll move on. Do we have any tribal
17 representatives calling in today?

18
19 (No response)

20
21 What about any representatives from
22 ANCSA Corporations or Village Corporations?

23
24 (No response)

25
26 Folks from any other Alaska Native
27 organizations?

28
29 (No response)

30
31 As a reminder--

32
33 MS. BENNET: Good morning, Rose Bennett
34 with Calista Corporation.

35
36 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Rose. All right.
37 Any other organizations or agencies that I might have
38 missed? Please go ahead and introduce yourself.

39
40 MS. FITK: Hi, Good morning. This is
41 Serena Fitka. My Yup'ik name is (In Native). I'm
42 originally from Saint Mary's and I'm the Executive
43 Director of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
44 Association. I do realize we are not on the agenda, but
45 I'll be providing an update during public and tribal
46 comments. Thank you.

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: Joining us online or on the
49 phone today?

50

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1 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning. This is
2 Dylan Patterson calling in from the National Park
3 Service regional office in Anchorage.

4
5 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks, Dylan. Thank you
6 everyone. Before we get started with our business today,
7 I wanted to take time to pay tribute to someone very
8 special to all of us here in that Council member Richard
9 Slats, who we lost unexpectedly this past spring. We
10 have included a little tribute to Richard in the meeting
11 book for folks in the room want to get (distorted) found
12 on page five, but I will read a little bit of what we
13 wrote bout Richard.

14
15 We were extremely saddened to learn of
16 the passing of Mr. Richard Slats back this past spring.
17 Council members in the Office of Subsistence Management
18 would like to express our sincere condolences to his
19 family and our heartfelt appreciation for his
20 contributions to this Council in the Federal Subsistence
21 Management Program. Richard served on the Council for
22 nearly six years, and he had just applied for another
23 term this spring. He was a fluent Yup'ik speaker, and
24 he was a staunch advocate for subsistence and
25 traditional knowledge. During Council meetings, Richard
26 always made sure that coastal communities between the
27 Yukon and Kuskokwim drainage were represented. He came
28 to meetings well prepared and was always very engaged.
29 He was sincerely appreciative of his other Council
30 members and of all the staff. He was never afraid to
31 speak from the heart and he treated everyone like family.
32 Richard served his tribe, community, and region in many
33 roles. In recent years, he served on the task force that
34 developed the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
35 Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence
36 Protocol. He was a member of the Bering Sea Elders Group
37 Executive Committee, and an alternate on the Central
38 Bering Sea Advisory Committee. At his passing, he was
39 serving as first chief of Chevak Native Village, and he
40 was secretary for the Council. We have saved Richard's
41 seat at the table for this meeting so that we can
42 remember him, and we know that he's here in spirit with
43 all of us. And in a few minutes, we'd like to open the
44 floor for anyone that would like to share a few words
45 about Richard or any memories or stories. But first, if
46 everyone could please stand and join in a moment of
47 silence for Richard.

48
49 (Pause)

50

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1 Thank you everyone. We'll start with our
2 Council members. Does anyone have any fond memories of
3 Richard that you would like to share with the group, or
4 any words?

5
6 MR. PARKS: (In Native) Quyana.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
9 Henry. Is there anyone else on the Council who would
10 like to speak on Mr. Slats?

11
12 (No response)

13
14 If not, I could say something. So, at
15 our last meeting in Anchorage, I had the honor to have
16 lunch with Richard and we had one of the best
17 conversations. It was Richard, Ray, and I. Maybe my best
18 hour with Richard because he -- I see him as a mentor.
19 And one thing he did encourage a lot in that lunch hour
20 was to have no fear when it comes to indigenous knowledge
21 and our subsistence life. So, I appreciated his
22 encouragement for bravery within our voices. Another
23 time I had with him, I think it was one of the last
24 times during the end of the meeting, we had these little
25 bags that had pencils and things in there, and his was
26 pink and mine was blue, and he asked to trade, and we
27 traded. So, I'm glad I traded with him. Quyana. Is there
28 anyone else on the Council?

29
30 MR. NANENG Thank you. My name is Myron
31 Naneng. I just want to thank Richard for having taken
32 one of the things that we needed out in our villages of
33 Hooper Bay, Chevak, and Scammon. Between him and I, we
34 talked about including Hooper Bay as being recognized
35 as customary and traditional use villages for
36 subsistence. And here we had been working with both Fish
37 and Wildlife, State of Alaska, and many of the resource
38 issues that we have out in the area, especially the
39 migratory birds. Yet, they did not recognize that we
40 were a customary and traditional users of subsistence
41 resource not only of migratory birds, but others, other
42 resources that we harvest from the sea, the lakes, and
43 the rivers in the bay. So, I was really happy that he
44 put together that work that he did and had those villages
45 recognized. We were here before those people that were
46 classified as being non-traditional subsistence use.
47 We're the ones that probably are teaching the ones that
48 are currently here sitting with us about subsistence use
49 of resources. And I think that lack of appreciation, or
50 the way that they've set up the rules and requirements,

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1 is not fair to our people that live out in the villages
2 who have to survive using the land, as one of our elders
3 Hooper Bay said: "The land that we live on and get the
4 resources from is our plate of food protected in
5 perpetuity, as it will provide for you to survive in the
6 future of our lives". So, I think that was an
7 accomplishment that we finally had something that
8 finally recognized our own First Nations people to be
9 recognized as customary and traditional users of
10 subsistence resources. So that's my good, fond memory
11 of Richard, and I'm glad he took the lead on that because
12 he and I, between him and I were going to say, you do
13 it, I do it, you do it. And he got it done. So, I just
14 want to say thank you, Richard. And I know that you're
15 with us, spiritually here with us and overseeing some
16 issues that we're going to be talking about for the
17 benefit of our families, our children, and those that
18 will come behind us. With that, thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
21 Myron. Is there anyone else online or in public who
22 would like to speak on Richard Slats?

23
24 MS. FITKA. (Indisernible) Good morning,
25 Jackie or Ms. Chairman. This is Serena.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Hi,
28 Serena.

29
30 MS FITKA: I do have to jump off here,
31 but I would like to say my condolences to Mr. Slats'
32 family. He worked for my tribe back in the early 2000s.
33 It was always a pleasure to talk with him. I've learned
34 a lot from him. All his traditional knowledge, all his
35 insights, and just the calm demeanor he had. It'll be
36 missed. Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
39 Serena. Chris Tulik.

40
41 MR. TULIK: Yeah, Madam Chair. Members
42 of the Council. My name is Christopher Tulik, for the
43 record. Really, I don't know a whole lot about Richard,
44 but he happened to be the grandfather of my great-nephews
45 and niece. So, in a very short time that I've gotten to
46 know him, I realized that he was always focused on the
47 issues that we are faced with out here in the Delta. So,
48 I had the honor to meet with him and their Tribal Council
49 in Chevak this winter. And then, and for the final time,
50 we spoke with him on the phone on the issues that they

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1 are faced with. So, you know, I thank him for his
2 service. Quyana.

3

4

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana.

5

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: Madam Chair, this is
8 Brooke, Council coordinator. I just wanted to say a few
9 things about Richard. Richard was just one of those
10 people that, you know, you meet, and you might not know
11 for very long, but he just makes you feel like he cares
12 about you and that he's your friend. And once you get
13 to know him, that your family, no matter where you're
14 from, if you're Native, if you're not Native, if you're
15 agency, if you're tribal. He had the ability to connect
16 with people. And I'll never forget the first time I met
17 Richard. I flew out to Chevak. It was with a different
18 job I had previously, and I went to meet with the Tribal
19 Council to talk about doing a research project, and it
20 was the first year that Chevak had been closed for salmon
21 fishing on the Yukon, because they're considered part
22 of the Yukon. And the Yukon was shut down that year. And
23 folks were understandably very upset about that. It was
24 the first time they weren't able to harvest the foods
25 that they need. And it was hard being an agency person
26 and, you know, taking, taking some flak for decisions
27 that -- they weren't in my control. But Richard
28 understood that. And he came up to me after the meeting,
29 and he invited me to come back down to the TC office the
30 next morning and have coffee and sit. And we had such a
31 good talk, and he just opened up his heart and he shared,
32 you know, how important that resource is and just
33 reminded me that of course, folks are going to be angry
34 and that we're all in this fight together. And from that
35 day on, Richard and I were friends. And when I took this
36 role and found out that Richard was on the Council, it
37 was great to reconnect. And a funny story, I mean,
38 everyone on this Council is wonderful, but Richard took
39 his role very seriously. And when it was time for him
40 to reapply, it was almost like he was campaigning a
41 little bit to make sure he would get back on the Council.
42 He asked people for letters of recommendation, which
43 isn't a requirement. Typically, we just call references.
44 So, he had people write him letters and he was like he
45 wanted to make sure that he definitely would remain.
46 That's how important this work was for him. And, you
47 know, while I can't say what would have happened for
48 sure, I'm pretty sure off the record that he would have
49 remained on the Council, and we would have been delighted
50 to have him continue to serve. So, we have a big hole
today. The empty seat here. But Richard's memory lives

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1 on. There's definitely some continued issues that he
2 would like to see focused on and hopefully Myron and
3 maybe if we get any other coastal representatives on the
4 Council, we continue to work on salmon issues on the
5 coast. So, thank you very much. And thank you again,
6 Richard. We miss you.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
9 you, Brooke. And is there anyone else online or in the
10 room who would like to say something on Richard Slats?
11 If not, thank you everyone who spoke.

12
13 MR. ANDREW: Madam Chair.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR CLEVELAND: Oh, yeah.

16
17 MR. ANDREW: (In Native) Yeah. My name
18 is John W. Andrew, and I'm -- in a short time when we
19 knew Richard Slats the last six years with our group. A
20 lot of times, he used to tell me stories about of people
21 from (In Native). Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay (In
22 Native). Richard Slats (In Native), Madam Chair.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana
25 (In Native). I'll one more time if there's anyone else
26 who would like to speak. If not, we're moving on to
27 number seven, reviewing and adopting the agenda. Is
28 there any changes anyone would like to make on the
29 agenda?

30
31 MS. MCDAVID: Madam Chair.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Brooke.

34
35 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
36 had a request to add two reports under the reports
37 towards the end of the meeting. And those requests were
38 from ONC and, for YRDFA. And if the Council is okay with
39 that those could go after Bering Sea Fishermen's
40 Association and before U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
43 you, Brooke. Myron.

44
45 MR. NANENG: Yeah, quyana, Madam Chair.
46 Recently, we know that the Office of Subsistence
47 Management was moved to the Department of Interior under
48 Secretary of the Interior. And it would be good to know
49 exactly what positive impacts that would be, because
50 right now, with many of the issues that impact our

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1 subsistence resources, we really don't have any
2 representation on North Pacific Fisheries Management
3 Council that impacts the fisheries on the Yukon, the
4 Kuskokwim, and the coastal areas and other resources
5 like halibut that are harvested by people along the
6 coast. And I hope that the transfer of subsistence
7 management to the Department of Interior will make a
8 bigger impact that will affect and at times reduce and
9 or even close some of these fisheries, because we're
10 already closed on the river systems and we're the most
11 impacted and the most -- we use the resources more than
12 anybody else for food. There are the trawlers and others
13 are using those for money purposes. So, I'd like to get
14 a review and impact report on the transfer and see if
15 we can get -- add that to the agenda as part of the
16 report from Fish and Wildlife Service.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
19 Myron. And Scott, do you have a response?

20

21 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr.
22 Naneng, we do have some information about the move of
23 OSM as part of our report. That will be near the end of
24 the meeting. And I think that if you have additional
25 questions beyond what I present at that point in time,
26 I'd be happy to give you any additional information that
27 you'd like to hear related to the move and what impacts
28 that's going to have related to our ability to kind of
29 work with some of these issues that you've brought up.
30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
33 you. Myron.

34

35 MR. NANENG: I think it would be prudent
36 to report to the Regional Advisory Council of what impact
37 it has because, you know, at times we're happy that Fish
38 and Wildlife is managing the fisheries with
39 (distortion). And then you go upriver beyond the refuge,
40 there's a different management structure. And one of the
41 concerns that I have is that whenever Fish and Wildlife
42 opens fisheries on the Kuskokwim River, the Lower
43 Kuskokwim region is a gauntlet of fishermen all at the
44 same time, where before the people only used to fish for
45 what they needed and limit themselves, instead of being
46 so restricted with timeframes that it creates a gauntlet
47 for salmon that are heading up to the spawning grounds.
48 So that's one of the reasons why I asked that question.

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50 MR. AYERS: Thank you for that.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. Are there any other changes that anyone would like to make or additions to this agenda?

(No response)

Hearing none. Henry, turn off your phone. Just kidding. Hearing none. Is there a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended?

(No response)

MS. MCDAVID: Do any Council members want to make a motion?

MR. NANENG: Madam Chair, I move, but I think that one of the things to start off a meeting would be to call the meeting to order, and then take the other things. If you're going to follow Robert's Rules of Order, make it Robert's Rules of Order. So, I'd request that the first order of business would be to call the meeting to order the invocation and all the other stuff that's listed. So that's according to what I was told, that from the book of Robert's Rules of Order. With that, thank you, Madam Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana Myron. As you know, it's my first time Chairing a RAC, and apologies. Both Brooke and I, it's our fault for skipping that on accident. Quyana for pointing it out. So, I retroactively call the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Quyana.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah. So, is there a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda, as amended?

MR. NANENG: Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move to adopt the agenda. But make sure in the future that you correct it the way it's Robert's Rules. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: It's -- That's noted again. Thanks, Myron. Myron moved. Is there a second.

MR. ANDREW: Second.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: John seconds. All in favor of adopting the agenda? Say aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: All opposed. Same sign.

(No response)

Okay. Motion carried. And so, for the reviewing of and approving of previous meeting minutes. Brooke.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair. Council members, there are two sets of meeting minutes in your meeting book because we had our individual RAC meeting in the winter. So those minutes begin on page six of your meeting book. And then we also have meeting minutes from the joint Council session at the All Council meeting that also happened this past winter. So yeah, if you wouldn't mind taking a few moments and looking over the minutes and letting us know if you would like to see any corrections.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: That there was -- If you -- that was enough time to review previous meeting minutes. Is there a motion to approve previous meeting minutes?

MR. PETER: Madam Chairman, I like to set the meeting minutes.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana Phillip. Phillip made the motion. Is there a second.

MR. PARKS: Ms. Chair. Henry. Second. Second the motion.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana. Henry. It's been seconded by Henry. All in favor of approving previous meeting minutes? Say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: All opposed, same sign. Okay. Previous meeting minutes are approved, and number nine is reports. Would you like to say anything before reports? Okay.

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1 MR. NANENG: Ms. Chair, do we have to
2 approve the winter 2024 joint meeting minutes or what?

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: I think we
5 just approved the winter 2024 meeting minutes and the
6 joint Council meeting minutes. So (indiscernible), okay.
7 So, who would like to start? Under reports for Council
8 members reports.

9
10 MR. PARKS: Ms. Chair, Henry from
11 Nunapitchuk (In Native). Quyana, Ms. Chair. Since we
12 have an interpreter here, I'll talk to you in Yuk'ip
13 because I'm more -- I'll be more faster in Yup'ik. So,
14 I report in Yup'ik. Quyana.

15
16 (In Native)

17
18 INTERPRETER: I am Henry Parks from
19 Nunapitchuk. When, you know the last issue that I did a
20 report last spring, in March. And during the - after
21 March meeting. I wanted to speak about the migratory
22 birds first. There is a lot of birds that were coming
23 here to the area. There was a lot of different migratory
24 birds that would come here and so I'm thankful that they
25 did join. (Indiscernible) migratory patterns as usual
26 and also during the fishing season because
27 (indiscernible - distortion) villages. We started doing
28 the under-ice fishing first. We also use the pike fishing
29 through the ice. And there was plentiful fish under the
30 ice. And because of that, that is what we live with. And
31 we were thankful that we were able to gather all of
32 these subsistence foods. And during this past summer, I
33 would like to thank the Federal Fisheries that opened
34 the fishing to salmon and we did catch quite a bit, or
35 we caught enough of the fish that we needed to. And the
36 drying was -- the weather was good for drying and after
37 the third opening it was wet and rainy, but the first
38 two were really good for drying. And the third opening,
39 when the weather was bad, that there was quite a few
40 fish that were picked up. And the rest, I thank you for
41 opening the fisheries for us to harvest salmon, because
42 this is what we live by. This is what we live throughout
43 the years, we -- the lives, all the mammals, all the
44 fish. But we also utilize the berries to grow on the
45 winter because we will not -- this is what we live off,
46 and we will not stop gathering any of these things that
47 we gather and especially the berries. I know that these
48 berries that we see and even -- I know that typically
49 we call them salmonberry or Yu'pik call it a little
50 different, but it's the same thing. And I also thank you

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1 -- thank our creator for the berries that we harvested
2 this past season. And also in closing, I want to say --
3 comment that beforehand I have commented before
4 regarding the fisheries when we have had bad experiences
5 in the fishing openings, but I know that -- we know that
6 the Sunday is the day of rest, those that are in the
7 Christian faith. I know that we on Sunday we go to
8 church, and we should not forget that Sunday is a day
9 of rest. And also, when they open it, the fishing on
10 Sundays, it always gives me consternation that we should
11 stay put on Sunday, and we can use the other six days
12 of the week, because Sunday is a day of rest. And I am
13 not saying against any of the workers, but this is also
14 in my mind that when you open it on Sundays, it just
15 really gives me consternation. And I know that our elders
16 used to tell us that we need to be our day of rest, and
17 I wanted to attach that to my report. And I know that
18 our Christian values were taught that Sunday is a day
19 of rest. And so, if the Federal could mind that and not
20 announce meetings on or-- fishing on Sunday. That would
21 be -- And that's the only one that I wanted to say on
22 my report. Thank you, Ms. Chair.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
25 Henry (In Native). Is there anyone else who would like
26 to give a report from the Council? Myron.

27
28 MR. NANENG: Yeah. Thank you, Madam
29 Chair. I just wanted to report that out at Hooper Bay,
30 we have a trail project that's to limit all-terrain
31 vehicle impacts on the nesting grounds at Toksook Bay
32 area and surround the villages -- surrounding
33 the village. Because our land is one of the most productive
34 migratory nesting birds area in the YK Delta. Because I
35 think, according to the list that have seen Toksook Bay
36 is covered at number one by Fish and Wildlife Service,
37 but we try to keep them out too. But it's a fact. They
38 would like to get that land away from the village, but
39 it was selected by our village corporation. So, it's our
40 primary food gathering during springtime when the birds
41 arrive to nest, and also during the fall time when our
42 people go out to hunt birds for the winter. But all-
43 terrain vehicles, four-wheelers have had an impact, not
44 only in the village of Hooper Bay, but in many of the
45 villages in the region. We're concerned right now of
46 trying to work with our neighboring village of Chevak,
47 where some people during the summertime used the land
48 that produces berries and other nesting areas that
49 within our lands for use of their all-terrain vehicles
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1 and impact in that land, causing a lot of reck, you
2 know, deep areas and causing impacts.

3
4 But we've been working on that Hooper
5 Bay with Fish and Wildlife Service since 2013, and with
6 USDA to build a trail project that has been impacted
7 last year by the Typhoon Merbok. It cut off some of the
8 areas that floated away, but we're still working to
9 repair that. But we're still also, still trying to
10 complete the trail so that our people in the village
11 will be able to have access to some of the other lands
12 for berry picking, and also for other things that they
13 use for subsistence purposes.

14
15 One of the big potential impacts that
16 we're concerned about is the flooding. And as you know,
17 a lot of the summer flooding has occurred earlier than
18 most of the time that we've noticed over the last many
19 years. Like Kipnuk and Kuiggluk were impacted by the
20 recent flood, we're sure that this new typhoon that's
21 coming up will have another impact. But more flooding
22 seems to be prevalent out on the coast than it was
23 before. So those are the concerns that our people have
24 in the coastal villages. But one of the other things
25 that our people are concerned about in our village of
26 Hooper Bay and some of the other ones that harvest
27 migratory birds, is the potential of Izembek Road and
28 its impact on black brant and other waterfowl that
29 stopped there to feed on their way north and on their
30 way south, because it's also one of -- it's usually --
31 migratory Birds are usually the first beak [sic] -- red
32 meat that many of our people have had to harvest during
33 springtime. So that's the concern that we have. Another
34 concern is the lack of consultation by Alaska Department
35 of Fish and Game Commissioner in having a moratorium on
36 the Yukon River for seven years. And he never consulted
37 with any of the users on that. Is he, in essence,
38 declaring endangered species status of chinook salmon?
39 If it's going to be closed for seven years. I know one
40 time my family and I were rod and reeling up at the
41 upriver and we caught a little jack probably no more
42 than a foot long. And because of the subsistence closures
43 here for chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim of Fish and
44 Wildlife boat happened to stop by our boat and ask, what
45 did you catch? And one of my kids had just caught that
46 jack. And we were told, you gotta throw that back out.
47 You got to put that back out. It was still alive,
48 fortunately. But, you know, for some of the kids that
49 we are teaching how to harvest some of these resources,
50 even with the use of his rod and reeling and it has a

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1 positive impact on them. But then to be told that you
2 can't keep it. It seems to be wrong, because one of the
3 things that we usually do in our traditional culture is
4 when you have a first catch, you take care of your catch
5 and then you give it to an elder. And the elder wishes
6 you good luck for your future life and harvest of food
7 that you gather off the land, waters, and the seas. So,
8 the first catch is very important for our kids. So, I
9 think that there needs to be some consideration for some
10 of the cultural uses that we have within our region and
11 our villages. And the other concern that I have is the
12 close -- seven-year closure of chinook salmon on the
13 Yukon, which the state of Alaska's position in North
14 Pacific Management Council's position on allowing a
15 bycatch of over 40,000 dollars, 40,000 chinook salmon.
16 At one point on the Yukon, there was an agreement between
17 Canada and Alaska that about 75,000 chinooks have to
18 cross the border. Then it went down to 45,000. I
19 participated with the negotiating team back in the 1990s
20 when that was happening. But today it's complete closure
21 of all the subsistence users on the Yukon River. While
22 the commercial harvesters out in the Bering Sea are
23 allowed to harvest what can potentially be harvested by
24 people along the river system. So, I think that inequity
25 needs to be addressed. It needs to be. And if any of the
26 agencies that oversee these things do not unilaterally
27 make decisions like this without consultations. I'm sure
28 there's going to be some people that are going to go out
29 from the villages and say, it's been my food for
30 centuries. Why do you criminalize me for harvesting what
31 I've been harvesting for centuries, and even the food
32 that we gathered during our lifetime? You know, at one
33 point we had a law that did not allow our people to go
34 subsistence hunting for migratory birds. That was back
35 in 1916, about that time frame. And that was changed in
36 1997 to recognize subsistence harvests of migratory
37 birds, because we lobbied together within the state of
38 Alaska to make that happen. And I think that all the
39 RACs need to get together to work on that and tell State
40 of Alaska. You may be responsible for management, but
41 you have to work with us people, the users, to make it
42 happen because our people in the villages bear the burden
43 of conservation more often than not than any other
44 outside users. With that, thank you.

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46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
47 Myron. Is there anyone else or who wants to be next I
48 should ask

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1 MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair, Walter. Yeah,
2 fishing up Aniak. My report this year is Aniak, and
3 above --it was okay. Everybody limit, you know, we limit
4 our fish, our kings, to about 30 in a high number, 35,
5 40 at the most, and from Kaltag to Aniak and above Aniak,
6 there's hardly anybody fishing. So, we're really low
7 impact. There's like I think above Aniak there are 40
8 fishermen total all the way to Stony. So regardless of
9 how we're opened up there, you know, we don't impact the
10 run, and we limit ourselves. So, we learn that through
11 the years. And we had a moratorium on Moose, you know,
12 like five years, I think, in Unit 19. And we did that,
13 you know, and we conserved, and we learned through that
14 moratorium just take what you need and, you know, don't
15 overtake. And it's a low impact above our villages and
16 above Kalskag. And anyway, our fishing was okay, kings
17 -- we -- I didn't fish in the early starting because it
18 just waste of time. There's no fish and they're swimming
19 deep. The first ones always swim deep and they're hard
20 to catch because the water is up. And, you know, my
21 fishing was okay and everybody else's. We target -- we
22 wanted more chum because chums our main diet, you know
23 over red, used to be a long time ago, they -- we never
24 used to see red salmon hardly. And the numbers I know
25 through the years has come up and you know, we know --
26 we we all confer.

27
28 So, the berry picking was okay this
29 year. A lot of blueberries. The geese, the black ducks
30 were good. A little slow on the black ducks. They
31 wouldn't have as much numbers as we seen before. But
32 we'd like to, you know, hunt Caribou. A lot of people
33 are complaining, you know, now it's closed. You know
34 what's happening with our Caribou. And we'd like to have
35 that in our diet also. But the Moose have been good. So,
36 we have an early opening on the 25th, I think, of this
37 month. And you know, we - I -- I'm in an inter-tribal
38 fish commission, too, and we really push forward. Push
39 hard that, you know, the gravel-to-gravel initiative.
40 We really push that because, you know, we're
41 sacrificing, we're cutting back and yet they see the
42 high seas fishermen like the pollock fishermen. They're
43 catching all that bycatch and, you know, I bet you the
44 numbers are way up. I mean that for the last how long
45 they've been fishing, I bet the numbers are, you know,
46 outrageous of what they're killing our salmon. And also,
47 the False Pass were concerned about, too. So, you know,
48 I'm glad they let some salmon pass through the False
49 Pass in order for the -- especially the chum, you know.
50 Chum was their main stable food that, you know, they

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1 talk about king salmon and sure, king salmon are good
2 sure, we like them but those old people always tell us,
3 you know, you have cuts or anything you eat, king, they
4 wouldn't heal. And if you have anything wrong with your
5 body. Also, silvers are like that. But chum, they don't
6 bother you when you eat them, you know you eat them
7 regardless if you have cuts or anything. So that's my
8 report. Thank you.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
11 you, Walter, it's good to hear from Upper Kusko [sic].
12 Who would like to go next? Phillip.

13
14 MR. PETER: Yeah, my name is Phillip
15 Peter from Akiachak.

16
17 (In Native)

18
19 INTERPRETER: I'm going to speak to my
20 report in Yup'ik it's a short one. This spring, with the
21 ptarmigans. There were quite a few ptarmigans here, and
22 after that there was quite a few good number of migratory
23 birds that came into our area. And after that during the
24 fishing season. I went to go fishing, down to below
25 Napakiak, below Johnson River. That's where I went to
26 go fishing during the first opening. And when we fished
27 down the Lower Kuskokwim, it was wet, foggy, and the
28 tide was going out and it was quite windy out there on
29 the Lower Kuskokwim. And they told us there was a six-
30 hour opening during the king salmon. And after that, we
31 went home. And when there was a second announcement of
32 salmon opening, people from Akiachak, we went to go fish
33 our traditional fishing grounds. And we did catch a
34 little bit more than the first opening, and we got our
35 king salmon, chum and red salmon. And during the third
36 opening, when it was announced, we were to go out fishing
37 again, and it was -- the numbers were little lower than
38 the second one, but during the last opening, when it was
39 opened, it gave me an eye opener. I did a couple of
40 drifts, and I caught all big fish with this six-inch. I
41 caught a lot of king salmon. All my fish were king
42 salmon, and they were about this big, about three, four,
43 three and a half, four feet. And you know, we seen a
44 salmon that we hardly had seen anymore. And a lot of
45 fish used -- the big ones usually avoid our fish or our
46 net. And when they get caught in our nets, it's easy for
47 them to dislodge from the net. And when we caught a lot
48 of these big ones this time, and I was really happy that
49 we finally caught these after how many years that --
50 since they have started all the moratorium in this

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1 Kuskokwim area. It was the first time in years that I
2 caught the big king salmon. And you probably seen on the
3 discovery newspaper, there's a couple of kids holding a
4 couple big king salmon, and it's been years since we
5 have harvested any of king salmon of notable size. And
6 so, these elders or elders should tell us about these
7 things. And I remember what they had told us beforehand
8 that they would tell us that they really did was -- they
9 were aware of the seasons and the happenings around them.
10 And so, with that knowledge, they used to say that these
11 big king salmon and when you caught these -- make good
12 notable size 50 king salmon, during the last opening. I
13 caught most of them had -- they had salmon roll and most
14 of them had salmon roll. And there was a few male king
15 salmon that I caught. And these -- I remember what they
16 used to tell me when I was a kid regarding these. That
17 -- they used to say that it is without question that
18 when there is a big wind, I know there's a big typhoon
19 out in the Bering Sea, and they did say regarding that,
20 that our forefathers used to say that these big typhoon
21 areas would start coming into our areas. Where they used
22 to -- we never used to have any typhoons in this area.
23 But now that they used to say that all these typhoons
24 would come and all the floods would start appearing, and
25 these things that we need to heed to all these sayings,
26 to what we have been told, especially regarding the fish
27 that we harvest. And they used to tell me about when the
28 climate, when the world changes that and now the climate
29 is changing. The world, as we know, is changing. It has
30 -- it's a lot different than when we came to out back
31 in the day. And the climate is changing out in the Bering
32 Sea. The Kuskokwim is changing, the world is changing,
33 and the Norton Sound area we are seeing and even Bristol
34 Bay, they have an accelerated change than the rest of
35 the world. So, our creator is taking care of us. And so,
36 with that, our forefathers were very keenly aware of all
37 these things, and they would only tell us about the
38 things that they have seen and how they did not tell us
39 any -- anything just to be saying. But they were saying
40 to help us and that we need to heed these words.

41
42 Our forefathers, they did not have any
43 salt with them, and they waited. They were just waiting
44 for the fish to show up. Because on the land, in the
45 water and the Bering Sea they just wait because they
46 don't have any salt. And they knew the creator of their
47 home, that the creator was watching them. And I know in
48 this time and age here even I -- we are always in a
49 hurry. And even I we are always in a hurry. We're just
50 going here and there as fast as we can. But our

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1 forefathers, they never pushed anything. They just
2 waited; they were patient. They were just patiently
3 waiting for them, we -- the things that we eat. The
4 subsistence that we eat. We should patiently wait for
5 them. That they do return to -- they come to the fish,
6 to the to the spawning grounds. They all come back. And
7 I also know, and I often think that both know, that in
8 August, the silver salmon out in the waters right now.
9 They are running right now. And when it was open for
10 king -- silver salmon, I went out and fish for silver
11 salmon with a six-inch gillnet, 25 and half long net
12 six-inch size. I only have caught a few big king --
13 silver salmon. I used a six-inch gillnet and there was
14 a lot of little silver just shooting out of my net, and
15 there was a lot of silver salmon just passing, and I
16 have not even seen silver salmon in quite a while in
17 that number. And they are running right now, but they
18 are smaller in size. And if you have a five and a half,
19 three, eight they are catching them with those smaller
20 nets.

21
22 And so, if we use a smaller size net,
23 five, ten, fifteen make sure after you -- to a 55
24 (indiscernible) if you soak your net for ten minutes,
25 you're going to get a whole lot of silver salmon, and
26 your net will sink because of the abundance of the silver
27 salmon right now. I do see them with my own eyes, and I
28 keep telling them -- these are the words that I heard
29 when I was a child said to me about these things. I
30 remember, and I know them, they are here. They are --
31 even if they are small, they are pure, they are white,
32 and they're just really nice. And so, during the second
33 opening, when I went out to fish, I used a four-inch net
34 with a 25 (indiscernible). I put out my net out and
35 right away I caught quite a few different species of
36 fish. I caught (indiscernible), humpies, and I have not
37 caught a pink salmon in forever. And this is the first
38 time that I caught pink salmon, and there was quite a
39 few years behind that. We had never caught any trout any
40 -- we have not caught trout before and there's quite a
41 difference. Small different species into my net. And I
42 was really happy that I caught the different species,
43 different species of fish. And I was thinking perhaps I
44 was really happy because I caught these different
45 species that I was thinking maybe they are making a
46 return to the tributaries, to the Kuskokwim, and even
47 if we are running against the trawlers and we are saying
48 bad things about the bottom fisheries.

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1 These things are what our forefathers
2 used to say to us. And I remember that drives the point
3 home that they really did tell us what we really needed
4 to keep an eye out, and later in life. And so, all these
5 things are true, that because I see them with my own
6 eyes. And when I caught the 50 king salmon about this
7 size, I stopped fishing for the summer because those
8 salmon that are on the river to spawn and, well -- please
9 be aware that next year you will see. And I know and the
10 Kuskokwim the big king salmon are always fishing.
11 They're always swimming on the bottom of the Kuskokwim.
12 And I was wondering why the big fish have come up to the
13 shallower depth of the Kuskokwim now. Because when I
14 used to -- even if I used a shallow net this year, I
15 caught the big salmon. And the big salmon are usually
16 swimming on the bottom of that. And that was my question
17 that, why it was happening. And so, this summer has been
18 a cool, cool summer, and the Kuskokwim had low salt in
19 it this year. And there was a lot of, and it kept having
20 water in it and the water level did not drop on the
21 Kuskokwim as it usually it does, but ours was filled up.
22 And so even now, the berries are -- a lot of the berries
23 did not grow because of the weather was too cold for
24 them, and so the salmon berries did not survive the cold
25 of summer, and there was a few berries that survived of
26 the cold. And there are a lot of blueberries now upriver
27 anyway, and that was the first time that we seen a crop
28 of blueberries this much. And the red berries, we see a
29 lot of red berries, and that has not happened in so many
30 years now.

31
32 And that concludes my report for the
33 summer. So, there are a lot of people upriver from us.
34 We're probably the same boat that perhaps we did a good
35 harvest this year regarding the salmon.

36
37 I'd like to remember our creator, the
38 creator that -- who created the oceans and our land. And
39 we need to remember our forefathers that have passed on.
40 And they were always patient. They were always patiently
41 waiting. The Western world is always in a hurry, and the
42 elders in the back day were not like that. They were
43 patiently waiting. They just calmly and quietly waited
44 for the fish to return. And when it was time for them
45 to go all harvest, all fish, and that they went out and
46 harvested that. Thank you. (Simultaneous speech)

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: It's a
49 good time to take a ten-minute break, if you all agree.
50 Okay. Ten minutes back at 10:55.

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(Off record)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Hi, welcome back. We can resume the meeting. It's after 11 now. So sorry for the longer break. Would anyone like to give their reports next? Robert Hoffman.

MR. HOFFMAN: (Indiscernible - distortion). Okay, what I have to say is what do you -- what do we all have been hearing about this morning from all the people giving their reports. First of all, I'd like to hold up this book here, and if you read the information in the front of the book, it says subsistence. And that's all these people have been talking about this morning was subsistence. Three letters, three or four letters down, you see meetings, meetings. And the definition I have for meetings is when we go gather together and discuss information about our subsistence needs. We make proposals, we make recommendations on all that information, what we have gathered and heard here today. Now I'm going to turn the hand over like this to show the other side. And the other side is the state of Alaska. No offense to the state of Alaska, because they have given -- been passed down the authority by the Federal government to do the monitoring and the counting and the assuring of a statement and the growth of the animals for our younger children yet to come. That's why they have the authority and everything. But what I'm just talking about is our subsistence and the meetings that we attend on subsistence, where we gather, like I said, like where we gather. We discuss issues and we make recommendations on how to recover our subsistence.

I'm sorry to tell you the truth, that we do not -- whatever we say in the meetings, like he said, it's not adhered to. In other words, whatever we say. I've been going to these meetings for many, many years. I've been on subsistence meeting, many, many years. I've been on for so long I've become an elder. And somewhere I went to school, they said, elders' information is very important. We need to use that to guide us to the future. When you get older, they tell me, hey, you're losing your mind today. You can't be using elder information, well enough for that. What I'm about to say is what I've observed throughout the years that the subsistence users are doing right now. First

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1 of all, it's not subsistence that -- actually it's not
2 subsistence that we actually are going for. We are going
3 for what the state of Alaska tells us what to do, the
4 subsistence that we need fish. In the dictionary,
5 subsistence means to me when you're hungry, you can go
6 gather. The state of Alaska says, you try that, and I'll
7 put you in jail. It's already been tried. People from
8 upriver tried it and they almost went to jail. They take
9 away their boats and motors.

10

11 Subsistence, you know, I call it what I
12 really call it now that I've observed it for so long,
13 state allocation. What the state will give us and when
14 they'll give us. And when we, the tribes, are allotted
15 to do subsistence harvest. So, we the people, the tribes
16 are not in charge anymore like we used to be, where we
17 can go and gather when we're hungry, go and fish when
18 we need fish, and pick berries when we want to, anywhere
19 we'd like to on anybody's land. That's real subsistence.
20 But there is no more of that anymore. We're allocated
21 by the state. The state says the fish are getting
22 smaller. The fish are getting smaller. Why not? We used
23 to fish big fish with eight-inch, eight-inch mesh nets,
24 eight-inch. The state regulated us down to six-inch mesh
25 now. So, one and one is two. I'm a mathematician. When
26 they regulated us down to six, now we catch small fish
27 and they're telling us you're catching small fish now.
28 Why not? They give us only six-inch mesh to fish with.
29 Why doesn't anybody understand mathematics? We have to
30 keep discussing these issues. And I'm getting tired of
31 -- I don't see any regulators here, I'm sorry to say,
32 like I've always said. I'm here for the tribe and all
33 I'm going to go home, is what the state gives me. Telling
34 me what I'm going to do, how I'm going to do it, when
35 I'm going to start, and when I'm going to stop of the
36 subsistence that we are going to discuss. And it's not
37 subsistence anymore, it's state allocation. So, let's
38 quit wasting tribal money calling on subsistence
39 meetings when they actually state allocated time frames,
40 and when to use this, when to use that, and when to
41 start and stop. We've asked the Federal government, our
42 big outfits, AVCP, them guys, leaders, businesses to
43 help us formulate what we the only people on this in
44 this region here, the 56 villages. We're the only people
45 that don't get to verify the count of the state of
46 Alaska. We don't get to verify. What I mean by that is
47 I would -- we tribes would like a counting system also
48 to count escapement. But we don't have the funding. We
49 don't have the funding to assure that the animals will
50 live on, to show our younger children will do that. The

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1 state of Alaska does all this. Why can't we, the people
2 in the tribes, verify what the state counts? Escapement
3 and assuring that (distortion) will go on forever and
4 ever for our younger generation to participate in. All
5 we want to do is verify, all we want to do is verify.
6 And we don't get to do that because the Federal
7 government doesn't have the funding to provide our
8 tribes or maybe if we do have a verification system and
9 the count of the animals, we might have disagreements.
10 And if we are proven right, has the first state of Alaska
11 been harming our tribes for 50 years? The lawyers will
12 have a big game on that one. So that's why we have --
13 thank God it's my own opinion. But I'll tell you what,
14 I'm a leader, I have been retired military and the
15 manager. I've been a boss. And I got all this stuff.
16 What to look for when I go to meetings, what to listen
17 for. And that's what I hear, our people telling us of
18 their problems and nobody doing nothing about it or they
19 would be here today. The people that provide the money
20 to do all this, what the state's job is. I'm sorry to
21 have spoken a little out of turn, but that's my
22 observation as a leader and a manager. And what I'm
23 getting tired of hearing -- to listening to the cries
24 of our people on subsistence and mammal harvest. Because
25 the state of Alaska is in charge of everything.
26 Therefore, subsistence is out the door. Why don't we
27 just save the tribal monies from going to subsistence
28 meetings to state allocation because they tell us when
29 to do it, how to do it, when to do it, and how with what
30 to do it and when to start and when to stop. We go and
31 I go home as a taxi driver, go to a meeting, and all
32 they do is bring back what the state tells me they're
33 going to do to us next. There's no meetings, there's no
34 discussions, there's no working thing. There's just what
35 we have to listen to. And I'm getting tired after 40
36 years of listening to that. While they get -- the only
37 one that benefits out of this Fish and Game; the truth
38 of the matter is, is the employees of the state of Alaska
39 that work with the Fish and the Game. They're the only
40 ones that benefit. Other than that, we're just told when
41 we can go and get. Boy it's quiet in here. I'm sorry, I
42 may have made a mistake, but it's the truth. Thank you
43 very much, ma'am.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana.
46 Robert. (In Native) Norma.

47
48 MS. EVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. This
49 year in Marshall, in some areas, there are a lot of
50 blueberries. There were less salmon berries. I think we

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1 get them every odd year, seems like. There are more
2 raspberries this and last year. They seem to be all over
3 the place. There also seems to be more of black berries
4 growing. There were less mosquitos than last year. Last
5 year we had swarms. This year in the Yukon region, summer
6 chum came back in large numbers where communities were
7 able to dry salmon. This summer chum looked very well
8 and with hardly any lesions or white (indiscernible) we
9 saw in during the warmer summer years. Our summer was
10 very cold and rainy during part of the fish drying
11 season, (indiscernible) are slowly coming in and also
12 the coho are in low numbers. There seem to be more larger
13 white fish caught in spring after the ice shifted out,
14 and during the summer months at the beach, caught on
15 hook and line. We had more moose and cows during the
16 summertime seek refuge in our community boundary. We do
17 have a rock quarry run by Calista, and it seemed to be
18 pushing the mountain bears and wolves further away from
19 going up the mountainside.

20
21 I did see a very long-legged moose
22 running away while we were looking for salmon berries
23 after the rock explosion. Hundreds of Canadian geese
24 were spotted near muddy lakes recently, feeding on
25 blueberries before the migration. All spring, we did see
26 a new bird. It was all black, small and made a noise
27 like an old school polaroid camera. First time I ever
28 see that kind of small bird. It was a little bit bigger
29 than a swallow. Moose hunting opened in our region on
30 August 1st, families are slowly going hunting. Also,
31 again this season, the cranes that used to feed in
32 hundreds, maybe even thousands before migration near the
33 base of Pilcher Mountain are not coming back in numbers.
34 I think that was a feeding ground for ages. Now that we
35 have a rock quarry, they moved to other regions. Also,
36 compared to last year, there has been zero sightings of
37 the muskox in our region. We did see them the prior
38 year. Also, this year we did not see any belugas like
39 we did the past three summers that came in with the
40 salmon. That said, thank you, Madam Chair.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
43 Norma. Always good to hear from you. I think we have -
44 Oh, John's next. Quyana.

45
46 MR. ANDREW: Quyana. Thank you, Madam
47 Chair. This is John W. Andrew. After listening to
48 everybody over here, I was thinking I can do a long
49 presentation. Now I have to condense it. Most of them
50 were already brought out by their members. And I thank

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1 you for it. Last two years, we've been having a hard
2 time starting every spring. Climate change is playing a
3 trick on us. Last spring, our village was flooded,
4 starting out almost by the middle of May all the way to
5 the third week of June. The year before that was worse.
6 The whole village was covered with water. And this spring
7 -- this summer, the water will come down. And right now,
8 we're flooded again with the foul winds. And when it's
9 high water, it's pretty hard to go out and find a decent
10 area to set your net. Even if you're drifting, there's
11 too much debris out there. You're half the time you're
12 picking up sticks and pulling (indiscernible) from your
13 kuviag, from your nets. And one thing I found out this
14 summer was that I was -- when I got handicapped during
15 the peak of the run, my motor broke down. Because I'm
16 pretty -- I have a pretty old F-70 Metal Outboard. It
17 was 2015. Trying to find parts in Bethel, couldn't find
18 any. Not even from Anchorage marinas, Anchorage Marine.
19 So, I had to order from outside, took almost four weeks
20 just to get that part. And I missed out on the peak of
21 the run. But it was pretty -- I was pretty lucky. Some
22 of my relatives were handing me, giving me some dry fish
23 and even last year's dry fish that were vacuum packed,
24 which were still good. And on openings, there were two
25 for this summer, Federal openings. You got to remember;
26 Federal open does not stayed open all summer. They kind
27 of ceded their (indiscernible) seventeen, then its three
28 four hours. Now there are two far apart then very few
29 people that have more than one boats per family. It cut
30 down the openings, but people that had bad motors or no
31 fishing gear, they had to rely on the relatives to give
32 them share of their fish. I think I can say very few
33 people did good on fishing, but most of them did not
34 meet their amount needs for subsistence. That means they
35 didn't get enough. Not enough openings and not enough
36 salmon to share. And our migratory birds, they -- it was
37 good, not too many still, very few people go out and get
38 them because ammunition and gas is too expensive and
39 prohibitive at the village. Just from my village only
40 gas is like eight (indiscernible) a gallon. You need to
41 go a fair distance. You need almost 100 bucks for the
42 gas to go and back. And ammunition is really expensive
43 too. Some years we don't have enough shotgun shells. We
44 had to scrounge around or ask somebody to shop for some
45 at Anchorage. Or if you go to other villages, some
46 villages say a box of shells will set you back 30, upper
47 30s to 40 something bucks. You're wasting \$2 a shotgun
48 birds. And the ptarmigans last spring, they came down
49 early, migrating. The older folk to say, when the last
50 spring storms are up, blizzards are up in the mountains,

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1 the migratory ptarmigan migrate to the tundra and
2 towards the coast. And this fall it was the other way
3 around. Starting in Octo -- no, starting in August, we
4 saw them early participant migrating already. Then I
5 kept thinking, how come they come up too early? Because
6 normally they start migrating to the hills and when the
7 set -- when the weather gets cold in September or
8 October. But this year, right before these windstorms,
9 they start migrating. We could see them even daytime and
10 evening flying towards the hills. That was -- which was
11 unusual. Going to on trapping, hardly anybody at the
12 village set trap no more -- only for (indiscernible)
13 meat or for their meat and some fur. For -- to give them
14 to their family, to the relatives that make our skin
15 crafts. And all this high water is giving us a hardship
16 out there. Not wet and windy during the winter. And when
17 it's wet and windy, we don't go out and hardly fish
18 because it's hard to dry. Right now, for cold there's
19 lots of coho out there like the other people have
20 observed, their small. When my friends go out and fish
21 for a coho, they said they see them shooting right
22 through their six-inch, even through their five and a
23 half. Now the cohos, practically all species are getting
24 smaller and smaller every year. Last summer, this past
25 summer, when I was getting ready to go sit in it for
26 reds, somebody had borrowed my net. I ended up using a
27 little whitefish net. I was still catching these little,
28 tiny reds. All our little reds had cleaned out in the
29 early afternoon. Then I pulled it out in the evening. I
30 didn't want a little -- too many of the little reds. (In
31 Native) for the chinook, lot of them were small. Only a
32 -- the majority of them were small, but their
33 (indiscernible) they were catching big ones if you're
34 using the six-inch. And when I use a six-inch, I had a
35 tiny little jack that was a female. It a avocado sizes
36 sac grow and I kept thinking, now, the first time I seen
37 a tiny little jack with them looking it with eggs, fish
38 eggs, and little, tiny, little tiny egg sack of an
39 avocado or a or a hand grenade, which is unusual because
40 only the big 30 or 30 up to 60 pounds produce a lot of
41 eggs. And there is -- it depends on where you go. If you
42 go to an area where it's productive on south side of our
43 area is the salmonberry seem to grow to a lot in the
44 Tundra. Because some people said we had two days of
45 early frosts in June, part of them were already hurt
46 when they were growing. They didn't even mature enough
47 to get ripe. It just depends on where you go. But the
48 blueberries are plentiful, but they're smaller in size.
49 But with the red -- they say reds are plentiful, too.
50 But they're not -- but they're getting to the point. We

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1 usually wait till first part of September to pick
2 cranberries and the last thing, to support the Henry, a
3 lot of the older folks, in most of the village, people
4 that are experienced don't like to go fish on Sundays,
5 and families that don't fish on Sundays, they'd rather
6 go to churches or to practice there at the village. To
7 respect the day of rest. Quyana, Madam Chair.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
10 John. I think if we still have Alyssa online, would you
11 like to give your report?
12

13 MS. ROGERS: Hi. Thank you, Madam Chair.
14 At this time, I would like to wait until tomorrow when
15 I'm personally there to give my report, if that's okay
16 with you, Madam.
17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay.
19 That works because -- yeah, your -- It wasn't that clear
20 when you were speaking just now. So, better tomorrow.
21 And that leaves me to do my report. So, although I am
22 Acting Chair today, I will be reporting as a
23 representative from Quinhagak, my community. And I'd
24 like to start off by -- since we last met in March, we
25 had a good ptarmigan and rabbit season. Our trout
26 continue to get mixed with pike, and now when we go
27 netting for pike a lot of times it's half or, sorry,
28 when we go netting for trout a lot of the times now it's
29 half pike and half trout, which is a big change.
30

31 We had a good seal hunting season, bird
32 hunting season. It seemed like the migratory birds were
33 a little bit late in the spring, but they were in good
34 numbers. At the same time as the first birds and seals,
35 we have a lake plant that we gather, pollup, polis
36 buttercup, I think? Which is kapukak. And those are our
37 first fresh foods in the spring, and we like to have
38 them together with the kapukak. Going into our salmon
39 season, our family met our needs. Although I wish I
40 could have done a little more. I am the only cutter in
41 my family, and I cut for three homes. So, this year I
42 think I did 20 less than usual. It's just so much work.
43 And at the same time dealing with you know, racing with
44 climate change to save your fish or the quality control
45 part is becoming more of a job I've noticed since last
46 year. I -- my kings, all my kings have got minquk. I
47 think it's -- that means, like a sheet or a layer of
48 mold because of the moisture and all the rain that comes
49 so early. These days, compared to back then, it didn't
50 seem like some of the fish racks didn't even have a roof

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1 back then, because we never had so much rain like that
2 in the month of June, July or -- June. So, in the past
3 two years, I'm not so proud of how my king salmon turned
4 out. But this year when the rain hit, we moved them into
5 the smokehouse and did, like, a soft smoke with the
6 doors open, and that somewhat saved them. But they still
7 minquk. But I noticed a lot of fish smokers and people
8 who are taking care of their fish had to do that same
9 thing with all their fishing to the smokehouse to save
10 them. And I think it's just going to become more of a
11 normal practice. I'll be more prepared next year for
12 quality control. Oh, it's -- I currently don't have my
13 boat and motor. It's being rebuilt, and it's taking so
14 long. And like John, I've been having to wait for all
15 these parts. So, my summer has been like, unusual because
16 usually I'm always in my boat and I'm worried about my
17 secret berry picking spots right now.

18
19 Going back to fish, though, and our
20 season, we currently don't have an escapement plan, I
21 guess. We don't currently have a weir or sonar or -- so
22 the way we, the fish are counted are by aerial. And
23 recently our tribe native village of Quinhagak was
24 awarded a NFWF grant to do community-based monitoring
25 on subsistence salmon in Quinhagak for the first time.
26 It's a two-year grant. I'm managing it. We did some
27 sampling, ASL sampling and interviews, which lasted from
28 mid-May to mid-July. And we'll do this again next year.
29 At the same time, our corporation, they are doing a
30 drone study on escapement of salmon. But as we all know,
31 it's weather dependent for drones. But I think this is
32 a great start for our community to show that we can
33 manage our own resources and to hopefully, you know, get
34 to data sovereignty one day. Right now, our rivers are
35 -- during the season we have a lot of subsistence users,
36 a lot of sport fishing users, sport fish use as well.
37 But we don't have a way to count our salmon accurately
38 and we don't have enforcement out there. And so, these
39 regulations that our tribe put forth for the subsistence
40 fishery in the bay, such as one net per boat, no fishing
41 on Sundays, six-inch mesh, 55 or 55 it wasn't. So, we're
42 noticing that because there's no enforcement there.
43 These regulations are not always being followed. And so
44 that's been a growing concern. After feeling like we had
45 a win with that regulation and not having any kind of
46 enforcement to back it up is like not having a regulation
47 in place. We also are dealing with a lot of trash left
48 behind in our refuges especially. So, this year, Togiak
49 National Wildlife Refuge stated that this year was the
50 most trash they've ever picked on the river on the

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1 Kanektok River from anglers just leaving, you know,
2 leaving all kinds of trash on the bars. So, what I would
3 like to address is to -- the Leave No Trace initiative.
4 It seems like it was a big deal back then, and I think
5 it should be, you know, reinstated and republicized and
6 especially for our community. And we also, you know, we
7 get flooded a lot being on the coast and this for this
8 past flood, we were lucky compared to Kwigillingok,
9 Tunt, and Kipnuk. Quinhagak did not get that bad, but
10 we did have the highest tide at the same time, the storm.
11 So, it pushed in a lot of the ocean water. But eroding
12 is an ongoing issue. We're losing a lot of roads in
13 Quinhagak. And we've lost the old runway. There's a --
14 I've lost the path to my fish camp. So now we have to
15 walk or wheelbarrow all our stuff in between on this
16 crappy trail. But we make it work either way. We're
17 looking forward to moose season this year, because the
18 tribe also had a win with the Board of Game this past
19 winter. We asked for an extension on our moose hunt,
20 which we got, which got passed unanimously. So, we're
21 looking forward to a longer moose hunt this year. Right
22 now, people are you know, getting trout, not trout, Sorry
23 -- silvers, birds and berries. Aside from looking
24 forward to Moose, I'm also looking forward to most food
25 hunting and I'll keep it there. Quyana.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAD: Number
28 ten is public and tribal comment on non-agenda items.
29 And first on the list we have Stan Sheppard.

30
31 MR. SHEPPARD: Good morning, Madam Chair,
32 members of the Board. I'll be -- I won't be representing
33 any organization, any organization. I'll be speaking on
34 my behalf, for the record.

35
36 (In Native)

37
38 INTERPRETER: I am from Mountain Village,
39 and I grew up in Harlington Village and the -- I listened
40 to the ancient Greece wisdom the elders used to tell us
41 how we used to hunt and fish, and that's what we
42 followed. And these -- are the caribou and the moose
43 that we hunt. But when we look back from Mountain Village
44 on down, we were in a moose hunting moratorium for five
45 years, and that time during the moratorium, people did
46 not like the moratorium, and they really were against
47 it. And they were saying that we do not have any food.
48 We don't have any money for gas to go up, way upriver
49 in the (indiscernible - distortion) areas, and we're not
50 able to go get moose. We were not able to go hunting up

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1 way upriver. And at that time, during the moratorium,
2 they were telling them that our elders used to patiently
3 wait, and I know that they told us to have patience. And
4 so, if we have patience and exercise patience, the moose
5 numbers will rise. And so, after the five years
6 moratorium had passed, they opened the moose hunting.
7 And during that time, there are a lot of moose population
8 in our area now. And these small villages are down at
9 the coastal areas. And the people upriver from us -- and
10 it is very important with this issue about the people
11 from -- sports hunters, the people that are coming from
12 the sports hunting, those areas are just coming in
13 numbers, in droves, and there are a lot of sport fishers
14 and hunters coming in, and they are overtaking the
15 hunting areas. And the sportsmen would say that they are
16 -- I want hunting here in this area, and I got, and you
17 cannot hunt in this area because this is my area here,
18 my hunting area, and their sportsmen are telling the
19 people that they cannot hunt in that area. And we really
20 wanted the sport hunting to end. And I am bringing this
21 issue up because I want you to understand that the
22 subsistence hunters from our area are being pushed out,
23 and because the sport hunters are coming over and taking
24 over their land and it's like that, they have a right
25 to this land instead of the people that are living in
26 that area. And the elders are saying that these Fish and
27 Wildlife officers and the Federal Wildlife officers they
28 would say about -- tell them that -- and in the northern,
29 in Saint Mary's we -- when I was in Saint Mary's, I was
30 going to go to Anchorage, and I saw a lot of the sports
31 hunters in Saint Mary's, and they were getting ready to
32 go out to their hunting areas. And I saw the old mercury
33 terminal, and I saw a whole lot of pallets with horns
34 and with moose meat in there, and they were just a whole
35 lot of moose gathered in that airport holding area. And
36 because of this that I've seen.....

37
38 MR. SHEPPARD: They wanted more pressure
39 on the sports hunters that come out in our area. There
40 was talk about putting a check station either in Saint
41 Mary's, Pilot Station or Mountain to better monitor the
42 sports hunters that come out from the Lower 48 or the
43 cities to go moose hunt. Where are our community members
44 traditionally go moose hunting after the five-year moose
45 moratorium. They were saying that we, the communities
46 of the Lower Yukon, did not think of any sports hunters
47 when we agreed to go with the five-year moratorium.
48 We were thinking of only the community members along the
49 coast up to Russian Mission, Marshall. Instead of having
50 to pay that extra gas to go up Paimute, Holy Cross,

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1 taimani. And in that time, they were starting to get
2 more restricted in Paimute, Holy Cross. When you go in,
3 before you go into (In Native) this little slough, you
4 see a sign up here saying private property, no hunting
5 allowed. So, other than that, we're having more moose
6 in the community. (In Native).

7

8 INTERPRETER: -- moose now more now than
9 there ever was. And so, they are dangerous. And there
10 are other.....

11

12 MR. SHEPPARD: (In Native) Their number
13 one issue, along with the antlers is, is maybe to lessen
14 the -- just the traffic of sports hunters coming out
15 here to the Lower Yukon. Is to address the antler size
16 and to cut the antlers into four to make it -- what they
17 call that? Invaluable, I think, so (In Native).

18

19 INTERPRETER: -- Issue out in the
20 villages. So, we really need to concentrate on sports
21 hunters. And some of the villagers are afraid of the
22 sports hunters because they come here and they take over
23 the land and the properties, and they threaten the people
24 living in that area, that you cannot come here because
25 as a sportsman, I have a right to hunt this area. And
26 we, from the villagers do not say, I have a camp in
27 (indiscernible), and I don't tell people that they
28 cannot talk to your office here. And I fish in that
29 area. I hunt sheefish. I hunt for cod and fish for cod.
30 And the Federal wildlife would come here and tell me
31 that -- hurry up. You can fish for whitefish in this
32 lower area, and you can fish for sheefish. And so, the
33 other villagers would come down here and they would set
34 their nets right near my gill nets. And even so, I would
35 not tell them they cannot do that. I would not feign
36 ownership of any land or property that is in my area.
37 And that is different from what the sportsmen are saying.
38 And even when I say (indiscernible), I tell them that
39 If you could -- and so, and there are reports that the
40 fisheries fish are coming in, then they come to my area,
41 and they fish, and then they go home with their fish.
42 And that's what we are. Thank you. Do you have any
43 questions on what I just raised up on these issues?

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND:
46 (Simultaneous speech - distortion) Quyana, Stan. If
47 there were any questions? Quyana, Stan.

48

49 MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Brooke,
2 do we have anyone else on the list?

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Chair. Serena,
5 if you're online, you're for-- the count -- Sorry. The
6 Council voted to add you for later in the meeting for
7 under reports. It probably wouldn't be until tomorrow
8 afternoon or on Friday, if either of those days would
9 work for you. We could do it then or if you'd like to
10 go ahead and give a public comment now, that's okay too.

11
12 MS. FITKA: Alright, thank you. Yes. I'm
13 not going to be available this afternoon for the rest
14 of the week. So, if it's okay Madam Chair and Council
15 members, if I could go ahead and provide that report
16 right now.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Hi,
19 Serena. Go ahead.

20
21 MS. FITKA: Great. Thank you. I will keep
22 it very brief. Well, thank you for the opportunity to
23 present to the YK RAC. I'm pleased to represent the
24 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. For the
25 record, my name is Serena Fitka. I'm the Executive
26 Director for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
27 Association. I did provide a written report to Brooke.
28 I'm going to talk fast, which I don't like to do, but
29 just to keep it brief. One of our programs that we have
30 is the Harvest Survey program, which used to be funded
31 under the FRMP. This year we are funded under the
32 National Park Service. This program has been in
33 existence since 2002. We have ten communities along the
34 Yukon River with local hire surveyors starting in June,
35 running through the last week of August. Surveyors
36 interview local households for their experience fishing
37 that week. Households are kept anonymous and the same
38 survey questions are asked every week. Interviews are
39 sent, uh -- interviews are sent to us at the beginning
40 of the week. The data collected is then analyzed and put
41 into a report that is sent out to partners and management
42 agencies. The purpose of the report is to show fish
43 capture data, catch by effort, and create a space where
44 individuals can leave comments for managers. This year
45 we have created a digital app for surveyors to use.

46
47 Now, talk about the Yukon River in-
48 season teleconference program. This program used to be
49 funded under FRMP. This year we did get funding from the
50 Fish and Wildlife Service. Because of the delay in

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1 funding, we were not able to send out any proper mailings
2 to all the 50 communities in Alaska and the 13 First
3 Nations in Canada. Our communication coordinator, Mike
4 McIntyre, has been very diligent in getting the word out
5 to the communities and posting on our website and social
6 media. We also switched our teleconference carrier,
7 which provides better services to us. We're able to see
8 everyone who has called in to the teleconference. Along
9 with providing recorded reports to people upon request.
10 Our attendance for the teleconferences have been pretty
11 good. However, we've -- a lot of the participants have
12 not been providing community reports or observations on
13 the Yukon River. So, it's mainly having management
14 provide their assessments both in Alaska and Canada. And
15 any special reports that we've been providing, which
16 include Area M harvest, North Pacific Fisheries
17 Management Council, fishery disaster, updates, Gravel-
18 to-Gravel Initiative. So, we've been trying to fill that
19 time providing additional information to participants
20 that call in. Next week will be our final call on Tuesday
21 at 1:00. So, if you're available, please call in. And
22 we'll be ending our season next week. One of our major
23 programs that we do have is the Yukon River Watershed
24 Ecosystem Action Plan. In 2023, we established with
25 funding from the Gravel-to-Gravel Initiative, the
26 steering committee was formed. And this steering
27 committee is to create a publicly accessible story map
28 tool, a resource that prioritizes assessments --
29 assessing threats to salmon habitat and identifying the
30 highest priority restoration action. This tool will be
31 open to all, fostering a sense of community and shared
32 responsibility for the Yukon watershed. With the overall
33 commitment to assist in creating a Yukon River Ecosystem
34 Action Plan, the Steering committee will be having a
35 virtual meeting today at 1:00. That's why I will not be
36 here, with plans to having an in-person meeting in the
37 spring. During July and August 2024, your environmental
38 specialist and field technicians conducted field data
39 collection for Yukon, the Yukon River Watershed
40 Ecosystem Action Plan. Data collected this season
41 consists -- consisted of water quality sampling and
42 culvert surveys in the middle Yukon River and Tanana
43 River watersheds. Using the US Fish and Wildlife Service
44 GIS database, our staff collected a total of 64 culvert
45 surveys and 50 water quality samples. Fieldwork
46 locations this season consist of areas surrounding
47 Nulato and road system accessible areas around Minto,
48 Manley Hot Springs, Eureka, and Tofty, Tanna Road. The
49 field crew identified multiple additional culverts of
50 the potential concern for Yukon salmon fish passage,

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1 which were not previously listed in the U.S. Fish and
2 Wildlife Service database. Culvert survey data was
3 entered into the Fish Barrier Hunter app, and water
4 quality data was entered into a new Survey123 app
5 designed by YR DFA through our contractor.
6

7 One of our other projects is the Yukon
8 River Clearinghouse Project. The purpose of this project
9 is to identify gaps along the Yukon River and act as a
10 clearinghouse for social and ecological changes along
11 the Yukon River, using both physical biological data and
12 traditional ecological knowledge. We have hired a TEK
13 technician, and he will be conducting interviews to
14 learn about and generate a historical timeline of
15 observed changes that may affect salmon on the Yukon
16 River. Additionally, we have a physical biological
17 science technician who this season is the field -- I
18 mean -- let me back up. We currently have a physical
19 biological science technician who helped complete the
20 culverts assessment and stream analysis and collecting
21 water quality samples. With both the PBS and the TEK
22 data, YR DFA will be creating a platform that shares a
23 holistic overview of the Yukon River historic timeline.
24 This platform will allow observers and agencies to
25 submit their data to be added to the clearinghouse
26 project.
27

28 The final project that I'm going to talk
29 about is engaging fishers in chinook salmon research on
30 the Yukon River. This project, funded by the North
31 Pacific Research Board, began in January 2023. We are
32 partnering with the communities of Alakanuk and Emmonak
33 to conduct interviews about the health of chinook as the
34 river as they enter the river. We are gathering this
35 information to help inform our companion project, led
36 by Dr. Katie Howard and Vanessa von Biela, which is
37 seeking to understand the drivers of chinook salmon
38 decline and they theorize that one driver is that they
39 are eating less in the Bering Sea, which is strongly
40 related to the health when they enter the river. We have
41 completed our interviews in both Emmonak and Alakanuk
42 and provided a summary and feedback to Emmonak. We are
43 working on summarizing the interviews for Alakanuk and
44 will gather their feedback. We are also working with the
45 communities of Saint Mary's and Huslia to monitor water
46 quality temperature and develop an action plan if there
47 is another heat event that causes a salmon die off in
48 the future. I'd just like to throw out some dates to
49 keep in mind. The North Pacific Fisheries Management
50 Council is meeting September 30th through October 8th

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1 in Anchorage. The Yukon River Science Symposium will be
2 held in person this year in Anchorage, and the tentative
3 date is February 12th. The YRDFA annual Board meeting
4 will be in Fairbanks next year, April 22nd and 23rd. And
5 the YRDFA pre-season meeting will also be held in
6 Fairbanks April 21st and 25th. And that concludes my
7 YRDFA report and overview. Mr. - Ms. -- Madam Chair, if
8 I can take off my YRDFA hat and provide additional
9 comments?

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes. Go
12 ahead, Serena.
13

14 MS. FITKA: Thank you. I'm really glad
15 that Stanislaus Sheppard from Mountain Village brought
16 up moose hunting and the increase of sports hunters in
17 our area. Last year, I did go hunting up the Andreafsky
18 River, in North Fork. We went about 90 miles up about
19 timberline and stayed there for about a week. And there
20 were a lot of hunters there. We counted four rubber
21 rafts that were along the river. We're assuming that
22 they are from Renfro operating out of Unalakleet. Where
23 they're dropping off hunters along the river. I just
24 want to voice that. My concern is, since the decline in
25 our salmon along the river. And are people looking to
26 hunt more moose to supplement the loss of their salmon.
27 Since, you know, subsistence priority are people need
28 to fill their freezers for food. It was really
29 disheartening to see planeloads of (distortion) in Saint
30 Mary's last year. And it was I was hearing from local
31 people that, you know, these people were like taking
32 vehicles from the airport, sleeping in the back of
33 people's trucks at the airport because there was no
34 lodging. The hunters hounding [sic] local people at the
35 dock to transport their moose from the dock to the
36 airport, offering people anywhere from 200 to \$500 in
37 cash just to bring them up to the airport and even
38 alcohol which is really disheartening. I know I've
39 talked with Calista, I talked to Tisha on how we can try
40 to minimize this influx of sports hunters in our area.
41 I just want to share that information because it was it
42 was pretty -- It was pretty surprising to see that many
43 people in Saint Mary's just for that one week. And that's
44 all. Thank you.
45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
47 Serena, good to hear from you. That was all for our
48 requests. But the floor is still open for public comments
49 on non-agenda items. Anyone online?
50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: I'm not seeing anyone
2 online, Madam Chair. But just as a reminder, we will
3 have opportunity for public comment on non-agenda items
4 first thing tomorrow morning before the Council gets
5 into their business and also on Friday morning. So, if
6 something else you would like to share or if you haven't
7 provided a comment, there's still opportunities to do
8 so. Thank you.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: So,
11 hearing no one else, how did -- how do you feel about
12 lunch? Going to lunch now? There's been a request. Yeah?
13 So, let's take a -- how long do we need? We'll be back
14 1:30. Quyana.

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (On record)

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: So, I'm
21 going to call the meeting back to order at 1:35pm. Before
22 we get to the presentation, I wanted to point out that
23 there is a timed presentation at 4 pm today. So just
24 keep that in mind. Wherever we're at, we're going to --
25 at 4:00, go to another presentation. With that, we're
26 number 11 on the agenda, Council member training,
27 delegation of authority training. Pippa.

28
29 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
30 members of the Council. My name is Pippa Kenner, and I'm
31 an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
32 Management in Anchorage. And I'm accompanied
33 telephonically with my coworker Tom Plank who's on the
34 line. Am I speaking loud enough? All right, great. So
35 here we are on slide number one, and we're here to
36 present the delegation of authority training. Moving
37 forward OSM plans to hold one training session at each
38 Council meeting. We feel this will help new Council
39 members become more familiar with the Federal program
40 and serve as a refresher for the more experienced
41 members. Today, we'll go over the basics of delegation
42 of authority, and this training is meant to be
43 informational, and it is not an action item. There's no
44 presentation in your book. One is being handed out, and
45 with - they are available on the back table, a copy of
46 the PowerPoint. And with that, we'll get started. Slide
47 two. So, the objectives of this training are to provide
48 information about delegated authority, show the Councils
49 where to find information about delegated authority and
50 discuss the Council's role in the delegated authority.

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1 This training is meant to be a broad overview of
2 delegated authority. There will be time for questions
3 and answers at the end of the training. To get into
4 specifics and to discuss region specific delegation of
5 authority issues. Slide three, please. There is -- here
6 is the regulation that allows the Federal Subsistence
7 Board to delegate their authority to agency field
8 officials.

9
10 MS. LAVINE: We're having some issues.
11 I'm so sorry, but folks online are having a hard time
12 hearing Pippa. She sounds great and then completely
13 drops out. And so-- I'm wondering if we might if maybe
14 the mic needs to be closer or something else, but it's--
15 - we have a hard time hearing her online. Thank you.

16
17 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Robin, this is
18 Pippa. I was moving around a lot, being very
19 demonstrative, and I will be still. So here is the
20 regulation that allows the Federal Subsistence Board to
21 delegate their authority to agency field officials. The
22 regulation describes what kind of actions can be
23 delegated, for example, setting harvest and possession
24 limits, open or closing seasons, etc. We'll try to use
25 plain language in the first few slides to define and
26 describe delegation of authority. Next slide. What is
27 delegation of authority? In the broadest sense,
28 delegation of authority is the transfer of limited
29 decision-making power from the Federal Subsistence Board
30 to Federal managers. Delegated authority is what gives
31 Federal managers the authority to make in-season
32 decisions to manage fish and wildlife populations. Next
33 slide. As mentioned in the previous slide, the Federal
34 Subsistence Board transfers the decision-making
35 authority to Federal managers. For example, this might
36 be a National Park Service superintendent or a U.S.
37 Forest Service district ranger, or a Fish and Wildlife
38 Service refuge manager. Local Federal managers often
39 have a greater connection to and understanding of the
40 resource than anyone in Anchorage. Beyond giving
41 decision making authority to Federal managers who have
42 boots on the ground, why is delegation of authority
43 important? Next slide. Delegation of authority is
44 important for multiple reasons. It allows Federal
45 managers to make quick management decisions as data and
46 local knowledge become available in-season. For example,
47 maybe the pre-season forecast for a fish population is
48 strong, but in-season data and local observations
49 indicate the run is really weak and will not meet
50 escapement goals. The Federal managers delegated

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1 authority allows quick action to close the fishery to
2 all users, to protect the population, or close the
3 fishery to non-Federally qualified users, non-
4 subsistence users to protect and continue subsistence
5 uses. It also allows for input from locals, especially
6 when there's a close relationship between managers and
7 subsistence users. Next slide, please. Authority can be
8 delegated to managers in two places. One place is in
9 unit specific regulations. These regulation books.
10 Currently, only wildlife regulations have delegated
11 authority in unit specific regulations, mainly because
12 wildlife has a lot of routine management actions. For
13 example, a Federal manager has delegated authority to
14 announce the harvest quota for a moose hunt each year
15 before the season opens. This optimizes harvest
16 opportunity and conservation, since the quota can be
17 adjusted annually in response to the size of the moose
18 population. Authority may also be delegated through a
19 delegation of authority letter. This letter allows
20 Federal managers to issue special actions. And we're
21 going to discuss this these letters more in a little
22 bit. Next slide. How the Federal Subsistence Board
23 delegates authority depends on if the authority is
24 delegated in a letter, or in unit specific regulations.
25 For delegation of authority letters, the Federal
26 Subsistence Board may delegate authority at any time.
27 This is done through an administrative action.
28 Administrative actions require the Board to vote either
29 by email, poll, or during a Board meeting, but do not
30 go through the regulatory process.

31
32 This allows for quick action by the
33 board and for the Board to be responsive to changing
34 conditions. This method does not require public input.
35 However, the Board understands the value of public
36 feedback and may ask for feedback from the Councils
37 before creating or modifying a delegation of authority
38 letter. Delegation of authority in unit specific
39 regulations may only happen through the public
40 regulatory process. In other words, it requires a
41 proposal to change existing Fisher Wildlife regulations
42 during the regulatory cycle, while public input is at
43 the Board's discretion for delegation of authority
44 letters. Public and Council input is required through
45 this regulatory process. Slide nine, please. Here's an
46 example of authority that is delegated to a manager in
47 unit specific regulations. Again, these currently only
48 occur in wildlife regulations and are for routine annual
49 management decisions. The authority is more limited in
50 scope than in delegation of authority letters. In this

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1 example, the authority only pertains to setting permit
2 conditions and announcing closures for a winter hunt.
3 If anyone, the Councils or the public wanted to change
4 or modify this authority, they would need to submit a
5 regulatory proposal. Next slide. In contrast to
6 authority outlined in regulation, managers may also be
7 delegated authority through delegation of authority
8 letters. These letters give managers authority to issue
9 special actions. The special actions issued by Federal
10 managers are subject to regulatory requirements. For
11 example, public hearings are required for temporary
12 special actions, which are special actions that last
13 more than 60 days but be not extend past the end of the
14 current regulatory cycle, and public hearings are
15 encouraged for emergency special actions, which are
16 actions that may not exceed 60 days. The managers must
17 also seek Council recommendations when the timing of
18 Council meetings allows. Delegation of authority letters
19 can be issued or rescinded by the Federal Subsistence
20 Board at any time. Issuing or rescinding the letters
21 does not need to take place at a Board meeting or during
22 the regulatory cycle. This gives the Board flexibility
23 to adapt to changing conditions and make sure managers
24 have the tools they need to manage and protect
25 populations, as well as optimize subsistence
26 opportunity. Changes to delegation of authority letters
27 may be requested by the Councils or the public, by letter
28 or during a Board meeting. Delegation of authority
29 letters are not currently published online. If the
30 Council or the public ever wants a copy of a delegation
31 of authority letter, you can contact OSM or the in-
32 season manager. We've also brought some as examples.
33 Next slide. While letters issued to managers are
34 specific to the areas and species covered, the general
35 language and requirements are the same across letters.
36 For example, all letters require communication with
37 affected parties such as Council Chairs and the Alaska
38 Department of Fish and Game. Tribal consultation must
39 be conducted if practical, if there's enough time.
40 Managers may also defer decisions to the Board with very
41 controversial issues if immediate action is not needed.
42 Next slide. The Federal program has fisheries
43 regulations and wildlife regulations. Fisheries and
44 wildlife delegated authority are issued in separate
45 letters. For fisheries, the scope of the letter is broad
46 and consistent across letters. They cover all fish
47 species in an area. A list of Federal fisheries managers
48 with delegated authority can be found on page 99 of the
49 regulation book. And I'm holding up the Federal
50 regulation book, page 99 is a list of the delegated

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1 authorities. This contrasts with wildlife delegations,
2 which tend to cover specific hunts, species, and
3 management actions. Most wildlife actions are routine
4 and occur every year. In the unit specific regulations
5 of the Federal Wildlife Harvest Regulation Book, a white
6 explanation mark inside a red triangle indicates that
7 additional management actions may be taken by the
8 Federal in-season manager, and you should consult the
9 delegation of authority table in the back of the book.
10 All of the authority delegated through letters are
11 listed in this table. For this area, it begins on about
12 page 155, in the book that I'm holding up, and they are
13 organized by Federal Manager and list the area species
14 and authority delegated. Each row corresponds to a
15 separate letter. For example, on page 154, the Izembek
16 National Wildlife Refuge Manager has authority to close
17 the moose season in Unit 9D when ten bulls have been
18 harvested, and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
19 Preserve superintendent has authority to manage the
20 caribou hunt in a portion of Unit 12. Specifically, they
21 can open and close the season, announce the harvest quota
22 and the number of permits to be issued. Slide 13 please.
23 So, in summary, we have delegation of authority, which
24 means the Board transfers limited decision making
25 ability to Federal managers. This authority can be in
26 unit specific regulations or in delegation of authority
27 letters. For unit specific regulations delegated
28 authority can only be added or modified during the public
29 regulatory process. The delegation tends to be for
30 routine annual management actions. They are currently
31 only in wildlife regulations because wildlife has more
32 routine management actions, such as closing seasons when
33 harvest quotas are met. Next slide.

34
35 The Council's role in delegation of
36 authority and unit specific regulations is submitting
37 proposals to change the delegated authority in
38 regulation, making recommendations to the Board on the
39 associated regulatory proposals, and consulting with
40 managers before they take action. Next slide. Delegation
41 of authority letters are easier for the Board to change
42 or rescind. Giving the Board more flexibility to act
43 quickly and respond to changing conditions. Again,
44 changes to the letters can happen outside the regulatory
45 cycle. Delegation of authority letters give Federal
46 managers the ability to issue special actions. The
47 letters are generally broader in scope, but are subject
48 to more requirements, such as requiring public hearings.
49 Both Fisheries and Wildlife regulations have delegation
50 of authority letters. Next slide. The Council also has

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1 a role in delegation of authority letters. The Councils
2 may request to add or to modify them through letters at
3 the -- through letters or during a Federal Subsistence
4 Board meeting, the Board may ask Councils for feedback
5 on proposed changes to a delegation of authority letter
6 when time allows. The letters also require that managers
7 consult with Council Chairs before issuing special
8 actions. The Chair is encouraged to seek feedback from
9 other Council members. Next slide.

10
11 Delegation of authority allows for quick
12 in-season management actions. This allows Federal
13 managers to protect fish and wildlife populations and
14 to protect the continuation of subsistence uses.
15 Managers are required to consult with affected parties
16 before taking action. This commonly includes the
17 Councils, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
18 OSM, the Office of subsistence Management. Council
19 Chairs are encouraged to bring in other Council members
20 when consulting with managers, and you can contact OSM
21 or the in-season manager if you have questions. So, the
22 next slide please. Thank you so much for your time and
23 attention today and I'll be happy to answer questions.
24 Tom Plank is also on the line and can help me. And up
25 on the projection currently is a table showing the
26 letters of delegation that are held by Federal in-season
27 managers that affect this area. You might see that 17A
28 moose is there, but some of the communities in your
29 region are allowed to hunt under Federal regulations for
30 moose in Unit 17A so that's why that is in the table.
31 So, thanks again for your time and we're available to
32 answer any of your questions.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Pippa, I
35 have a question. You had mentioned that there was no
36 delegation of fish and just wildlife. Is this different
37 with the fish on the Board?

38
39 MS. KENNER: Great question, Madam Chair.
40 So, the Board has delegated some of its authority to
41 Federal agencies and managers in wildlife regulations.
42 It's usually the quota or the ability to open a season
43 or close a season. And that's in these Federal
44 regulations and they're called unit specific. Letters
45 of delegation are both fish and wildlife and you won't
46 find them in these books. They're in separate letters.
47 And I think you each have a copy of the two main letters
48 of delegation that affect you in that the fish and the
49 moose delegation of authority letters for Unit 18. The

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1 fish, I think, is for the Kuskokwim. I'm not sure if we
2 have the letter in there for the Yukon.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
5 you, Pippa. Are you open for other questions? Yes. Does
6 anyone else have questions or comments? Myron Naneng.

7

8 MR. NANENG: Yeah. Thank you, Madam
9 Chair. I know that the Federal Subsistence Board does
10 not -- what was that? Peace. I know that the Federal
11 Subsistence Board does not have representation from this
12 region. And if there is a proposal that comes up, I'll
13 just give a hypothetical question. They, for instance,
14 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission comes up
15 with a proposal, but it's not supported by the Kuskokwim
16 River Salmon Management working group. You know, both -
17 - one is fed, and the other one is a state entity or
18 recognized working group. My question would be what and
19 who would Federal Subsistence Board give deference to,
20 that -- in the delegation of authority, not only the
21 Kuskokwim Management Working Group, but they can also
22 refer that question to the Yukon side because they were
23 impacted on both rivers by both entities, not at times
24 being in conflict with some of the findings that they
25 may have. So that's my question.

26

27 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question.
28 Member Naneng. So, let's talk about the Kuskokwim and
29 the difference between the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
30 and the working group. Generally, I'm going to speak in
31 broad terms here. The working group is an entity that
32 is organized and administered by the Alaska Department
33 of Fish and Game, but it's very valuable. And the Federal
34 managers and all the users pay attention to what's
35 happening on the working group. It's an excellent way
36 of talking through issues on the river. However, the
37 Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has a special
38 relationship with the Federal manager and the U.S. Fish
39 and Wildlife Service on the Kuskokwim, and that special
40 relationship exist two ways there may be other
41 relationships, but these are the two I know of. One is
42 it's a consortium of tribes that have asked to consult
43 with the Federal decision-making authority on what's
44 going to happen on the river. So those are consultation
45 responsibilities, government to government consultation
46 responsibilities that the Federal government has with
47 tribes. But there's an important second factor into the
48 strength of the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and that
49 is a memorandum of agreement between the Inter-Tribal
50 Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

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1 that they will work together, and in that memorandum of
2 agreement is a -- or memorandum of understanding is a -
3 - it talks about what they will talk about and what the
4 Federal managers responsibilities are. So, if we move -
5 - so that's the difference between, for instance, the
6 working group, which serves as an advisory body to the
7 Federal manager and the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and
8 its special relationship to the Federal manager.
9

10 When we talk about the Yukon, I'm going
11 to be I have to be a little bit more general because I'm
12 not specifically educated in it. However, on the Yukon,
13 there is not a memorandum of agreement between the
14 Federal agencies and that represent the land managers
15 along the Yukon River. There's not a member memorandum
16 of agreement between those Federal agencies and the
17 tribes along the river. There is a consultation
18 responsibility with tribes, but there isn't this
19 memorandum of agreement that lays out specifically what
20 the Federal manager's responsibilities are. I believe
21 what -- at least one of the reasons why that memorandum
22 doesn't exist is that there are -- the Yukon River is
23 very large. It has a different kind of cultural groups
24 that are on the river, all having a different point of
25 view. And there's a broad spectrum of Federal
26 management, from National Park Service to U.S. Fish and
27 Wildlife Service Refuges. So, it's not quite-- it
28 wouldn't be quite -- as not that it was easy to do it
29 on the Kuskokwim, but there's some things that make
30 working like that on the Yukon difficult, and I -- but
31 I don't know the specifics about what's going on the
32 Yukon. So, thank you again for the question. I hope I
33 was able to answer it.
34

35 MR. NANENG: Madam Chair, follow up
36 question, since we're called the AYK Regional Advisory
37 Council. I mean, Yukon-Kuskokwim RAC. I believe that
38 more information should be obtained regarding the Lower
39 Yukon villages because they're up against a lot more or
40 a couple of RACs further upriver versus their
41 representation here with the AYK or the Yukon-Kuskokwim
42 Regional Advisory Council. And if there's going to be
43 any fairness to the Lower Yukon people, I think it would
44 be prudent or I think it would be fair for the Federal
45 agencies to work as much as they can to try and find
46 ways to include the Yukon River villages, Lower Yukon
47 River villages that are directly impacted by the
48 decisions made on their behalf by the Federal or state
49 agencies, because they're the most controlled and
50 impacted fisheries in the world. Even Hooper Bay,

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1 Chevak, Scammon are also included in that. And it's not
2 fair to say, oh, we're taking care of you. However,
3 we're not going to be talking to you for making decisions
4 on your behalf when you were dealing with the fishery
5 issues that impact your subsistence use. So that's my
6 comment. So, with that, thank you.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
9 Myron. Pippa, do you have anything else and -- or are
10 there any other questions for Pippa? If not, I have a
11 question; another question. I'm sure there's not an easy
12 answer and maybe you somewhat said the answer, but why
13 is there not an MOA/MOU? I know you said it's very
14 diverse and different viewpoints, but is -- this part
15 of that have to do with the Yukon also going into Canada,
16 or is that part of the complication with the MOA, if
17 that makes sense?

18
19 MR. AYERS: Madam Chair. Hi. Yeah, this
20 is Scott Ayers, the Fisheries Division Supervisor for
21 OSM. Oh, and we may have another person coming up to the
22 table at some point in time, I'm here as well but Pippa
23 called me over to talk about this. And quite honestly,
24 I don't have the reasons for why there's not been a
25 memorandum that's been developed for the Yukon River at
26 this point in time. I think it was an organic process
27 for the Kuskokwim when that all came together, and there
28 was a big call and a push for that to happen. And, I
29 could certainly see that it would be more complicated
30 along the Yukon. The systems vary quite a bit between
31 land management with the Kuskokwim primarily having the
32 refuge for the lower half of the river and then other
33 waters above that, whereas upon along the Yukon it's
34 much more of a patchwork of state and Federal and other
35 lands along the river. And then, as you mentioned
36 earlier, the fact that the top end of the river is
37 entirely within Canada. So, I think that that's a good
38 potential reason for that, but I don't have any other
39 specifics. And then did you want to -- I'm going to pass
40 the mic to Holly Carroll.

41
42 MS. CARROLL: Madam Chair. Holly Carroll
43 with the Yukon -- Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon River
44 in-season Manager. So, if you're talking about the
45 memorandum of understanding that the Federal manager on
46 the Kuskokwim has with the Fish Commission. So, there's
47 been a kind of a delay in the development and sort of
48 cohesion of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish
49 Commission. As many of you know, they've been working
50 for many years. They've had some changes in

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1 directorship, they've had changes in funding. And
2 there's this push, again, for them to formalize and form
3 and actually to come out from under their -- they're
4 currently under the Tanana Chiefs Conference umbrella,
5 and they are trying to become a non-profit separate from
6 that entity. And so, they're kind of been working on a
7 lot of administrative issues there, but actually they
8 reached out to the Yukon Management Team, and they are
9 requesting that we consider a memorandum of
10 understanding, and they reference the Kuskokwim one. So
11 that is definitely a discussion we're already having.
12 But I think there's a little bit of a process to go for
13 the Fish Commission itself to be kind of fully formed,
14 fully engaged, get all of their sort of rules and their
15 sort of definitions of their body. You know, as you guys
16 have your Kuskokwim working group, you have in-season
17 managers, you have biologists on staff, you have this
18 whole capacity built up. And I think that our Yukon Fish
19 Commission is working towards that right now. So, I think
20 you'll see one coming down the line in future. But for
21 now, that's kind of the only reason that we haven't got
22 one yet is that we haven't really had the capacity to
23 come together and set up a way that will co-manage, but
24 we're working on it. So hopefully that answers your
25 question.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you
28 for the update. It did answer my question.

29
30 MR. NANENG: Madam Chair.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes

33
34 MR. NANENG: I have a follow up comment.
35 On the Yukon River there's a negotiating panel with the
36 Canadians for escapement of chinook salmon, and I used
37 to be on there, back in the early 1990s. Like I mentioned
38 this morning, at one point there was a comment request
39 that 75,000 chinook salmon be able to pass to the
40 Canadian border. Then it got reduced down to 45. If a
41 panel can be made for different agencies to work together
42 on the Yukon River, be the -- what you have listed up
43 there U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park
44 Service and others to work together to find some kind
45 of way -- to also find ways that will may be beneficial
46 to help support the Lower Yukon villages. Once upon a
47 time, I used to work for Tanana Chiefs, too. They're
48 good people, but they also would be talking about needing
49 more salmon up upriver. So, in the last report that I
50 saw last spring, when the state legislature was still

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1 in session, the Commissioner of Fish and Game reported
2 that only 100 chinook salmon went through a what they
3 call a dam jumping area, and I know 100 is not a good
4 number, but there used to be a substantial more number
5 of chinook salmon that went up there. So, but I would
6 recommend to see if there's a possibility of even the
7 subsistence -- Federal Subsistence Board to work
8 together to try and find ways to make that memorandum
9 of agreement work with different agencies as well as
10 State of Alaska, because whenever it comes down to the
11 burden of conservation. Guess who pays the most? It's
12 our villages on the Lower Yukon. It's our villages along
13 the coast. And that's not fair. And when I was sitting
14 on the negotiating panel, I made a comment to the state
15 negotiating team. We got to resolve our in-state fishery
16 management systems so that more fish can come back to
17 the river systems. A week later, I got a letter from the
18 Commissioner of Fish and Game, Chuck Meecham, at that
19 time who was leading the group and says, thank you for
20 your service, but your services are no longer needed.
21 And here we are today, zero subsistence fishing for
22 chinook salmon for our people. Closures in the past,
23 I've once a thriving commercial fishery that happened
24 on Lower Yukon no longer exists. So that's why I'm making
25 a pitch that an effort be made where they YK regional
26 Advisory Council make it happen, it has to. There's no
27 excuse. We're in the year 2024, and one of the reasons
28 why we pushed for inter-tribal fish commissions is to
29 get our people a fair opportunity and chance to be able
30 to submit to both the state and the feds management
31 concerns that we can all share and work together with.
32 So, if it's not working, if it hasn't moved on the Yukon,
33 something definitely needs to be done. So, with that,
34 I'm sorry I am going on like this, but I think fairness
35 needs to happen for people on Lower Yukon as well as the
36 villages of Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon. So, I just
37 want to share that as my concern with that. Thank you.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
40 Myron. Brooke has a comment. Brooke.

41
42 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair.
43 Myron, I just wanted to let you know that we will be
44 hearing from the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish
45 Commission later in the meeting. Karma Olviq the
46 executive director will be calling in, and so that will
47 be an opportunity to ask her some questions about where
48 they're at in, in their process and what they're working
49 on right now.
50

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Are there
2 any other questions or comments?

3
4 MR. PETER: Pippa, you know, last year
5 we discussed about the districts in Yukon, about Y1 and
6 Y2. And when I ask that question, I understood that --
7 my question is always like this. They don't have a chance
8 to fish in the Bering Sea. And like in Kuskokwim, we
9 could fish in Bering Sea, about I don't know how many
10 miles from the mouth of the Kuskokwim to fish, including
11 Quinhagak, including the Goodnews Bay and Platinum to
12 fish for the consumption when it's open. And look like
13 sometimes I confuse on these regulations. It's not fair
14 to us. It's not fair to us these regulations, we didn't
15 make them. But other regulators make them for us, for
16 example, in this Kuskokwim. There's some -- Kuskokwim
17 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the working
18 group. And I can't -- and I don't know the third one.
19 When there's plentiful fish and good weather, they don't
20 agree to let us fish in dry season, but then the raining
21 season all the time. This regulation in Kuskokwim should
22 be fixed. You know, we followed this even though we had
23 the hard time to follow these regulations. We followed
24 them honestly. Even though we don't accept them. But we
25 followed them honestly. Because we want to increase all
26 the chinook, chum, reds and cohos. But on Yukon side,
27 there are a lot of villages more than us, I guess. Maybe
28 the solution will be unite those people from the mouth
29 of the Yukon all the way up to Canadian. I don't want
30 to lose the taste of the king salmon or the salmon, Any
31 salmon from my mouth. I wanted to taste it. If we can't
32 taste it, maybe we will lose the taste of the king
33 salmon. What about the generations? Because these
34 regulations are really hurtful for us to accept. It's
35 not our regulations. But we work on them, these
36 regulations because -- sometimes I wonder, given my
37 chance to drift so that they could taste it, king salmon,
38 chum salmon or any salmon. I always get afraid of when
39 I lose the taste of the salmon. That's in our blood
40 system already. We need to work on this issue. Those
41 trawlers out there, they're going to let us lose the
42 taste of the salmon. I don't want to lose it because
43 it's a survival, even the generations. That's what I was
44 kind of afraid right now. Because seven years, they don't
45 have a chance to fish in Yukon because of -- maybe
46 they're proud. More power than us. We work on them
47 Federal Subsistence Board RAC fix these regulations. And
48 when we put it on the table of Federal those higher
49 powers, Federal Boards. I'm tired of these regulations.
50 Seven years it's a long time. Think about it, the taste,

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1 only the taste of the salmon. Is our language, Yup'ik
2 or English? We need to help each other. For the benefit
3 of our generations, to taste the salmon. Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
6 Phillip. Are you raising your hand, Robert?

7

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah,
11 Robert.

12

13 MR. HOFFMAN: Sorry. Ok, that's what I
14 was trying to explain a little earlier. And I heard --
15 I even heard it on the radio. Money talks and the other
16 stuff walks. I heard that comment on the talk show, and
17 I hope that's not the case here. Where we don't fish in
18 the Kuskokwim and the poor Yukon people never even got
19 to fish. And yet they -- I hear I might be wrong, but
20 the high seas fishing, whether it be trawling or drifting
21 with 100-mile net, is still going on while we babysit
22 their fish, take care of the eggs, allow them to go down
23 so they could -- is it because we the people don't return
24 nothing to the state and Federal government, is why we
25 have to be just babysitting their commercial or their
26 harvests? When we close, they should close. And don't
27 tell me it's a different district, fishing district. I
28 don't hear that because it should be fair all the way
29 around. It started off with the geese moratorium, eggs.
30 They tell us you can't pick the eggs. Why? So, you can
31 watch it on TV them guys down there paying big bucks for
32 their license and shooting all the geese down. More than
33 even, I have ever done in my life. You know, I don't
34 want to be used for that kind of stuff, nor do anybody
35 here want to be used for somebody else's wealth or
36 somebody else's happiness or whatever. We'd like to be
37 involved in that. And I don't know. I know we got a
38 small people, got no say. So, we got just a privilege
39 to cry, I mean talk. It's like a checklist down there
40 now on their paper. Did you talk to the people? Yes. Did
41 you allow them to speak? Yes. I saw that in the Federal
42 government military. That's the way they do things. It's
43 not like -- it's so sad. It's so sad how -- I feel so
44 sorry for the Yukon people not be able to fish. And this
45 year added on another seven years moratorium. Are we --
46 I'd like an honest truth. Are we the babysitters of all
47 that fish and game for some other -- somebody else to
48 harvest? And then don't tell me, oh, you just want to
49 live on the Kuskokwim. That's your problem. I don't want
50 to hear stuff like that, you know. If so, Game warden

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1 came to my fish camp last year. He came to my fish camp.
2 Game fish -- Fish and Wildlife man, they're not going
3 to my private property no more without a paper. Next
4 time he comes onto my land. And I said, by the way, sir,
5 who told you could get on my private land? Can't you see
6 my signs? That's my signs. That's my private property.
7 "I want to see your license". I said, I'm sitting in my
8 chair. Does it look like I'm hunting? I'm counting the
9 boats go by. "I want to see your license." So, I grabbed
10 my phone, and I called. He said, what are you doing? I
11 said, I'm calling the state trooper. "Oh, I am one". I
12 said, I'm calling another one. By the time I looked back
13 up, they were going. And what I heard a couple of days
14 later from somebody told me, I said, I passed him, and
15 I see "don't go up that way and check that guy. There's
16 a crazy little old man up there." These are the things
17 that are happening to us, and we're getting very, very
18 hurt and tired of it. It's gone on too long, especially
19 the Yukon. And now it's starting on the Kuskokwim. Holy
20 cow. We don't want to be babysitters for someone else's
21 benefits. You know, just because we live up here on
22 Kuskokwim, in the Yukon. The Yukon really get hit hard.
23 Now they're blaming it on Canada. Canada you wanted to
24 live up there. So be it, too bad. That's the way they
25 should tell them. And let the people on the Lower Yukon
26 fish. Because its gonna only result in one thing only.
27 You're gonna turn us -- are you calling the Kuskokwim
28 people into the best poachers you've ever seen. We even
29 have people at the boat harbor - "yeah, they pulled the
30 boats up. You can go fishing now." That's how good we're
31 getting. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't want to tell on myself,
32 but they better not tell their Eskimos. So that's what
33 I'm saying. We don't want to be turned into animals.
34 Fishing in the dark. I tried it once; somebody ran over
35 my net. So, I quit that stuff. But that's what it's
36 going to result in. Turning us into criminals by denying
37 us the food that we live on and only ability -- I'm
38 sorry I'm both -- I'm sorry, I'm crazy. But I'm trying
39 to tell you the truth. What it may turn us into, the
40 best poachers that ever existed. And we're going to get
41 better because we now have modern technology. You guys
42 can go fishing now. He's going up, you know, that type
43 of thing. And we don't want that to happen. It's very,
44 very sad the way they treat us people, for their benefit.
45 And we just don't want to be that type of -- turned into
46 that type of people. And the other Boards that we have
47 that are supposed to help us, like James Nikolai and
48 them, I asked them, them higher Boards, how come you
49 never let us fish? They said, you guys got the power.
50 They never -- we tried to let you guys fish, we don't

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1 fish. It's sad. Every department doesn't pay attention
2 to the other Boards and stuff. But they say, they tell
3 us them guys will do it, the guys will help. They won't,
4 they can't. Were regulated. We have -- the number one
5 problem is we have no verification of the count of
6 animals or the escapement of fish. That's why we have
7 no say so. And all we want to say so if they're right,
8 they're right. Good. 250,000 fish went by escapement,
9 fine. What if it was 300,000? Whoa! That's the hurt I'm
10 talking about that they have been hurting us for 40 to
11 50 years. That's -- I believe that's why we don't get
12 to have a verification of the escapement and the count
13 of fish. The Federal government passed all that money
14 to the state of Alaska. They buy all the equipment,
15 including airplanes, to count the moose and the bears.
16 Yeah. We weren't allowed to kill bears for their skins,
17 but since they were killing off all the caribou last
18 year, the state of Alaska went up and killed 100 brown
19 bear, from Akiag to Togiak, 100. And then they opened
20 up the law right away. Oh, you can sell your bear skins
21 now. Because they couldn't do nothing with their bear
22 skin. So, they opened it up and they sell their bear
23 skins now, too. So that's it. That's all I got. Thank
24 you.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Qu yana,
27 Robert.

28
29 MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair. Walter

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes,
32 Walter.

33
34 MR. MORGAN: Can I say something? You
35 know, it kind of hurts me when I hear people say that,
36 you know, the working group and the Fish Commission, you
37 know, not doing good. I've been on there since it
38 started. I think the only reason that we're fishing here
39 is because we're organized. You know, you shouldn't put
40 nails on a Fish Commission because it's a good thing it
41 works with the state and the feds and, also the working
42 group. It's a volunteer working group. Anybody can get
43 on it. I've been on it for a long time. You know, it's
44 -- to me it's a put down that people say that, you know,
45 we're -- we regulate and we're lucky to be fishing.
46 That's the only reason it's working right now is because
47 I'm in -- not because of me, but I, you know, working
48 with the other, with the feds and state and us. I think
49 it's a big plus side. And, you know, we're fishing.
50 Yukon's not fishing. They didn't have a working group,

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1 and they are going to have one. They're looking at the
2 Fish Commission for, you know, setting it up. And once
3 they get started it's going to work for them too. I see
4 a lot of pluses, you know, I -- the working group and
5 also the Fish Commission is a good thing to be on and
6 also this Board. Thank you.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
9 Walter. Robert has a comment. Yeah. (In Native)

10

11 MR. HOFFMAN: You know, Walter, I'd like
12 to tell you what's the truth of what we believe is
13 happening from the mouth of the Kuskokwim all the way
14 up to Kalskag, we don't fish. We didn't last year, but
15 the people above Kalskag, they got to fish a lot. They
16 got to fish more than we the Kuskokwim people fished.
17 That's what I heard, and I believe. After they pass a
18 certain line. They can fish all they want, and they did.
19 And I'm glad for them. I'm glad they got to, that's all.
20 Thank you.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
23 Robert.

24

25 MR. MORGAN: can I answer that?

26

27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Walter,
28 one more time.

29

30 MR. MORGAN: The you know, there's the
31 gas price is up there somewhere around \$13. I think if
32 you get to Crooked Creek and like I say, it's low impact.
33 There's not enough people to hurt it. From Aniak up
34 there's hardly anybody. Maybe there's 20 fishermen all
35 the way to Stony River. You know, it sounds like, you
36 know, it's a put down to me because we're having our
37 way, and it don't work like that. We don't go out and
38 fish lots. We get what we need, and we quit. And the
39 impact's really low. So, thank you.

40

41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana
42 Myron. Brooke has something, Brooke.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Just real quick Myron,
45 sorry. I just wanted to say this is really great
46 discussion Council. And I know that these fisheries
47 issues are really important. And I just wanted to let
48 you know that we will have time later in the meeting,
49 during the reports from the -- both Fish Commissions and
50 the Refuge and the Yukon manager, to talk more about the

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1 fisheries issues so we could continue some of this
2 conversation at that time. I just don't want us to get
3 too far off the agenda. So, I know Myron wanted to speak
4 next, but then maybe we could get back to the delegation
5 of authority just to keep us on track. Thanks.
6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Go ahead.
8 Myron.
9

10 MR. NANENG: Yeah. Thank you. When I
11 worked at AVCP, one of the things that we worked on was
12 the formation of inter-tribal fish commissions. We felt
13 that the -- both the state and the Federal system were
14 both not listening to the concerns that were raised by
15 our people on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. That's why
16 the Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions were established, so
17 that our villages can participate in one way or another
18 of the -- in the management system of salmon in the
19 river systems. And we got the model from our good friend
20 who's no longer with us, who used to be down in Seattle
21 fighting both the state of Washington, as well as the
22 Federal overseers of the Columbia River, where they were
23 completely shut off from being able to fish for chinook
24 salmon and we didn't want that to happen. So, we pushed
25 hard to establish the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission so
26 that our people here in Alaska, in our river systems,
27 will be able to participate using elders knowledge,
28 using traditional knowledge that a lot of fish managers
29 that come out here to a region, you know, they probably
30 spent like one year or two years and then they move on.
31 Do they get good knowledge of the river system, the
32 weather and all that that have has an impact on the
33 amount of salmon that returns to our river systems? No,
34 they don't even observe that. And whenever our elders
35 made a comment that would reflect their knowledge, the
36 response from the state agencies and at times from the
37 Federal agencies; the response was that's anecdotal. Why
38 is it anecdotal? It's anecdotal because somebody with a
39 PhD did not spend years observing and trying to study
40 and recording that. But our elders lived through it and
41 told us about it and knew what was going on. One time
42 we were getting ready to go commercial fishing for
43 herring out in the river or out in the coast at Cape
44 Romanzof. My father-in-law, who's no longer with us,
45 looked up in the sky and was observing seagulls and
46 said, the salmon are here, only to have it confirmed by
47 a Fish and Game test fisher about a day later. And from
48 his years of observations he was able to know what was
49 happening. He didn't need to go out to the waters to see
50 what was actually happening, but it's just that kind of

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1 knowledge that was not being included in the studies and
2 work that was being put together, that made us make a
3 concerted effort to establish Inter-Tribal Fish
4 Commissions in the river systems, so that our
5 traditional knowledge can be included in all the work
6 that's being done. So, I just want to share that. Thank
7 you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana
10 Myron. Getting back to the agenda, we're still on
11 delegation of authority training. If there are -- Pippa,
12 do you have anything to add?

13
14 MS. KENNER: Not to add. Thank you, Madam
15 Chair. This is Pippa Kenner for the record. Next up is
16 the second part of our Delegation of Authority Letter
17 training, which is my coworker Tom Plank is going to be
18 presenting that when you're ready.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Are we
21 ready? Okay.

22
23 MR. PLANK: Hello Madan Chair, rest of
24 the Council. My name is Tom Plank and I'm a wildlife
25 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. And
26 I'm going to provide a brief overview of the proposed
27 changes to wildlife delegation of authority. Now, this
28 is meant to be just a brief introduction to the effort
29 and also to kind of give you all some information, you
30 know, kind of food for thought. And all the Councils
31 will have additional opportunities at future meetings
32 to further review and comment on this. The Office of
33 Subsistence Management is proposing to move the
34 authority and the existing delegation of authority
35 letters back into the Wildlife's unit specific
36 regulations. Now, while the staff have not thoroughly
37 reviewed every single wildlife delegation of authority
38 letter, the vast majority of them are for routine
39 management actions that happen every year, such as
40 announcing harvest quotas. Having a delegated authority
41 for these routine decisions and unit specific
42 regulations is more appropriate than issuing special
43 actions year after year. This also provides a clear
44 public process for change in delegation, delegated
45 authority through regulatory proposals, and decreases
46 the administrative burden on Federal managers by
47 eliminating all the regulatory requirements associated
48 with special actions and the delegation of authority
49 letters. Now, the timeline for these proposed changes
50 are as follows. In March of 2025, during the next open

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1 window to submit wildlife regulation regulatory
2 proposals, the Office of Subsistence Management will
3 submit a proposal to move wildlife delegated authority
4 into unit specific regulations and rescind many of the
5 existing letters. And then in the fall of 2025, so about
6 a year from now, at your next fall meeting, the Council
7 will consider and make recommendations on this proposal.
8 And then in April 2026, the Board will take final action
9 on the proposal at the next regulatory -- wildlife
10 regulatory meeting. Thank you, Madam Chair. And that
11 completes my brief overview of the proposed changes to
12 wildlife delegated authority. And I'd be happy to answer
13 any questions or receive feedback on this topic.
14 Although again, this is just meant to be an introduction
15 to the idea and the Councils will have lots of additional
16 opportunities to consider this at future meetings.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
19 you, Tom. Are there any questions for Tom?

20
21 (No response)

22
23 Hearing none. Thank you again, Tom. We
24 are going to move on to 12, action items. One second.
25 The first item we will be discussing is the fisheries
26 proposals and closure your reviews and Brooke will do
27 that. Brooke.

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair.
30 I'll just be introducing the procedures that we will use
31 as we go through each of the proposals and closure
32 reviews today. Most of you have gone through this before,
33 but as a reminder, on page 23 of your meeting books,
34 there's the list of the proposals or the procedures, and
35 also on the back of your name card, it's the same list.
36 So, we'll start out for each proposal or closure review.
37 Our analyst will present the analysis, and you'll have
38 an opportunity to ask some questions and then we'll hear
39 -- we'll move through the rest of the procedure. So,
40 we'll hear any summary of tribal consultation comments,
41 if there are any. We'll go through agency comments,
42 advisory group comments. That includes the other RACs
43 that might have customary and traditional use. And then
44 if there's any written public comments and then we'll
45 open the floor to public testimony. So, if you would
46 like to comment on any of the proposals you can submit
47 a comment card or you can raise your hand online by
48 pressing star five on your phone or using the raise hand
49 feature. And then after public testimony that's when the
50 Council will make a recommendation. So as a reminder,

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1 that goes in the form of a motion and the motion is
2 always in the positive. So, it's a motion to support.
3 And then even if you don't support it, then you can vote
4 it down if that makes sense. So, once the motion has
5 been seconded and it's on the floor, then we open the
6 floor to Council discussion. And at that time, we don't
7 take any more comments from the public or anyone unless
8 the Council specifically has a question, they need
9 answered that someone, a staff member or a member of the
10 public can help us answer. But that's when you talk
11 amongst yourselves, and you provide justification for
12 the record for why you vote in support or in opposition
13 -- why you might support or oppose the proposal. And
14 there are some questions that are listed here, these are
15 just to help you think about some of the things you
16 might want to talk about in your justification or
17 question or discussion, sorry. And then at the end we'll
18 -- someone will call for the question and I can help you
19 all restate the motion for the record if you need to.
20 And then we'll do -- we can do a roll call vote. If it's
21 a proposal, I think that's usually a good idea and what
22 the Council prefers, and then that will be the end. So,
23 for each of these we will do that. There's only one
24 proposal that's for the YK Delta region specifically,
25 it's in the Kuskokwim. And then the rest of the proposals
26 and closure reviews are crossover proposals. So there
27 are in the Yukon region, in the Upper Yukon, in the Western
28 Interior and the Eastern Interior. So, for those, you
29 all will be able to decide if you want to make a
30 recommendation or you want to defer to the Home Council
31 and take no action. So, with that, I'll turn it back
32 over to the Chair and we can move into the first
33 proposal. Thank you.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: So, the
36 first one is FP25-15, and Pippa will be presenting.
37 Pippa.

38
39 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
40 members of the Council. For the record, my name is Pippa
41 Kenner, and I'm an anthropologist at the Office of
42 Subsistence Management, or OSM in Anchorage and the
43 analysis of this proposal, 25-15 begins on page 25 of
44 your meeting book, and there are some of these meeting
45 books on the back table if you'd like to follow along.
46 And so, this proposal was submitted by the Yukon Delta
47 National Wildlife Refuge, and it requests that the
48 Federal Subsistence Board reduce the distance required
49 between set gillnets and Kuskokwim River tributaries
50 from 150 to 75ft. So, we're going to go into this a

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1 little bit more to help you understand. The Refuge states
2 that the current Federal set gillnet regulation is more
3 restrictive than the current state regulation that was
4 adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2019, and
5 that adoption of this proposal will reduce user
6 confusion and enforcement concerns. So, the regulation
7 says, within a tributary of the Kuskokwim River in that
8 portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage, from the north
9 end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakof
10 River, you may not set or operate any part of a set
11 gillnet within 150ft of any part of another set gillnet.
12 And so, the proposal is to change that distance to 75ft.
13 So, there would possibly be more nets allowed in certain
14 areas. So, we're basically talking about Federal public
15 waters, which are basically from Aniak down to the mouth.
16 This regulation affects people's subsistence fishing
17 with set gillnets for salmon in tributaries of the
18 Kuskokwim River from Eek Island near the mouth up to
19 Aniak, from June to the middle of August. This is when
20 the area -- this is when this area is closed to the
21 harvest examine, except by local subsistence users and
22 you're fishing under Federal regulations during that
23 time. That includes the Eek River and the Kwethluk,
24 Kasigluk, Kisaralik and Kwik rivers near the village of
25 Kwethluk, the Tuluksak River and approximately the first
26 30 miles of the Aniak River. So, these are the areas
27 we're talking about. In 2020, this Council did not
28 support an identical proposal from the organized village
29 of Kwethluk. So, at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council
30 meeting in 2020, when considering that identical
31 proposal, Council members described their thoughts on
32 why the distance between set gillnets at least 150ft
33 should not be shortened. They said that if set gillnets
34 are 75ft apart, upstream gillnets fishing for salmon in
35 tributaries are corked by nets set below them. That is,
36 upstream nets catch fewer salmon as harvest is
37 reallocated in favor of downstream nets. There are set
38 gillnet sites that are traditionally used by certain
39 families year after year, and around these traditional
40 sites, people try to set as close as they can to the
41 mouth of the tributary. They said that if the distance
42 between nets is shortened from 150ft to 75ft, there may
43 be even more crowding at the mouths of tributaries.
44 Council members said that this situation can be
45 dangerous to safety of people in boats trying to go up
46 tributaries, and that some tributaries get so clustered
47 with nets that people traveling at night run over nets,
48 and this harms nets and motors. So, the OSM, our
49 preliminary conclusion is to support because it allows
50 more subsistence use. But we're really interested in

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1 hearing from the Council again about whether this change
2 in regulation would be good or bad in your area of the
3 Kuskokwim River during salmon season. Thank you, Madam
4 Chair, members of the Council. That's the end of my
5 presentation. I'd be happy to answer questions.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
8 you. Pippa. Yeah. So, like Pippa said, she's ready for
9 questions if anyone has any.

10

11 MS. KENNER: And if not, I just want to
12 remind you we'll just -- I'll step down, we'll go through
13 the process where other people will give comments. So,
14 we still have a long way to go. This isn't your last
15 chance to ask questions.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks.

18

19 MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair. I got a
20 question on the Aniak box.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Walter.

23

24 MR. MORGAN: You know, the northwest
25 across the river from Aniak, you know, it's clear on the
26 other side. It's on the main stem of Aniak and it's our
27 -- one of our drifting areas right in the island. I --
28 those fish that are swimming on that left side are going
29 upriver. How can we change this or, you know, to move
30 that boundary on this? If you read the Aniak River
31 drainage, what process we go through to change this? If
32 we wanted the marker moved. That's my question.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Madam Chair.

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes,
37 Pippa.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Thank you, through the
40 Chair. Thank you, member Morgan. So, you could submit a
41 proposal. And you could submit a proposal through the
42 Federal process, which will come up again in a year or
43 through the Board of Fisheries process that, you know,
44 comes up every 3 or 5 years. So, did you -- you were a
45 commercial fisherman?

46

47 MR. MORGAN: No.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Oh, okay. Because I was
50 going to say you probably are more familiar with the

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1 Board of Fisheries process than I am, but the state has
2 a similar process through their Board of Fisheries, the
3 State of Alaska Board of Fisheries, where one can request
4 changing regulations. Okay, so let me step back a little
5 bit. So, this doesn't have anything to do with the
6 tributary. So, it doesn't have anything to do with this
7 proposal. And I believe the Federal in-season manager,
8 who is the acting refuge manager, decides what areas are
9 going to be closed or open to conserve chinook salmon.
10 So, you could talk to him. You could talk to him through
11 your tribe or some other organization, or we have a
12 process now where you could even write a letter to us
13 requesting that the letter of delegation be changed to
14 specifically state where you would like that line to be.

15
16 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. The reason why I --
17 it's a drifting area clear across the river. It's on the
18 north side, according to this map. The longitude, it's,
19 you know, it has nothing to do with the Aniak River
20 drainage. It's on the main stem, Kuskokwim on the left,
21 and we didn't like it. And a lot of people complain
22 Aniak and say, hey, those fish are going. They're not
23 going up to Aniak. They're going, you know, the main
24 stem. So, I just wanted to know, you know, what's the
25 process. But now, I know. We'll try to write a letter.
26 Thanks.

27
28 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Thank you
29 again for the question. And we can I can maybe get a
30 better answer and come back to you later to. Thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Are there
33 any other questions?

34
35 MR. PETER: Madam Chairman.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah.
38 Phillip.

39
40 MR. PETER: Walter. I want to clarify.
41 And this one that I understood this. Is it the -- down
42 below the old airport or is it not on the tributary,
43 Aniak tributary?

44
45 MR. MORGAN: No, this is clear across the
46 river. You know where the old AC is? Straight -- old AC
47 store. Remember that?

48
49 MR. PETER: Yeah.

50

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1 MR. MORGAN Straight across.
2
3 MR. PETER: Right across?
4
5 MR. MORGAN: It's that island.
6
7 MR. PETER: What side?
8
9 MR. MORGAN. North side. Yeah.
10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Any other
12 questions?
13
14 MS. MCDAVID: Madam Chair, if you'd like,
15 I can help move us through the proposal procedures.
16
17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes. Go
18 ahead, Brooke.
19
20 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks. So first we'll have
21 a summary of Tribal and ANCSA Corporation comments. And
22 if I recall correctly, we didn't have any comments on
23 this proposal during the consultation. So, we'll move
24 on to agency.....
25
26 MR LIND: Hello, can you hear me?
27
28 MS. MCDAVID: Oh, yeah. Go ahead.
29
30 MR. LIND: Sorry, I had that -- I had it
31 on mute. This is Orville Lind, Native Liaison from OSM.
32 During the consultation sessions, we did not have any
33 comments on this proposal. Thank you.
34
35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
36 you, Orville.
37
38 MS. MCDAVID: Next. Do we have any
39 comments from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game?
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 All right. Any Federal agencies? And
44 that would include the Yukon Delta, I guess refuge, who
45 put in the proposal if there's any comments.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 Okay. Any tribal comments?
50

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1 (No comments)

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(No comments)

Hearing none. Other regional advisory Council? I don't think this -- Oh, Western Interior has not met yet, so we don't have a recommendation from them. And I don't believe we have any AC comments, but I'll put that out there if there are any.

(No comments)

Okay. Were there any written public comments?

MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. There were no written comments on this proposal during the public comment period. Thank you.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Pippa. And now we'll open the floor to any public testimony on this proposal. If anyone would like to speak from the public online or in the room?

(No comments)

Okay. Now I'll turn it back over to Madam Chair and we'll be open for a Council recommendation.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Brooke. Is there a motion to support FP25-15 Kuskokwim River set gillnet restrictions to align with state?

Mr. PETER: Madam Chair, I'd like to make a motion to accept the (indiscernible).

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: FP25-15.

MR. PETER: Yeah.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Phillip. Phillip has made a motion to support the mo -- the proposal. Is there a second. Myron seconds it.

MR. NANENG: I second it.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Discussion. Is there a discussion from anyone on the Board and discussion?

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1 MR. ANDREW: On discussion?

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah (In
4 Native).

5

6 MR. ANDREW: On discussion. My name is
7 John W. Andrew from Kwethluk. Originally, back in -- so
8 many years ago when it first came, when it first came
9 out, I think our village, some guy from the Corporation
10 made those proposals to the state and to the feds. At
11 that time, the state went along with it, but our RAC did
12 not at that time. I think, in their original language,
13 this was meant for only for the tributaries, not the
14 main stem. What they're saying is if it's in the main
15 stem; now the main stem is -- the tributaries, you've
16 got a buffer zone of about 300, 100, 100 yards? 300
17 yards, 300ft. Above that buffer zone they cannot be --
18 originally, he could set anywhere and when we used to
19 do that set netting when they were allowable in those
20 days or at anywhere on the other tributaries and sloughs
21 like those then spawning rivers, you could set them
22 anywhere you want if you can find an eddy, come on (In
23 Native). But if there's no eddy, they're not -- they
24 want it in their original language, they said they want
25 them apart at the minimum, 50ft apart. And that's not
26 good for us because the guys down on the lower end catch
27 all the fish, the people that sit above them, three-four
28 setnets the guy on the upper end will catch hardly
29 nothing. It's one reason why in my tribe never did like
30 this one. We don't want to align with the state regs
31 because all this time, Robert, I would say the heck with
32 the state and I go along with him. Thank you. And we
33 don't -- I don't -- for me, it's my personal experience
34 when I even when we were drifting, if about 4 or 5 boats
35 caught, you lose, you're losing out unless you move
36 elsewhere to another fishing spot. That's one reason why
37 I do not support to have it aligned with the state regs.
38 Thank you, Madam Chair.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
41 John. Is there any further discussion from the Board?

42

43 MR. NANENG: Call for a question on the
44 motion.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: A
47 question has been called by Myron. Second (In Native).
48 No, okay. So. Yeah. Yeah. Okay. (In Native)

49

50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. The motion on the
2 floor is to support FP25-15. And that would be to align
3 Kuskokwim River set gillnet restrictions with the state
4 regs in the tributaries. And we'll do a roll call vote.
5 Okay. And as a reminder A yay vote is in support, and a
6 nay vote is opposed.
7
8 MS. MCDAVID: We'll start with John
9 Andrew?
10
11 MR. ANDREW: No.
12
13 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.
14
15 MS. EVAN: No.
16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Robert Hoffman.
18
19 MR. HOFFMAN: No.
20
21 MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.
22
23 MR. MORGAN: No.
24
25 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.
26
27 MR. NANENG: After hearing Walter, I'll
28 say no.
29
30 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.
31
32 MR PARKS: No.
33
34 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.
35
36 MR. PETER: No.
37
38 MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.
39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: No.
41
42 MS. MCDAVID: The motion fails 8 to 0.
43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: So, we're
45 moving over to now the crossover proposals and closure
46 reviews. And under Western Interior there's FP25-16;
47 Kanuti River and Bonanza Creek year types and harvest
48 limits and Kevin Foley will speak on that. Kevin.
49
50

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1 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair,
2 members of the Council. My name is Kevin Foley and I'm
3 a fisheries biologist within the Office of Subsistence
4 Management. I'll start by presenting Fisheries proposal
5 FP 25-16, which can be found on page 34 of your booklets.
6 This proposal was submitted by the Western Interior
7 Council and requests the Board modify regulations in the
8 Bonanza Creek drainage and a portion -- 112233. Sounds
9 better? Thank you. This proposal was submitted by the
10 Western Interior Council and request the Board modify
11 regulations in the Bonanza Creek drainage and a portion
12 of the Kanuti River drainage to allow rod and reel gear
13 only and an Arctic grayling harvest and possession limit
14 of ten per day. The Western Interior Council submitted
15 this proposal to establish a Federal subsistence
16 priority maintain healthy populations of fish and align
17 Federal regulations in the area. The proposal is
18 relevant to your Council because some communities of the
19 Kuskokwim region have a customary and traditional use
20 determination for non-salmon fish in the Yukon River,
21 so they can fish in these drainages under Federal
22 regulations. This also applies to all other fisheries
23 proposals that will come and closure reviews will be
24 discussing here today. I'll briefly discuss some
25 important regulatory history for you. These drainages
26 were closed under Federal subsistence regulations for a
27 long time since the start of the Federal program. The
28 closures were reviewed during the last fisheries
29 regulatory cycle, and the Board, following the
30 recommendations of multiple Councils, removed the
31 closure to non-salmonid fish. So now the harvest of non-
32 salmon fish is allowed under Federal regulations.
33 Federal subsistence harvest is unrestricted for all
34 legal gear types other than rod and reel. For rod and
35 reel, Federal limits match state sport fish limits. So
36 where are these drainages? Both the Bonanza Creek and
37 the Kanuti River drainages are in the western Interior
38 Region along the Dalton Highway, just south of Wiseman
39 and Coldfoot. What fish are present in the drainages?
40 These systems have grayling, burbot, whitefish, longnose
41 sucker, and northern pike. We don't have very many
42 population estimates in the areas, but the analysis
43 summarizes local and traditional knowledge for these
44 species in the Koyukuk River drainage. The one
45 population estimate we have is for grayling, and that
46 occurs within a 3.3-mile section of Bonanza Creek and
47 took place in 1996. There were an estimated 349 fish per
48 mile in the study area. Who can fish here? All residents
49 of the Yukon northern area can harvest non-salmon fish
50 in these drainages. The closest rural communities are

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1 Wiseman and Coldfoot. What are the effects of this
2 proposal? If the proposal is adopted, only rod and reel
3 could be used to harvest fish in Bonanza Creek and Kanuti
4 River drainages under Federal regulations. Federal
5 harvest limits will match state sportfish limits, except
6 for grayling, which will have a harvest and possession
7 limit of ten per day. This is larger than the state
8 sport fish limit of five grayling per day. This proposal
9 will align Federal regulations in the area, increase
10 harvest opportunity for grayling by Federally qualified
11 subsistence users, and provide a subsistence priority
12 as mandated by ANILCA. However, this proposal will
13 misalign Federal and state limits for grayling, which
14 may increase user confusion, regulatory complexity, and
15 enforcement concerns. The OSM preliminary conclusion is
16 to support proposal FP25-16. Adopting this proposal will
17 benefit Federally qualified subsistence users and help
18 maintain healthy populations of fish in the Bonanza
19 Creek and Kanuti River drainages. Madam Chair, members
20 of the Council that concludes this presentation and I
21 and my colleagues are standing by for any questions you
22 may have.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
25 you, Kevin. Are there questions?

26
27 (No response)

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, hearing no questions,
30 we'll move through the procedures. And there were also
31 no comments during tribal consultation on this proposal.
32 We'll open the floor to agency comments. Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 Any Federal agency comments?

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 Any tribal comments?

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 Other regional advisory Councils?

46
47 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The
48 North Slope Regional Advisory Council deferred FP25-16
49 to the home region, the Western Interior Council.
50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Kevin. Any Fish
2 and Game Advisory Committee comments?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 Hearing none. Were there any written
7 public comments?

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 No? All right. We'll open the floor to
12 public testimony on FP25-16. I don't see anyone online
13 or in the room wishing to comment. So, we can move on
14 to the Council recommendation. And just as a reminder
15 if you all would like to defer this one like North Slope
16 did to the home region which is Western Interior, the
17 proper motion would be to take no action and defer to
18 the Home Region Council. Thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Is there
21 a motion to support FP25-16 Kanuti River and Bonanza
22 Creek gear types and harvest limits?

23
24 MR. NANENG: Just a question.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Myron has
27 a question. Myron.

28
29 MR. NANENG: Thank you. Myron Naneng. To
30 this trip or these tributaries to the Koyukuk River?

31
32 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair. Council
33 member Naneng, that is correct.

34
35 MR. NANENG: Okay, can -- no other
36 question. Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay.
39 Going back to asking if there's a motion on the floor
40 to support this proposal FP25-16? Or to take no action?

41
42 MS. EVAN: I support this, Madam Chair.
43 With our salmon decrease this would be a substantial
44 food source. I know on the Yukon we do rod and reel for
45 grayling. And we do have -- in the past we do have big
46 numbers of grayling. Thank you, Madam Chair.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana
49 Norma. There was a motion to support the proposal, is
50 there a second?

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MR. NANENG: Madam Chair, I second the motion.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana Myron. Myron seconds the motion. Discussion amongst our Council here is open. If anyone wants to discuss or justify.

MR. NANENG: Madam Chair, I just have a question. Myron, again. What's the estimated escapement of salmon into these two tributaries?

MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair. Council member Naneng, I don't, I don't have that information in front of me. I can work with OSM staff to get that information for you.

MR. NANENG: Okay, I think it would be.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. GRAHAM: Madam Chair.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Corey, do you have something to say online?

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madam Chair, yeah. This is Corey Graham with OSM. To the best of my knowledge, we don't have reliable salmon escapement estimates into either of the systems. But I just want to point out that while the Board removed the closure to the harvest of non-salmonid fish, salmon fishing is still prohibited in both of these drainages. Thank you.

MR. NANENG: Madam Chair, a follow-up question. Back about early -- around 2010, we made a visit to Allakaket, which is one of the villages on the Koyukuk River, and at that time, there was a report that at least 300,000 chums go up that river to spawn. And the reason why they went up there was because there was talk about the Ambler Road, which would go through that area from the Dalton Highway going west towards Kotzebue or the Ambler area for mining purposes. That's the reason why I asked if there's any information regarding spawning salmon that go up the Yukon River into those tributaries. So, I just -- it would be good to know. So, thank you.

00074

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Myron. Is
2 there any other discussion from the Board, the Council?
3 Brooke.

4
5 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair. We
6 do need to be sure that we do put some discussion on the
7 record for why you might be voting to support this
8 proposal, or if you're opposed to it. I did hear Norma
9 say that she thinks it's important to open up this
10 subsistence opportunity for other species, especially
11 during times of the salmon closure. I'll just put that
12 on the table if you all would want to talk about, if you
13 agree with that, if you -- or not. Thank you.

14
15 MR. NANENG: Madam Chair. I would support
16 it as long as they're going after predator fish that
17 prey on the salmon and salmon eggs that are returning
18 to the Yukon River, in light of the fact that fishing
19 has been limited on the Yukon for many of the people up
20 there.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Quyana, Myron. I
23 also support it. I think, with so many restrictions on
24 that river, a little bit more extra subsistence
25 opportunity doesn't hurt us. And rod and reeling is an
26 effective way to subsist as well when you're, when you're
27 limited to certain gear types.

28
29 MR. NANENG: I call for a question on the
30 motion.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: A
33 question has been called. A question.

34
35 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. The motion is to
36 support FP25-16. And we'll do roll call votes. John
37 Andrew.

38
39 JOHN ANDREW: Yes.

40
41 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

42
43 NORMA EVAN: Yes.

44
45 MS. MCDAVID: Robert Hoffman.

46
47 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

48
49 MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.

50

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1 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

4

5 MR. NANENG: Yes.

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.

8

9 MR. PARKS: Yes.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

12

13 MR. PETER: Yes.

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.

16

17 ACTIVNG CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes 8 to 0.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Brooke.
22 We're going to move on to Eastern Interior proposals.
23 And the first one is FP25-17: Delta River add rod and
24 reel with limits matching state. Kevin Foley will be
25 presenting. Kevin.

26

27 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
28 Continuing with Fisheries Proposal FP25-17. This
29 proposal can be found on page 68 of your Council book.
30 This proposal was submitted by the Eastern Interior
31 Council and requests the Board rescind the closure to
32 the harvest of all fish in the Delta River and modify
33 regulations to allow rod and reel gear only in the
34 drainage and mirror state sportfish harvest and
35 possession limits. The Eastern Interior Council states
36 in their proposal that it's unfair that the Delta River
37 is currently open to sport fishing but closed to
38 subsistence fishing. The Council wants to remove the
39 closure and put harvest limits and gear restrictions in
40 place to prevent conservation concerns from increasing
41 -- from increased opportunity. They also believe Federal
42 regulations should mirror state sport fishing
43 regulations to simplify regulations. This is a companion
44 proposal to the Delta River closure review that is next
45 on the agenda. So, where is the Delta River? The Delta
46 River is a tributary of the Tanana River and is located
47 near Delta Junction. The Tangle Lakes system is also
48 part of the Delta River drainage. There are road access
49 points from the Richardson Highway. What's currently
50 allowed in the Federal public waters of the Delta River?

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1 Well, it depends on which part of the drainage we're in.
2 In the main stem, Federal subsistence, state
3 subsistence, and state personal use are closed. Sport
4 fishing is allowed, but salmon fishing is prohibited.
5 In the tributaries of the Delta River and the Tangle
6 Lake system Federal subsistence fishing is open, so are
7 state subsistence, personal use, and sport fishing. I'll
8 now discuss some important regulatory history. The main
9 stem of the Delta River has been closed to Federal
10 subsistence fishing since the beginning of the Federal
11 program. The closure was carried over from state
12 regulations. The Federal closure was reviewed last
13 fishery cycle but was deferred to hear from local
14 residents and due to conservation concerns with removing
15 the closure with no regulations in place to limit
16 harvest. What fish may be found in the Delta River
17 drainage? Salmon are found in the lower portion of the
18 river, but not the closure area. The drainage includes
19 burbot, grayling, round whitefish, humpback whitefish,
20 longnose sucker, and lake trout. The Delta River
21 mainstem has been found to support a large population
22 of grayling, with one of the highest recorded densities
23 in the state. Few population estimates exist for fish
24 in the Tangle Lake system. Previous reports indicate the
25 Tangle Lake system supports a large population of
26 grayling, but the status of the population there is
27 unknown. The abundance of lake trout is largely unknown
28 in the Tangle Lake system also. A density estimates from
29 Upper Tangle Lakes in the 1980s was low relative to
30 other populations in the Alaska Range. The authors
31 speculated it was low due to the suboptimal habitat and
32 potential overexploitation. There are a couple of
33 research projects focusing on lake trout movements and
34 abundance in the Tangle Lake system, but their results
35 are not yet available. So, who can fish here? All
36 residents of the Yukon Northern area can harvest non-
37 salmon in the -- non-salmon fish in the drainage. The
38 closest rural communities are Delta Junction and Big
39 Delta. What is the harvest history in the area? We don't
40 have any subsistence harvest data from the Delta River
41 mainstem, because it's closed under both state and
42 Federal regulations. In the upper Delta River
43 tributaries, state subsistence fishing is allowed under
44 the state's Upper Tanana River Drainage Subsistence
45 Permit, but the permit includes other areas, and harvest
46 data are not available for only the Delta River. Sport
47 fishing harvest estimates are provided by the Alaska
48 Sport Fishery -- Sport Fishing Survey and are reported
49 for the Delta River downstream of Wild Horse Creek, and
50 for the Tangle Lake system. In the Delta River downstream

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1 of Wild Horse Creek sport fishing effort is pretty low,
2 and there haven't been enough responses to estimate
3 harvests since 2006. The Tangle Lake system is a popular
4 sport fishing area with high effort catches and harvest.
5 For grayling the ten-year average, that is from 2009 to
6 2018, catch and harvest were among the highest for any
7 water body within the Tanana River Management Area. The
8 Tangle Lake system also often accounts for the highest
9 effort, catch and harvest rates of any lake trout fishery
10 in the Tanana River Management Area. It's unclear how
11 the high effort and catches are affecting grayling and
12 lake trout populations, given the lack of assessment
13 information in the area.

14
15 MR. FOLEY: Ongoing research by the
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is examining if
17 current harvest limits and regulations are appropriate
18 for lake trout in Tangle Lakes. So, what are the effects
19 of this proposal? Currently, harvest is prohibited in
20 the Delta River main stem under Federal and state
21 subsistence regulations but allowed under state sport
22 fishing regulations. Adopting this proposal will remove
23 the Federal subsistence closure and limit subsistence
24 harvest to rod and reel only throughout the drainage.
25 Federal harvest limits will match state sport fishing
26 limits. Compared with the status quo this proposal will
27 increase Federal subsistence opportunity in the Delta
28 River mainstem. There are no associated conservation
29 concerns, as Federal harvest limits will match state
30 sport fishing harvest limits. Existing harvest pressure
31 is low, and Federally qualified subsistence users may
32 already harvest fish in the Delta River mainstem under
33 state sport fishing regulations. Currently, Federal
34 subsistence harvest is allowed in the Delta River
35 tributaries and the Tangle Lake system, and both Federal
36 and state subsistence regulations clearly allow
37 unrestricted subsistence harvests using a variety of
38 gear types in these areas. Compared with the status quo
39 this proposal will decrease Federal subsistence
40 opportunity in the Tangle Lakes and tributaries of the
41 Delta River. If the proposal is adopted, Federal
42 regulations will change to allow rod and reel only, which
43 will decrease subsistence opportunity and misalign
44 Federal and state regulations in these areas to make
45 Federal regulations more restrictive than state
46 regulations. However, allowing rod and reel only may
47 help conserve fish populations in the Delta River
48 tributaries that are vulnerable to overharvest, given
49 their small size and easy accessibility from the
50 Richardson Highway. OSM's preliminary conclusion is to

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1 support Proposal FP25-17, with a modification to rescind
2 the closure to the harvest of all fish in the Delta
3 River and limit harvest to rod and reel in the entire
4 Delta River drainage, excluding the Tangle Lake system.
5 The Delta River main stem is currently closed to Federal
6 subsistence fishing, but open to state sport fishing.
7 Allowing a limited subsistence harvest using rod and
8 reel only would provide subsistence opportunity in an
9 area that is currently closed and protect populations
10 from overharvest. In contrast, the other waters of the
11 upper Delta River drainage are currently open to
12 subsistence fishing under both state and Federal
13 regulations. Limiting Federally qualified subsistence
14 users to rod and reel only in these waters would make
15 Federal regulations more restrictive than state
16 regulations. However, the tributaries of the Delta River
17 are generally vulnerable to overharvest due to their
18 small size and easy accessibility, so OSM recommends
19 they be limited to rod and reel only. The Tangle Lake
20 system currently has a Federal and state subsistence
21 fishery. Therefore, OSM's modification excludes the
22 Tangle Lakes from the rod and reel gear restriction to
23 maintain Federal subsistence opportunity and minimize
24 regulatory complexity. That concludes my presentation.
25 Madam Chair, members of the Council. Are there any
26 questions?

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Kevin.
29 Are there questions from the Council?

30
31 (No response)

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED: (In Native).

34
35 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. If there's no
36 questions, we'll go through the procedures. There were
37 no comments on this proposal during tribal consultation
38 or ANCSA Corporation consultation. We'll move into
39 agency comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

40
41 (No comment)

42
43 Any Federal agencies? I'll repeat that.
44 Any Federal agency comments? Tribal comments?

45
46 (No comment)

47
48 Hearing none. Other regional advisory
49 Council comments?

50

00079

1 MR. FOLEY: Madam Chair, members of the
2 Council. The North Slope Regional Advisory Council
3 deferred FP25-16 to the home region, the Eastern
4 Interior Council.

5
6 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Kevin, and the
7 Eastern Interior Council won't be meeting until October,
8 and Western Interior also, so we don't have any comments
9 from them yet or recommendations from them. Any Fish and
10 Game Advisory Committee comments?

11
12 (No comment)

13
14 Hearing none. Were there any written
15 public comments?

16
17 MR. FOLEY: Madam Chair, members of the
18 Council, this is Kevin Foley. There were no written
19 comments received. Thank you.

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, we'll open the floor
22 to any public testimony. If anyone online would like to
23 comment, you can press star five or raise your hand.
24 Okay, not seeing anyone, we'll turn it back over to you,
25 Madam Chair.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Brooke.
28 Is there a motion to support FP25-17: Delta River add
29 rod and reel with limits matching state?

30
31 (In Native)

32
33 Or the other option is to take no
34 action.

35
36 (Pause)

37
38 One more time. Is there a motion to
39 support the following proposal, FP25-17 for discussion?

40
41 MR. MORGAN: Before we support this, I
42 got a question.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Walter,
45 yeah.

46
47 MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair. Do we have any
48 input from the local people? What do they feel about
49 this proposal? Kevin.

50

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1 MS. GRAHAM: Madam Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Go ahead.

4

5 MS. GRAHAM: Thank you, Madam Chair.
6 Again, this is Corey Graham with OSM. So, we reviewed
7 the associated closed review for this for the Delta River
8 last cycle. And the Eastern Interior wanted to defer it
9 because they felt it was necessary to hear from the
10 locals before they made any decisions. The Delta C - the
11 Delta AC, I believe, talked about it after the Eastern
12 Interior Council deferred, and they were against
13 rescinding the closure because there would be no harvest
14 limits or gear regulations in place. So, considering
15 that, the Eastern Interior then came back this year or
16 during this cycle, created this proposal, put in gear
17 types and harvest limits to kind of assuage some of
18 those concerns. Thank you.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for that
21 background. So, in order for us to further discuss the
22 proposal. Is there anyone who would like to make a motion
23 to support the proposal for discussion? And the other
24 option is to take no action.

25

26 MR. PETER: I'd like to make a motion to
27 accept this proposal for only discussion.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. Quyana,
30 Phillip has made a motion to support FP25-17. Is there
31 a second?

32

33 MR. PARKS: Madam Chair, second (In
34 native)

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Quyana, Henry Parks
37 seconds. Discussion, sorry. So, we're open for
38 discussion.

39

40 (In Native) sport fishing (In Native)
41 sport fishermen (In Native) restriction (In Native)
42 restriction (In Native) subsistence (In Native) restrict
43 (In Native) subsistence (In Native) subsistence (In
44 Native) okay.

45

46 MR. NANENG: Madam Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes,
49 Myron.

50

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1 MR. NANENG: To keep the process going,
2 I call a question on the motion because we can either
3 vote it up or down. So that's why I'm calling for a
4 question.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: A question has been
7 called.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: We do need discussion for
10 the record, though, Myron. To support or oppose.

11
12 MR. NANENG: All right. If it's going to
13 limit or restrict subsistence, I would not support it.
14 But if it's to allow more sports fishing at, you know,
15 where it's Subsistence Advisory Council. So based on
16 that, I would say no to this proposal if it does not
17 support or allow subsistence fishing for the people
18 there in the Delta region.

19
20 MS. MCDAVID: Myron, a point of
21 clarification. So, this proposal is to open subsistence
22 fishing with rod and reel gear. Right now, there's no
23 subsistence, but there is sport fishing. So that's why
24 Eastern Interior wanted to address this. So that
25 subsistence would also be allowed.

26
27 MR. NANENG: If it's good. That's why I
28 said if it's not going to support subsistence, no. If
29 it's supporting subsistence, I'd say yes. But I'd like
30 to make it kind of like what we do up at Kisaralik,
31 where even fishing for pike during the summer or fall
32 is recognized as subsistence fishing by local people.
33 So, if it's for subsistence users and opportunity for
34 them, I'd say yes.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Quyana, Myron. Am I
37 allowed to say what I -- I also support this proposal
38 because I come from a river with heavy sport fishing
39 activity, and I just could not imagine this situation
40 for us where we were not allowed to subsist, yet there's
41 sport fishing. But if there were a conservation concern,
42 my first choice would be to not allow sport fishing, but
43 to allow subsistence. But in this case, I support this
44 proposal because it allows for subsistence fishing.
45 Quyana.

46
47 MR. NANENG: Question on the motion.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Okay, so should we
50 restate do you wanna go through that, Brooke, or. Oh.

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1
2 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, I'll restate the
3 motion, and that is to support FP25-17. And that is a
4 proposal that requests the Federal Subsistence Board
5 rescind the closure to the harvest of all fish in the
6 Delta River and modify regulations to allow rod and reel
7 gear only in the drainage and mirror state sport fish
8 harvest and possession limits. We'll do a roll call vote
9 again. John Andrew.

10
11 JOHN ANDREW: Yes.

12
13 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

14
15 MS. EVAN: Yes.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Robert Hoffman.

18
19 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.

22
23 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

24
25 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

26
27 MR. NANENG: Yes.

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.

30
31 MR. PARKS: Yes.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

34
35 MR. PETER: Yes.

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

40
41 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes 8 to 0. And
42 Madam Chair, because you all voted and took action on
43 this one, you won't need to take any action on the Delta
44 River closure because this proposal addressed the
45 closure. So, you'll move to the Nome Creek FCR25-02.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON: So, I'm going to
48 call for a ten-minute break because at 4:00, we're going
49 to have another presentation. So back in ten minutes at
50 3:55.

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1 (Off record)

2

3

(On record)

4

5

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Back to order at 4:02. And coming up, we have a presentation by Alida Trainor on Subsistence Division Project updates. Are you online, Alida?

9

10 MS. TRAINOR: I am, thank you, Madam. Can
11 you hear me okay?

12

13

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

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MS. TRAINOR: Thank you, Madam Chair and RAC members. My name is Alida Trainor. I'm the Regional Supervisor in the Subsistence Division at Fish and Game. The Subsistence Division is solely a research division whose mission is to document the customary and traditional uses of wild foods. We use traditional knowledge interviews and household surveys to do this. This report gives a brief update on the five OSM funded projects that are in the YK Delta region. But before I begin, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to attend remotely and for taking up this report earlier in your agenda than anticipated to accommodate me. My son has medical appointments in Anchorage for the rest of this week, so I would not otherwise have been able to speak. Thank you. Next slide. The first project I will address is one titled the Local Traditional Knowledge of Salmon Harvest and Use in the Lower Kuskokwim River. This project is in its final stages of write-up. We worked closely with the communities of Napakiak, Nunapitchuk, Kasigluk, Tuntutuliak, and Eek. We wanted to document the traditional salmon fishing practices in the Lower Kuskokwim region, with special attention given to how these patterns are changing in light of salmon declines and restrictive management actions. Additionally, we are aware of the strained relationship between fisheries managers and local residents and wanted to work alongside community members to identify relevant ways that managers could improve their communication, outreach, and presence in the Lower Kuskokwim. One thing we heard loud and clear was that Fish and Game should do a better job of communicating management actions outside of weekly teleconferences and work to spend more time in communities building relationships. In the coming seasons the Subsistence Division will work with managers to express this need and to find ways to make it happen. Next slide.

1

2 The next project is one many of you are
3 likely already familiar with. It is the annual
4 postseason salmon survey. This project is a primary tool
5 used to estimate salmon harvest in the Kuskokwim
6 management area. ONC and the Subsistence Division
7 partner together every year to gather the data needed
8 to produce this estimate. ONC plays an integral role in
9 surveying Bethel while we survey the 27 outlying
10 communities. We recently published the 2022 report and
11 have the 2023 report drafted and awaiting publication.
12 Some of this delay is the result of the COVID-19
13 pandemic, which really slowed down our ability to gather
14 surveys and process the data. We are very much looking
15 forward to getting back to fully in-person surveys this
16 year. Next slide.

17

18 This next project is one that stemmed
19 from community advocacy years ago at a Board of Fish
20 meeting. We heard from Kotlik residents who wanted to
21 commercially fish for salmon in Pastolik and Pastoliak
22 Rivers. At the time, ADF&G told them that there wasn't
23 enough data about the presence of salmon in those streams
24 to effectively offer opportunity. As a result, we
25 partnered with others in the department to genetically
26 sample salmon in these streams and used EDNA sampling
27 methods to gauge the presence of salmon at different
28 life stages. These sites were selected based on the
29 traditional knowledge held by Kotlik residents.
30 Additionally, household surveys were administered to
31 salmon fishers in Kotlik to gauge the extent of harvest
32 pressure. We'll be writing up the results of this study
33 this winter and hope to have a report out next summer.
34 Next slide.

35

36 This next project is actually just in
37 the proposal stage, but I wanted to include it in this
38 report because of the heavy interest other coastal
39 streams have been getting recently in light of the
40 continued salmon fishing closures on the Yukon River.
41 Similar to the project design of the Pastolik and
42 Pastoliak Rivers project, this proposal would explore
43 the salmon presence in the Kanektok-Shungnak rivers and
44 the use of those streams by Chevak and Scammon Bay
45 residents. This proposal was submitted to OSM during the
46 last call, but because of the federal funding situation,
47 a decision on funding has been delayed until this spring.
48 Learning more about how salmon use coastal streams is a
49 research priority for both the Alaska Department of Fish
50 and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well

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1 as many coastal communities that do not believe they
2 should be included in the Yukon Management area. Next
3 slide.

4
5 The final project I'd like to discuss
6 is nearly complete, and the final report is due to OSM
7 at the end of September. This project complements
8 similar work conducted in the Upper Yukon River region.
9 It explores customary trade and barter in the Middle and
10 Yukon River. Study communities were Kaltag, Galena,
11 Mountain Village, and Nunam Iqua. The purpose of this
12 work was to document the extent and the local
13 characteristics of the sale and trade of wild foods in
14 these communities. Additionally, we were interested in
15 learning more about how salmon declines might be
16 disrupting exchange networks throughout the Yukon
17 drainage as well as the state, and how changes to these
18 networks might be impacting residents' ability to get
19 the food they need. I will give a little more insight
20 into the findings of this report on the following slides.
21 Next slide, please. Before I get to results, it's
22 important to understand whether customary trade is
23 legal. The short answer is sort of. Customary trade is
24 the small-scale sale of wild foods for cash, and that
25 is prohibited by state law unless specifically allowed
26 by the Alaska Board of Fisheries or Board of Game.
27 However, it is legal under Federal law, with some
28 restrictions. On the Federal side, we're talking about
29 fish, fish must be caught in waters that are adjacent
30 to or next to Federal lands, and only rural Alaska
31 residents are allowed under Federal regulations to sell
32 subsistence fish. Since 2013, only other rural residents
33 can buy subsistence salmon caught on the Yukon. And
34 finally, fish must be processed in a way that complies
35 with health and safety standards, so fish must be sold
36 (distortion) whole and uncut. This means that strips or
37 jarred salmon would not be legal even for rural
38 residents. Next slide.

39
40 On this slide, I show some of the main
41 conclusions we found in this study that were consistent
42 with findings from the earlier work in the Upper Yukon.
43 First, residents do not use the legal terms such as
44 barter or customary trade to describe their
45 transactions. Instead, sharing or buying and selling are
46 more commonly used when discussing customary trade. And
47 the word trade is most often used when people are
48 technically bartering. This is important because it
49 demonstrates a disconnect between the legal language
50 used to describe these practices and local

00086

1 understandings. This can create confusion, distrust, and
2 enforcement difficulties.

3
4 The next finding is very important. On
5 the Yukon, exchanging wild foods occurs on a continuum.
6 That's just a fancy way of saying that one person who
7 intends to share their harvest with someone else likely
8 will receive something of equal value in return, or even
9 receive cash as a reciprocal return. This can shift
10 sharing to barter or barter to customary trade without
11 anyone actually intending for that to occur. Next,
12 customary trade is infrequent and just another way that
13 residents can secure the food that they need. This might
14 seem like a simple finding, but on the Yukon, where
15 rumors around customary trade have come up over time,
16 it's critical. Similarly, of the dozens of customary
17 trade transactions we documented, most of them occur
18 with residents in the same community, not with strangers
19 in urban cities. And finally, customary trade is much
20 less common than barter or sharing but does happen in
21 all communities. Next slide. On this slide, I show some
22 results that are unique to the middle and lower river.
23 First, a wider variety of resources were bartered in the
24 lower river than in the upper river. This is in part due
25 to their access to marine mammals and multiple networks
26 across different regions of the state. We found that
27 social media was frequently used to coordinate trades
28 and barterers in a way that was not reported in the upper
29 river. Salmon was less central to exchange networks than
30 in the upper river, and this was partially because of
31 the severe restrictions during the study year. But when
32 asked about historical exchanges, residents in the lower
33 river indicated that non-salmon was more commonly
34 exchanged than salmon many times. And you can see on the
35 figure on the left-hand side of the screen, non-salmon
36 is in a green circle, and it's larger than any other
37 resource categories. And that just demonstrates that the
38 quantity of non-salmon exchanged was greater than those
39 other types of foods. These are just some of the results
40 from this very nuanced study. If the RAC would like more
41 information on this topic, we could arrange to present
42 that at a later date. While this study does round out
43 our general understanding of customary trade and barter
44 in the Yukon, we have many more questions about how
45 ongoing salmon declines will impact this region, as well
46 as trade relationships across the entire state. Next
47 slide. And that concludes my very brief presentation.
48 Again, thank you so much for having me early.

49
50

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
2 you, Alida, for that presentation. Oh. Sorry. If you can
3 hear me, Alida, thank you for your presentation. Are
4 there any questions for Alida by the Council first?
5 There's a question online. I can't see who's online, but
6 please ask your question and state your name, please.

7
8 MS. GILLIS: Good afternoon. Thank you,
9 Madam Chair and to the Council members, and for the
10 Division of Subsistence for their work in this region.
11 This is Karen Gillis with Bering Sea Fishermen's
12 Association. And I just had a quick question that I'd
13 like to follow up after the meeting with Alida but wonder
14 if she could share her email address with folks or phone
15 number so we could get in touch with her later. Thank
16 you.

17
18 MS. TRAINOR: Yes, I'd be happy to.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.
21 Alida --

22
23 MS. TRAINOR: I'll put it in the chat.
24 My information is also... oh, it's not on the first
25 slide. I'll drop it in the chat for you all.

26
27 MS. GILLIS: Thank you.

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay, we
32 have your number. Thanks for your contact, Alida. Are
33 there any other questions? Stan. Stan, can you come to
34 the mic, please?

35
36 MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Chair,
37 members of the Board. Yes. Stanislaus Sheppard, Mountain
38 Village, representing myself. My question is about the
39 Pastolik River, in years past, in all the different
40 organization meetings, it was discussed that to open up
41 the Pastolik River would be the same as opening up the
42 Black River. The concern was that when the abundance of
43 fish showed up in the Pastolik River and Black River,
44 they were staging areas mainly for the salmon to get
45 their gills ready for fresh water for the big migration
46 up to the Yukon. And there was never a real concern to
47 have, you know, during back in the mid-80s up until
48 maybe 2010, 2012, maybe when the last commercial fishing
49 for kings was allowed, only the area of Black River was
50 allowed for setnet commercial fishing. Now that's been

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1 closed. All the scientists and the biologists never
2 really documented saying that they're the staging areas
3 for the salmon to get their gills ready for the fresh
4 water, for their long swim up there. Also, my second
5 question is, during our Council meeting last week, a
6 week and a half ago, Alida from the Department of Fish
7 and Game gave us a report of the subsistence survey they
8 did. And this report that I see up here is similar to
9 the one that Alida gave us. The majority of the community
10 in Mountain bartered with marine, like seal oil, seal
11 meat, whale, and beluga. For -- give you an example, I
12 traded one of those bottles of juice, containers, half
13 a gallon maybe. I traded that one container of seal oil
14 for five yellow feet geese from our community, and they
15 wanted cash, but I said I don't have cash. I know seal
16 oil is hard to get, so it was a good trade. Now, Alida
17 gave us an example of how the barter and trade was in
18 our community and the surrounding villages, but it was
19 mostly geared towards Mountain Village. And at a later
20 date, we'll come up with a defined information on the
21 survey they did. So, thank you very much, Alida. Thank
22 you, Madam Chair.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
25 Stan. (In Native) Is there any -- Oh, yes. Sorry, Alida.
26 Go ahead.

27
28 MS. TRAINOR: I could respond to his two
29 questions.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes,
32 please.

33
34 MS. TRAINOR: First, he brought up the
35 Pastolik-Pastoliak Rivers project and the need to
36 document how salmon use fresh water to adjust their
37 bodies before migration. On that point, that's a well-
38 known feature of salmon migration. We see that
39 throughout Alaska, that on these long journeys, salmon
40 spend some time in a freshwater environment just
41 adjusting to that different system before migrating
42 upstream. But for the Pastolik-Pastoliak Rivers project,
43 there were a lot of questions that residents in Kotlik
44 had regarding, well, I suppose they wanted to fish, and
45 the department had questions about the extent to which
46 salmon used those streams. And so that project really
47 will answer exactly what kinds of salmon are there and
48 at what life stages.

49
50

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1 And then secondly, the point about
2 Mountain Village we -- I was just presenting at the
3 Mountain Village Tribal Council, a much more in-depth
4 report about the results unique to their community. This
5 was more of an overview for the full project. But I
6 really want to underscore what Stan is saying. Customary
7 trade, while it happens, we believe it happens
8 everywhere. Sharing is what underpins local economies.
9 Sharing is what underpins cultural values and identity.
10 And it is -- sharing is what has allowed subsistence and
11 the use of wild foods to continue and make these
12 communities so resilient and vibrant. So, I don't want
13 these results to undermine that in any way. Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
16 you, Alida. There's another question by Chris Tulik.
17 Chris Tulik.

18
19 MR. TULIK: Thank you, Madam Chair,
20 members of the Council. My name is Christopher Tulik.
21 I'm not representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
22 but I'm speaking for myself. The presentation showed
23 that they were studying customary trade and bartering.
24 I'm not going to ask a question, but I'm going to make
25 a comment about that. Because back in the days, people
26 from Mekoryuk, you know, they still do harvest the salmon
27 that spawn in the small streams on the island. And every
28 fall, they would come with their cats, and they would
29 barter for other fish that they don't usually harvest.
30 But for us on Nelson Island, we would so love to barter
31 whatever we have for that salmon. I'm trying to remember
32 what they're called in the maqutaq. That's what they
33 call them. And, that fish, those salmon that spawn on
34 Nunivak Island--they harvest them, they process them, and
35 they hang them. Me and my wife experienced that they did
36 not need any smoking, so we just hang them, they dried,
37 and then we ate them. But they're very delicious. And,
38 but you'll end up going to the bathroom often. I mean,
39 but they're tasty. So bartering and customary trade used
40 to be a norm. But nowadays, as we are becoming aware of
41 what's happening in our life today, that is becoming
42 uncommon. The reason I say that is we are seeing a lot
43 of people, our own people, the younger generation, are
44 exchanging what they harvested for cash, and that is in
45 direct violation of our customs and beliefs, where our
46 ancestors have told us that we should never do that. But
47 they worded it in a different way. So, what's happening
48 today is, you know, it's what I can understand what our
49 elders have been telling us. So, it's sad to say that
50 customary trade is no longer being respected, although

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1 there are some people that are still doing it, but more
2 and more people are trading their harvest for cash.
3 Quyana.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
6 Chris. Are there any other comments or questions for
7 Alida? Myron.

8

9 MR. NANENG: Quyana, Madam Chair. I know
10 customary trade is still going on today, regardless of
11 where people are living. And those of us that live here
12 in the YK Delta, you know, we barter with people from
13 the North Slope, we barter with people from Southeast.
14 If there's an effort to outlaw customary trade and
15 barter, that's not fair to our people, because these
16 other people also want a taste of our food. I'm going
17 to be bartering with someone from Hawaii. He wants to
18 send me some good food from down there. It's not a cash
19 exchange. We don't want cash. We'd rather trade
20 something that we're eating with them because they want
21 to share something that they're eating. And if customary
22 trade or barter is being outlawed, you know, more people
23 are going to ask for money to trade with. That money
24 doesn't last long. It doesn't give you nutrition. It
25 might provide you other things. One of the things that
26 I've noticed is that Alaska Native people more or less
27 cannot commercialize the resources that they gather. But
28 in Canada, they do. And I'm wondering what's wrong with
29 the U.S. At one time, there was an effort that they
30 should no longer smoke salmon. And that was a few years
31 ago. Some state scientists said that smoking salmon is
32 harmful to you, but our people that harvest salmon have
33 traditionally smoked salmon because it's good for you.
34 It's good nutrition for you. But it was kind of shocking
35 to hear that some scientists, some nutritionists,
36 thought that we were poisoning ourselves by smoking
37 salmon that we eat. My wife and I eat salmon almost
38 daily. It's better food than canned sardines, better
39 food than canned beans, or any other canned food that
40 doesn't necessarily provide you with the nutrition that
41 you need and, also you need to survive with. But I --
42 and you know, it costs us money to go for gas, but it
43 takes an effort to harvest it. So, making an effort to
44 gather food on your own pays dividends. It teaches your
45 children to continue your culture. So, if anybody says
46 that bartering is a crime, I think you will see a lot
47 of our young people making an effort to sell stuff that
48 our elders don't necessarily appreciate, that we trade
49 for cash because my wife wouldn't do it. She's
50 traditional. She'd rather barter some kind of food that

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1 we've gathered with someone from the North Slope, with
2 someone from the Interior, and someone from Southeast
3 for the herring that they gather during springtime. So,
4 I get appalled by people that are trying to dictate to
5 us that we can't do this, and we can't do that yet it's
6 okay for other people to harvest resources until they
7 they're pretty much close to being depleted. So, I just
8 want to share that perspective. And I agree with Chris
9 Tulik with the food that he described from Mekoryuk. I
10 loved the taste, but I don't do the thing follow-up like
11 he said he does. So, they're good, good, delicious food
12 and they like to barter some of that food with us too.
13 So don't ever tell me that bartering is a crime. Don't
14 ever tell me that my children can't barter anything in
15 the future. Because I remember my father-in-law, my dad
16 also both have told me that they've always bartered for
17 food instead of cash because food gives you nutrition
18 and a chance to live longer than the cash would. So, I
19 just want to share that, Quyana.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
22 Myron. And I think Alida has a response, if I'm correct.
23 Alida.

24

25 MS. TRAINOR: Yeah, thank you, Madam
26 Chair. Thank you for those comments. 100% barter is
27 legal. It has been under state and Federal law and will
28 continue to be. Barter is the exchange of one wild good
29 for something else other than cash. It is foundational
30 to local communities. It's incredibly important, and
31 it's not going anywhere. I just want to put that on the
32 record when it comes to this, it's kind of a frustrating
33 term, customary trade. It makes you think we're just
34 trading one thing for another, like barter, but it
35 actually means cash. When we sell wild food for small
36 amounts of cash, that's called customary trade in the
37 law, and it's recognized as a legitimate subsistence use
38 in state law. It's also recognized under Federal law.
39 The issue is, is that in the state it has -- it's
40 recognized as that legitimate use, but it's not legal
41 until it's brought before the Board of Fish or the Board
42 of Game. On the Yukon, no proposal has ever come forward
43 to legalize this small-scale sale of, say, salmon or
44 non-salmon or moose to the Board of game. That's never
45 come before the Boards. So, it's never actually been
46 really defined and it's technically illegal. However,
47 what we're really trying to show with this work is to
48 clear the air of a lot of the rumors that we hear, but
49 there's no evidence to support, such as people are making
50 tons and tons of money and buying trucks and going on

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1 vacations. That just isn't accurate. Using -- selling
2 small amounts of wild food allows harvesters who are
3 providing for lots of people to provide in times
4 especially of restriction, when things become so much
5 more expensive to go out and harvest. But you still have
6 a need to provide. Accepting small amounts of cash just
7 allows you to keep providing; it facilitates that
8 harvest. And also, what we see with these networks, there
9 was one diagram that had the state of Alaska with some
10 squiggly lines all over it. And what we see is exactly
11 what has been described on the record today. People in
12 local communities are connected to many others
13 throughout the state and even outside of the state. And
14 bartering, exchanging one wild food for something else,
15 or even selling small amounts of wild food is a way to
16 meet need. It is a way to get the food that you need.
17 And it's critically important to communities. In times
18 of salmon decline fewer and limited fishing
19 opportunities fewer and fewer people are able to
20 continue to harvest. And the reliance on bartering and
21 even selling or buying becomes that much more important
22 to meet the needs. It's also a valuable way to maintain
23 social connections and relationships with one another.
24 So just to reiterate, barter is totally legal. Customary
25 trade, there's a question mark there. If the RAC was
26 interested or anyone was interested in doing something
27 about that and clarifying the law, there are processes
28 both through the Board of Fish and Board of Game on the
29 state side and the Federal Subsistence Board to create
30 something that aligns more closely with subsistence,
31 harvest, and use practices. Thank you, Madam Chair.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
34 you, Alida. If no one else has any questions or comments
35 for her, I will say something. I do appreciate this
36 project. It's very interesting. And seeing the data
37 that's coming out of it, and especially appreciate your
38 efforts to use local terminology versus legal terms or
39 recognizing that as an actual important thing. Because
40 it, is so important when we live in an area where there's
41 a language barrier at times. I mean, I've run into, you
42 know, legal terminology getting mixed up with other
43 things, and like a meeting can go upside right away if
44 not all the terminology is understood, so I appreciate
45 you pointing that out. Also, your efforts to get Fish
46 and Game more engaged within the community for community
47 buy-in. And maybe I'll throw in there and for
48 consultation would be nice. But when it comes to selling
49 traditional foods, I'm pretty conflicted personally. I
50 mean, I was raised by my grandparents to always give to

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1 other elders and widows and people who can't provide for
2 themselves. So that's how I mean, that's how I do it.
3 And I just believe good things will come to me. But, you
4 know, I have - I know people who just as an example,
5 like, you know, if you're a felon or something and you
6 can never get a job. And he -- I mean, this person does
7 it respectfully, he has the same clientele. So, I, you
8 know, I agree with respectful selling of food in small
9 amounts. But one thing that I just never appreciated
10 living with my grandparents is when people just, like,
11 come into the home and, and kind of, you know, just come
12 into the home to sell it. I thought -- I just didn't
13 know what to think of that. So, thank you for your
14 interesting presentation and project. John Andrew has a
15 question or comment.

16
17 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, quyana. Thank you very
18 much. My name is John Andrew from Kwethluk. When I was
19 a young boy, I used to see people bartering all the
20 time, and I used to hear my father, and his brothers and
21 cousins talk about it. They used to say before pre-
22 contact that it was the only way of trading goods for
23 other goods from other regions; like using my own village
24 as an example, the majority of our people were trappers
25 up in the mountains. They trapped for wolf, beaver,
26 otter, mink, ground squirrels, those are parka
27 squirrels. And when they, after they bring them down to
28 the villages in springtime, when the people come in with
29 steamboats from down from Mekoryuk or elsewhere with
30 kayaks, they trade off what they don't have. They barter
31 with the coastal people for sealskins, meats, seal oil
32 because they never have ground squirrels or parka
33 squirrels in their region and in their areas. They get
34 it from bartering with our people from this area to
35 further up, maybe up to as far as Kalskag (indiscernible)
36 many years ago. They even used to trap down in Goodnews,
37 Kwinhagak, and Eek. Then after contact, we started.
38 Customary trade was never in our language. It was
39 introduced to us by the Western culture where we trade
40 money for cash, and many of the younger people are using
41 that because they sell off part of their subsistence
42 catch for cash for what they don't have or trade it up,
43 trade for other goods from other regions, even Yukon,
44 say coastal area, Mekoryuk, even all the way to Bristol
45 Bay and back over here. And well, they said the drawback
46 of customary trade is people who are used to selling
47 cash for goods they get addicted to it. If they need
48 money, they'll try to get as much as possible to the
49 point their game or fur animals get to the point where
50 they're getting scarce. But in the barter system where

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1 they just trade food for food or food for fur, or food
2 for their kayaks or sealskins for what we don't have in
3 our region, that's -- that is the information that's
4 been handed down by our forefathers. Thank you, Madam
5 Chair.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana,
8 John (In Native) Is there anyone else? Well, thank you
9 so much again, Alida, for your presentation.

10
11 MS. TRAINOR: You're very welcome.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: And since
14 we have about a little over 20 minutes until five, I was
15 hoping that we could get through the last Eastern
16 Interior proposal before we call it a day. Oh, and Kevin
17 is already ready. So, Kevin.

18
19 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair,
20 members of the Council. Once again, my name is Kevin
21 Foley. I'm a fisheries biologist.....

22
23 UNIDENTIFIED: Hold on a second, we're
24 offline.

25
26 MR. FOLEY: All right, here we go. Madam
27 Chair, members of the Council, once again, this is Kevin
28 Foley, fisheries biologist with the Office of
29 Subsistence Management, and we're going to discuss FCR
30 25-02 Nome Creek. The analysis, which may be found on
31 page 91 of your Council book. This is a Federal closure
32 that only applies to grayling. This is a Board-directed
33 review to see if the closure is still necessary. This
34 closure was reviewed during the 2021 and 2023 Fisheries
35 Regulatory Cycle. Nome Creek is in the Eastern Interior
36 Region, about 50 air miles north of Fairbanks. Nome Creek
37 is road accessible with a couple of campsites along the
38 creek. So, what is currently allowed in Nome Creek? Well,
39 under Federal regulations, the harvest of grayling is
40 not allowed. Under state regulations, subsistence
41 fishing is also not allowed because Nome Creek is within
42 the Fairbanks non-subsistence area. State sport fishing
43 regulations allow only catch and release of grayling in
44 Nome Creek. So, what do we know about grayling in Nome
45 Creek? Well, not a whole lot. We currently do not have
46 any good population estimates, but there is ongoing
47 research by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
48 Bureau of Land Management focused on acquiring
49 population information for grayling in the area.
50 However, results are not scheduled to be available until

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1 later this fall. If the closure is rescinded, who will
2 be able to fish here? All residents of the Yukon northern
3 area will be able to harvest grayling in Nome Creek. The
4 closest rural communities are Central and Circle, but
5 available data suggest subsistence harvests from these
6 communities would likely not be substantial. If the
7 closure is removed, what would be allowed? The Federal
8 regulations that cover the entire Yukon northern area
9 would apply. These are generally liberal regulations.
10 Harvest would be unrestricted when using any other legal
11 gear than rod and reel. So, for example, there wouldn't
12 be harvest limits for gillnets. Harvest using rod and
13 reel would not be allowed because Federal subsistence
14 rod and reel limits would match state sport fishing
15 limits, but state sport fishing is limited to catch and
16 release only. So, in summary, harvest of grayling is
17 prohibited under Federal regulations. State Sportfish
18 regulations only allow catch and release of grayling.
19 This is a Board-directed review to see if the closure
20 is still necessary. Not a lot is currently known about
21 grayling in Nome Creek, and there is an ongoing project
22 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau
23 of Land Management, but results will not be available
24 until later this fall. The OSM preliminary conclusion
25 is to rescind the closure. Rescinding the closure would
26 establish a Federal subsistence priority in the area.
27 Grayling are susceptible to overexploitation, and Nome
28 Creek is road-accessible, allowing for easy access and
29 harvest to fish. Allowing unrestricted harvests for gear
30 types other than rod and reel may lead to overharvest,
31 although data suggest most subsistence harvests of
32 grayling in nearby communities are with rod and reel.
33 Grayling populations may be protected by limiting
34 subsistence harvest to rod and reel only and/or
35 establishing harvest limits, but these modifications
36 would require a fisheries proposal to be submitted.
37 Until a proposal can be submitted to the Federal in-
38 season manager can protect populations in the area by
39 restricting gear types and/or harvest limits. That
40 concludes my presentation. Madam Chair, members of the
41 Council, we're standing by for your questions. Thank
42 you.

43

44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
45 you, Kevin. Are there any questions for Kevin?

46

47 (In Native)

48

49 Hearing none. Brooke.

50

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1 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 There were no comments during tribal and ANCSA
3 Corporation consultations about this proposal or closure
4 review. We'll move on to agency comments. Anyone from
5 Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

6
7 (No comment)

8
9 Any Federal agency comments? Any tribal
10 comments? Other Regional Advisory Council?

11
12 MR. FOLEY: Madam Chair, members of the
13 Council, this is Kevin Foley. The North Slope Regional
14 Advisory Council deferred FP 25-16 to the home region,
15 the Eastern Interior Council. Thank you.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: And I think Kevin meant FCR
18 25-02.

19
20 MR. FOLEY: Thank you.

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: Just for the record.

23
24 MR. FOLEY: For the record. Thank you.
25 That is correct.

26
27 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Any Fish and Game
28 advisory committee comments?

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 Hearing none. Were there any written
33 comments?

34
35 MR. FOLEY: Madam Chair, members of the
36 Council. No written comments were received. Thank you.

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Kevin. And now
39 we'll open the floor for public testimony in the room
40 and online.

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Not seeing anyone. I'll turn it back
45 over to you, Madam Chair, for Council recommendation.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank
48 you, Brooke. So, the motion on the -- is there a motion
49 to support FCR 25-02 Nome Creek closure to harvest of

50

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1 Arctic grayling? Either a motion to support or take no
2 action.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Myron.

5

6 MR. NANENG: Yeah. Thank you, Madam
7 Chair, Myron Naneng. Since I heard the presenter, Kevin,
8 making a comment that this is going to open it to
9 subsistence fishing for grayling, I would support the
10 proposal.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Myron
13 made a motion to support the proposal. Is there a second?

14

15 MR. ANDREW: Seconded by John.

16 Discussion.

17

18 MS. MCDAVID: Just sorry, for the record--
19 sorry, folks. Closure -- the motions for closure reviews
20 are slightly different than for proposals, and we should
21 have said this a little bit earlier. We'll just need to
22 probably rescind the second -- rescind the motion and
23 restate it for the record. So, if you look on page 66
24 of your meeting book, there's a list right under the OSM
25 preliminary conclusion. So, the closure options are to
26 retain the status quo, which would be to keep the closure
27 in place so that it wouldn't be open to subsistence. A
28 motion to rescind the closure would mean to remove the
29 closure, and then it would be open to subsistence. Or
30 you could make a motion to modify the closure or to
31 defer or take no action. So, I believe that Myron's
32 motion is intending to rescind the closure, but we will
33 need to restate that for the record. So, sorry we didn't
34 lead you a little better on that one, but maybe we could
35 give it a redo. Thank you.

36

37 MR. NANENG: I support the words that you
38 were saying on my behalf. Thank you.

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, so I'll restate the
41 motion is to rescind the closure for Nome Creek harvest
42 of Arctic grayling FCR 25-02. And it was seconded by
43 John Andrew. And we heard a little bit of discussion
44 from Myron that he feels it should be open to
45 subsistence, and if there's any other discussion, now
46 would be the time. Thanks.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Robert.

49

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1 MR. HOFFMAN: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry. I
2 called for the question. Roll call, please.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND:
5 Question's been called by Robert. Roll call.

6
7 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. So, the motion on the
8 floor for FCR 25-02 is to rescind the closure. So that
9 means if you vote yay, you're voting to remove the
10 closure so that it will be open to subsistence use.
11 We'll do roll call now. John Andrew.

12
13 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

16
17 MS. EVAN: Yes.

18
19 MS. MCDAVID: Robert Hoffman.

20
21 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

22
23 MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.

24
25 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

26
27 MS. MCDAVID: Myron Naneng.

28
29 MR. NANENG: Yes.

30
31 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.

32
33 MR. PARKS: Yes.

34
35 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

36
37 MR. PETER: Yes.

38
39 MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: And I was just checking
44 this. I don't think Alyssa has joined us again. So,
45 motion passes 8 to 0.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you
48 again. So, it's almost 5:00, and I just wanted to see
49 what people wanted to do here. We could go through the
50 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and PINs

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1 development, or we could call it a day. (In Native)
2 Okay, there's more votes to call it a day. So, we'll
3 pick up with you tomorrow morning, Kevin. Thank you
4 everyone.

5
6 MR. FOLEY: 9:00?

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes, at
9 9:00. Thank you. Is there a motion.....

10
11 (Simultaneous speech)

12
13 MR. NANENG: Is there a motion Madam
14 Chair.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: No, I was
17 going to say. Is there a-oh, oh. I call recess.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 100 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 21st day of August 2024;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Isabela, Puerto Rico this 16th day of Sept 2024.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager - Transcriptions