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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

BLM CAMPBELL CREEK SCIENCE CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
October 10, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Encelewski
Edward Holsten
Michael Ophiem
Diane Selanoff
Dennis Zadra
Angela Totemoff
Judith Caminer

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

Recorded and transcribed by:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 10/10/24)

(On record)

MS. PILCHER: Good morning everyone. This is Nissa Pilcher, and you are attending the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. If folks could take their seats, we will be getting started in just a few minutes. For those joining us over the phone, you can find the agenda and meeting materials online on the Federal Subsistence Program website. The internet address is www.doi.gov/subsistence and under the Regions tab, choose Southcentral and then Meeting Materials. For all participants on the phone and online, please remember to mute yourselves when you are not speaking. If you do not have a mute button on your phone, you can press star six and that will mute your phone. It will also unmute your phone if you need to do so at a later time. If you would like to speak, you can press star five to raise your hand or use the raise hand button if you have -- if you are participating directly on MS Teams. If a line is not muted and creates a distraction, we will -- we may have to mute it for you. For folks helping moderate online, please do not click the mute all button as this will mute those of us in this room as well. And we will get started here very momentarily.

(Pause)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, I'll just say a few words. Heavenly father, we ask you to guide us today as we deliberate for the needs and usage of the subsistence resource that our people depend so much on. Give us wisdom and strength and knowledge and all that we do, in fairness. And we thank you for the bounty of the State that we are able to use. And I just ask your blessing to be on each and everyone here. Amen. Thank you. Okay. Now I'm going to get official.

Okay. Then, call the meeting to order. If you need an official time, I got about 9:36, and right -- we got some housekeeping stuff to take care of. So, Nissa is going to go through that, and then we'll call the roll and get started.

MS. PILCHER: All right. Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Southcentral Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Again, my name

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1 is Nissa Pilcher and I'm the Council Coordinator and the
2 designated Federal officer for this meeting. A few
3 housekeeping announcements to make before we get
4 started. This is a public meeting, and it is being
5 recorded and will be transcribed. For those attending
6 our meeting in person, please make sure you sign in at
7 the front table each day of the meeting, right there by
8 the doors. The Council is scheduled to meet for two
9 days. Meeting materials are also found on that back table
10 for this. For those joining us via distance and missed
11 this when I stated it earlier, you can find the agenda
12 and meeting materials online on the Federal Subsistence
13 Management Program website. That address is
14 www.doi.gov/subsistence. Under the Regions tab, choose
15 Southcentral and then Meeting Materials. And again, for
16 all participants on the phone and online, please
17 remember to keep yourself muted when you're not
18 speaking. Star five mutes and unmute and star -- excuse
19 me, star six mute and unmute and star five is the option
20 to raise your hand. For everyone's information, the
21 Office of Subsistence Management has a new contractor
22 who is helping record the audio for all the Regional
23 Advisory Councils' meetings. With us today is Gabe from
24 Talking Circle Media. Under this new contract, the audio
25 recording of the meeting will be sent to another
26 contractor, Lighthouse Integrated Service -- Services,
27 who will then produce the transcription. Since the
28 transcriptionists are not present with us during the
29 meeting and haven't been working with this program for
30 the last several decades like our last. It is very
31 important to remember to state your name for the record
32 each time so they know who was talking. I may have had
33 issues with this last week and made us all these handy
34 reminders so we can remember. I also had trouble doing
35 it so, I understand entirely. And I may interrupt when
36 someone's talking and remind them to do that. I do
37 apologize in advance for this because I know it will be
38 disruptive, but it is important that we make sure that
39 we get a good record. And that concludes my intro -- or
40 my spiel, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
43 Nissa, Any questions on that? If not we're going to go
44 ahead and proceed. We're going to do a roll call,
45 establish and Hope was going to do that but she's not
46 here. So, Nissa's going to do that?

47
48 MS. PILCHER: I sure can, I'm going to
49 look at yours because my meeting book has taken a wander.
50 Ed Holsten.

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1
2 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, I'm here. Thank you.
3
4 MS. PILCHER: Hi Ed. Michael Ophiem.
5
6 MR. OPHIEM: Here.
7
8 MS. PILCHER: Greg Encelewski.
9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Here.
11
12 MS. PILCHER: Diane Selanoff. Did you
13 call in?
14
15 MS. SELANOFF: Here. Here.
16
17 MS. PILCHER: Hi, Diana.
18
19 MS SELANOFF: Hello?
20
21 MS. PILCHER: Dennis Zadra.
22
23 MS. SELANOFF: Here.
24
25 MR. Zadra: Dennis is present.
26
27 MS. PILCHER: Angela, are you still there
28 as well?
29
30 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'm here. Thank you. Good
31 morning, everyone.
32
33 MS. PILCHER: Good morning. Andrew
34 McLaughlin. He did say at the winter meeting he wasn't
35 going to be present, and I believe that is still the
36 intent. So, he would be an excused absence. Hope, are
37 you on? Hope Roberts.
38
39 (No response)
40
41 MS. PILCHER: Heath Kocan. He may call
42 in later. He was very sick yesterday. And then Judith.
43
44 MS. CAMINER: Yes, I'm here. Thank you.
45
46 MS. PILCHER: It's Camlingar?
47
48 MS. CAMINER: Caminer.
49
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1 MS. PILCHER: Caminer. Thank you.

2

3 And -- excuse me with -- what is that?

4 That is six members present, we -- out of ten seated,
5 we do have quorum. Let me double check that is six
6 though. So, yes, Judith -- Judy is right. It is seven
7 out of ten seated. So, we still have quorum. Thanks.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
10 you. And now you get to talk some more of the meeting
11 announcements if you want to say anymore.

12

13 MS. PILCHER: All right. Throughout the
14 meeting, there will be -- oh, this is see look, this is
15 Nissa Pilcher again, for the record. Throughout the
16 meeting, there will be opportunities for public
17 comments. Each morning they'll be an opportunity for
18 public comment on non-agenda item related to
19 subsistence. On the first day of the meeting this will
20 come a bit later since we are going through this opening
21 business. But on other days it will be first thing in
22 the morning before the Council begins the other
23 business. If you are here with us, please fill out a
24 blue comment card with your name and topic of your
25 comment, once again located on the back, you can hand
26 that in, to me or any of the OSM staff that's here. We
27 will be doing a introductions of those in the room and
28 on the phone here shortly. If it is for a specific agenda
29 item, the Chair will call on you to comment when that
30 item comes up in the agenda. So once again, that morning
31 comment period is for non-agenda items. If you are on
32 the phone or online and would like to comment again,
33 press star five or use the raise hand feature if you are
34 directly on MS Teams. Once again, please identify
35 yourself for the record by stating your first and last
36 name and any affiliation when it is your turn to speak.
37 If you'd like to submit written comments instead of or
38 in addition to your oral comments, you may turn those
39 in directly to me. You can also email to
40 subsistence@ios.doi.gov. Be sure to include your name
41 and affiliation on those written comments as well,
42 please. Just a friendly reminder about conduct and
43 ethics during the meeting. This meeting will be
44 conducted using Robert's Rules of Order, and the meeting
45 will be led by the Chair with help from the Coordinator.
46 Please do not speak out of turn and be called on by the
47 Chair. Please no name calling or use of profanity. Point
48 of order can be called by anyone if misconduct happens.
49 We are all here because we care about subsistence,
50 although it is okay to be passionate, we want to foster

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1 an environment where everyone is respected and can work
2 together. If any topic will be discussed during the
3 meeting where Council members feel that they may have a
4 conflict of interest, please make a conflict-of-interest
5 statement on record and excuse yourself from the
6 discussion and from voting on the issue. I appeared to
7 have accidentally cut and copied something into my script
8 that is not supposed to be right where that is. But
9 yeah, I think that actually that concludes that topic.

10

11 It appears those online say that we are
12 choppy. So, if -- just give us one second, I am -- we'll
13 attempt to address that if possible.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 Just to let everybody know, we are
18 having some internet issues here in the room. We can
19 hear each other, but there is some difficulty for those
20 calling in. We are working on a workaround for that but
21 it could take 15-20 minutes to get some other hardware
22 into the room in order to fix it. So, please bear with
23 us at this time.

24

25 MS. TOTEMOFF: Hi Nissa. This is Angela
26 Totemoff. We are getting a person that is not muted.

27

28 MS. PILCHER: Say that again, Angela.

29

30 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'm getting a unmuted
31 person coming in on the line speaking about. I don't
32 think she's aware that she's unmuted.

33

34 MS. PILCHER: All right. We will look
35 into that and get that addressed. Thank you, Angela.
36 Yeah, and once again don't forget everyone. It is star
37 six to mute and unmute yourself. And if you aren't
38 speaking, please make sure that you are muted either by
39 pressing star six or by using the mute option on your
40 smartphone. Thanks.

41

42 (Pause)

43

44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
45 to go ahead and do the welcome. I don't know if you guys
46 on the phone could hear, this is Greg Encelewski,
47 Chairman. And I'm going to go ahead and welcome everyone.
48 I briefly did that before, but we will go around. We'll
49 have the Council members introduce themselves, and then
50 we'll go ahead and have everyone in the public here to

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1 introduce yourself. I know there's some new faces, I
2 don't know. And anyway, we'll do that. So, let's start
3 with the Council members. And Judy, if you don't mind
4 starting, that's -- go ahead.

5
6 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Greg. This is
7 Judy Caminer. I've been involved in the Subsistence
8 Program since the mid-90s, I think. And welcome,
9 everybody. We hope for a productive meeting today. I
10 have a few really interesting issues to address. And I
11 guess we'll hold off on our own sort of reports till
12 later, then. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
15 Michael.

16
17 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, Seldovia.

18
19 MR. ZADRA: I'm Dennis Zadra. I'm from
20 Cordova.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
23 Dennis. Those of you online we could start -- Ed, do you
24 want to go ahead and introduce yourself? Tell them you're
25 -- from where you're from.

26
27 MR. HOLSTONRAC: All right. Yes, this is
28 Ed Holston. I've been on the RAC for close to ten years.
29 I'm from Cooper Landing. Looking forward to a great
30 meeting. Thank you, Chair.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
33 Diane, you want to introduce yourself?

34
35 (No response)

36
37 MS. PILCHER: Diane, it looks like you're
38 -- this is Nissa, for the record. Diane, it looks like
39 you're muted. If you could press star six.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll get
42 back to Diane. Angela, you want to go ahead?

43
44 MS. TOTEMOFF: Good morning, Greg. Of
45 course, Angela Totemoff. I'm from Tatitlek and my family
46 is from Tatitlek and Chenega. I currently reside in
47 Anchorage, but often spend a lot of time in the Prince
48 William Sound.

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
2 Okay, let's ask Diane. Are you -- can you hear us now?

3
4 MS. SELANOFF: How about that? Does that
5 work?

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That works.

8
9 MS. SELANOFF: Oh, awesome. Good, I
10 wasn't sure if you heard me during roll call also. Diane
11 Selanoff, Valdez. Good morning, everyone.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Diane. We did
14 the roll call, we're missing three. We got a quorum of
15 seven. We got three online.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 Okay, now I'd like to get the --
20 everyone to do their introductions, and we could start
21 -- why don't we start right here? Because.....

22
23 MS. MCKEE: Good morning. I'm Chris
24 McKee, the statewide subsistence coordinator for the
25 Bureau of Land Management, out of the State office in
26 Anchorage and also an interagency staff committee
27 member.

28
29 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr. chair.
30 Members of the Council. My name is Greg Risdahl. I'm the
31 Forest Service subsistence program leader and the
32 interagency staff committee member to the Board for the
33 Forest Service. Nice to see you all.

34
35 MR. MILLER: Good morning. My name is
36 Mark Miller. I'm an ecologist with the National Park
37 Service at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
38 Preserve.

39
40 MS. COHEN: Good morning. My name is
41 Amber Cohen. I'm a cultural anthropologist at Wrangell-
42 St. Elias National Park and Preserve and Copper Center.

43
44 MS. KEATING: Good morning. Nice to see
45 everyone. I'm Jackie Keating, the lead subsistence
46 resource specialist for the Department of Fish and Game,
47 Southcentral region.

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1 MR. ESKELIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
2 And Council and Todd Eskelin, Kenai National Wildlife
3 Refuge biologist and partial subsistence coordinator.

4
5 MS. LINNELL: Good morning, my name is
6 Karen Linnell, executive director for Ahtna Inter-Tribal
7 Resource Commission.

8
9 MS. KOSBRUK: Good morning, my name is
10 Deanna Kosbruk, and I work for Ahtna Inter-Tribal
11 Resource Commission.

12
13 MR. SANDERS: Good morning. I'm Andrew
14 Sanders. I'm the subsistence program manager for the
15 Chugach National Forest, and I'm located in Cordova.

16
17 MR. GORZE: Good morning, Dan Gorze,
18 fisheries biologist, Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
19 Commission Council.

20
21 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Council,
22 public staff. George Pappas, OSM State subsistence
23 liaison. You'll see me at the end of the table with the
24 Board of Fish and Board of Game. So, when you're there,
25 if you want to get your voice heard, let's talk at the
26 meetings. Thank you.

27
28 MS. WHITMAN: Good morning, I'm Tessa
29 Whitman. I'm on detail as the wildlife biologist for the
30 Bureau of Land Management. Glennallen field office.

31
32 MR. SUNDLOV: Good morning, Tim Sundlov,
33 fish biologist from BLM and Glennallen.

34
35 MR. WOODARD: Morning. I'm Christian
36 Woodard. I'm a subsistence research specialist with Fish
37 and Game and work in the Southcentral Region.

38
39 MS. CHRISTIANSEN: Good morning. I'm
40 Maddie Christiansen. I'm a subsistence resource
41 specialist with Fish and Game.

42
43 MS. SLIVENSKY: Good morning. I'm McKenna
44 Slivenski and I'm also with Fish and Game subsistence.

45
46 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, everyone. Mr.
47 Chair, members of the Council, public. My name is Kevin
48 Foley. I'm a fisheries biologist with the Office of
49 Subsistence Management. It's great to see everybody
50 today.

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MR. UBELAKER: Good morning, everybody.
Brian Ubelaker wildlife biologist with OSM.

MS. GREDIAGAN: Hi. My name is Lisa Grediagin. I'm the wildlife division supervisor with OSM. And I'm also the LT leadership team lead for this meeting. Thank you.

MS. CHAPA: Good morning. My name is Gisela Chapa. I am a subsistence Council Coordinator for the North Slope and Seward Peninsula regions with the Office of Subsistence Management.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Thank you. Go ahead and move and then we'll get started. Welcome again.

MS. PILCHER: Aright, again this is Nissa Pilcher. What we're going to do is, we're going to do online phone introductions. I'm going to do it in a relatively ordered fashion. And in that -- first, if you are calling in as a member of the public, if you could please introduce yourself.

(No response)

Once again, that is start 6 to mute and unmute, and if I skip you don't be abashed to make yourself heard at a later point in time if I talk over you. Okay, so members of the public -- how about tribal government or Native organizations?

(No response)

How -- non-government affiliated organizations.

(No response)

How about state of Alaska? My assumption would be Department of Fis and Game but I guess I shouldn't make that assumption.

(No response)

I'm getting word that no one can actually hear me speaking. But they can hear others in the room. Is -- can anybody hear me?

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1 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. Nissa, we can't hear
2 who you're asking to speak. We've heard everyone else
3 okay, but I don't know if you have a separate microphone
4 that may not be working so well.

5
6 MS. PILCHER: How about this? Does this
7 one work a little better?

8
9 UNIDENTIFIED: A little bit.

10
11 MS. PILCHER: Did you say a little bit?

12
13 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 MS. PILCHER: Okay. How about -- I'm
18 going to try a couple different things? How about this
19 microphone?

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 Can you guys here me know?

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 For those who can hear me, we might
28 stand down for 5-10 minutes, attempting to address the
29 issue in the room. So, for those that can hear me we are
30 going to stand down for 5-10 minutes. It's currently
31 9:57.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay folks,
38 we're getting ready to get started here.

39
40 (Pause)

41
42 I'm gonna [sic] check in. How about the
43 people online now, can you hear me now? This is Greg.

44
45 UNIDENTIFIED: Loud and clear
46 (indiscernible) Greg.

47
48
49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, sounds
2 good. I'm hearing, loud and clear. Nissa, do you want
3 to ask them some more questions just to make sure you
4 got them on the record.

5
6 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, we can try again with
7 introductions if everyone can hear me.

8
9 UNIDENTIFIED: Can hear you.

10
11 MS. PILCHER: Okay, thank you. So, we'll
12 start again. We'll do members of the public, tribal
13 governments or Native organizations. Those are the ones
14 I'd run through already but if you are representing any
15 of those if you could please introduce yourself.

16
17 MS. MARTIN: Good morning. This is
18 Kathryn Martin with Ahtna Incorporated.

19
20 MS. PILCHER: Good morning. How about any
21 non-government affiliated organization?

22
23 (No response)

24
25 How about the state of Alaska?

26
27 MR. RINALDI: Good afternoon. This is
28 Todd Rinaldi, I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and
29 Game Division of Wildlife conservation based out of
30 Palmer and we oversee our Region 4 which is a good
31 portion of the Southcentral area.

32
33 MS. PILCHER: Good morning, Todd. Anybody
34 else with the state of Alaska?

35
36 (No response)

37
38 How about U.S. Fish and Wildlife
39 Service?

40
41 MR. GATES: Good morning. This is Ken
42 Gates, U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Soldotna, Cook Inlet
43 in-season fisheries manager.

44
45 MS. THAMM: Good morning. My name is
46 Heather Thamm, I'm a subsistence biologist with Chugach
47 National Forest based in Moose Pass.

48
49
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1 MS. PILCHER: And as a reminder, if you
2 guys are using your phones to call in, it is start 6 to
3 mute ad unmute. How about National Park Service?
4

5 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. This is Dave
6 Sarafin, fisheries management biologist at Wrangell-St
7 Elias National Park and Preserve.
8

9 MS. PILCHER: How about Bureau of Indian
10 Affairs?
11

12 (No response)
13

14 BLM?
15

16 (No response)
17

18 How about Forest Service other than
19 Heather?
20

21 (No response)
22

23 How about the Office of Subsistence
24 Management?
25

26 DR. VORHEES: Good morning. This is
27 Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM.
28

29 MS. MORROW: Good morning. This is
30 Kristen Morrow, anthropology pathways intern with OSM.
31

32 MS. PILCHER: All right. Anyone else on
33 with OSM?
34

35 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Nissa. This
36 is Robin LaVine, subsistence policy coordinator. I
37 introduced myself a little earlier, but I'll pop on as
38 well now. Thanks.
39

40 MS. PILCHER: Thanks, Robin. And then it
41 does look like we do have someone -- or did someone from
42 the department -- or Office of the Secretary on. Eric,
43 are you still on?
44

45 MR. WERWA: Yes, I am. Hi. Nice to meet
46 you all, virtually. My name is Eric Werwa. I am deputy
47 assistant secretary for policy and environmental
48 management within the Office of Policy, Management and
49 Budget in the office of the Secretary of the interior,
50 which is a mouthful. And you'll hear more about my

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1 relationship with OSM later in the meeting during the
2 OSM update. But I will try to attend as much of the
3 meeting over the next couple of days as I can. It's been
4 really informative to attend several of the other RAC
5 meetings to better, you know, expand my understanding
6 and knowledge of the issues that are important to all
7 of you. So, thanks for having me.

8
9 MS. PILCHER: And thank you, Eric. Is
10 there anyone else online that we skipped over or thinks
11 they may not have gotten heard by those in the room?
12 Please speak up now.

13
14 MS. KETRON: Hi, everyone. This is
15 Caroline Ketron. I'm the anthropologist and subsistence
16 coordinator at the Bureau of Land Management.
17 (Distortion - indiscernible) on my phone earlier.

18
19 MS. PILCHER: Hi Caroline.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're
22 going to go ahead and move forward then. I think we're
23 ready to review and adopt the agenda if the Council
24 members wanted to take a look at that. I'll entertain a
25 motion to adopt or modify as needed.

26
27 MS. TOTEMOFF: So, this is Angela. I
28 moved to approve the agenda as presented.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
31 Angela. Is there a second?

32
33 MR. OPHEIM: Michael, second.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
36 Michael, second. Any discussion? Hearing none. All in
37 favor?

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?
42 The ayes got it, unanimous. Okay. Review and approve
43 previous minutes. We -- do you want to look at the --
44 we have a winter minutes from 2024. We start with them
45 and then we get a joint Council minutes. We can take
46 them one by one if you want.

47
48 MS. CAMINER: This is Judy. I'll move to
49 adopt our Council's minutes.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
2 Judy. Is there a second to that?

3
4 MR. OPHEIM: Michael. Second.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Michael Ophiem
7 seconds it. Any discussion on the matter? Hearing none.
8 All in favor, aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

13
14 MS. TOTEMOFF: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: There was a
17 delayed aye. Thank you, Angela. Hearing no opposition,
18 it passed unanimously. The next one was our winter 2024.
19 We had a joint Council minutes. I don't know how we
20 approve those, but I guess we approve -- Motion to
21 approve them?

22
23 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make the motion to
24 approve the Joint Council meeting Minutes.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
27 Michael. Is there a second?

28
29 MS. CAMINER: Judy. This is a second.
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
33 Judy. Any discussion? Hearing none. All in favor aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?
38 So, carries, unanimous. Thank you. Okay, at this time
39 we're going to move on to Council reports. And the Vice
40 Chair is going to keep me straight, so I don't miss
41 anyone on the phone, but it doesn't matter. Dennis, you
42 want to get started, and we'll go just around the table.

43
44 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Thank you, Greg.
45 Through the Chair. My name is Dennis Zadra. I'm from
46 Cordova. After our spring meeting, we had a cold, wet
47 spring. Our bear movement was really slow until about
48 mid-May, and -- but then it warmed up and the bears came
49 out pretty well and I was impressed with that. Our Copper
50 River gillnet season, commercial season opened on May

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1 16th with higher than anticipated harvest for the first
2 period. And we had three regular openers then and then
3 the commercial was shut down for three of the next four
4 biweekly openers. And just to clarify, when we're
5 fishing commercially, we get two 12-hour periods a week.
6 We fish 12 hours on Monday, we fish 12 hours on Thursday.
7 And that's less than 15% of the time that these fish
8 have -- that they're actually fished for. 85% of the
9 time they're wide-open passage to go into the river. We
10 did get subsistence openers when we were not allowed to
11 fish commercially. And the subsistence fishing was good.
12 A lot of people got their fish. I personally proxied
13 about three different people and then took other people
14 out on the boat so, we put a lot of fish in the people's
15 freezers. Ultimately, at the end of the -- when the
16 sonar counter was pulled, the Copper was over-escaped
17 by close to 250,000 above the upper management goal that
18 the State sets. The sockeyes in Prince William Sound,
19 going back to Maine Bay hatchery and also Kage Lake were
20 strong. They did good, but unfortunately the chums, both
21 wild stocks and hatchery chums and hatchery pinks and
22 wild stock pinks were very poor. The commercial pink
23 harvest in Prince William Sound was the lowest since
24 1993. Okay, I'm sorry. I'm trying to read my chicken
25 scratch. Early on in the summer, I thought the berries
26 were going to be excellent. We got salmon berries all
27 over our house, and the blossoms and the blooms were
28 just everywhere. And I thought, boy, this is going to
29 be fantastic. And I don't know what happened. I don't
30 know if they didn't get pollinated. Somebody said we had
31 a windstorm that blew them all off, but we ended up
32 having a very poor berry year in Cordova. That coupled
33 with the weak salmon runs and all that was really
34 detrimental on the bears, especially the black bears. A
35 bunch of black bears in town eating garbage and so it's
36 an issue being out in the woods and hunting and all
37 that. Notice we don't see the incidents of the cubs as
38 much, you know, there's a few, but not like we used to
39 see.

40
41 Turning into the fall, moose hunting was
42 good. In both the State hunts and the subsistence hunts.
43 So, that was good. And September brought on, as usual,
44 lots of rain and storms and wet conditions. But we've
45 gotten through it. And now we're here in October and the
46 first sprinkling of snow on the ground so, we know what's
47 coming. And I wanted to bring up one other point too. I
48 have been talking with Heather Bauscher from
49 Southcentral, but she said that Naomi Jones from Tyonek
50 is a high school student, but she is interested in taking

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1 one of the youth Council seats on our Council. So, I
2 just wanted to mention that I think that's a very
3 positive thing and we should give her support. That's
4 all I got.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Great report.
7 Thank you, Dennis.

8
9 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, Seldovia.
10 Yeah, our bears were late in showing up this year, but
11 they all looked healthy all year long. Was kind of nice
12 to see, even with the no real salmon return -- pinks
13 weren't around. There was -- the planted kings, they did
14 fair. The salmonberries and blueberries were really poor
15 this year. The salmonberries were all deformed when they
16 did show up. The only berries that really did good was
17 the wild strawberries. Great big wild strawberries --
18 was great. I picked a bunch of those. We've had a good
19 rabbit bloom going here the last few years so, that's
20 been nice to see. Hoping folks are getting out and
21 harvesting a few of those before they're gone. Halibut
22 went out and set subsistence halibut long line a couple
23 times the first set we did great. Went back a few weeks
24 later and reset twice and got zero fish. I don't know
25 where the hell that went, what happened but they weren't
26 there where they should have been. Both spots we reset
27 should have been really good halibut spots. So, yeah,
28 it's just and then, you know, I've gone out a couple
29 times now looking for mushrooms, but it's still late in
30 the season now so, I didn't see any real good populations
31 of those. I don't know if it's just because it's wet and
32 cold this year or what happened there, but yeah. And no
33 silvers.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
36 Michael. Judy.

37
38 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Greg. This is
39 Judy Caminer from Anchorage. Summer started pretty late
40 here, maybe around solstice. And then I know Cordova
41 folks will laugh, but we had a lot of rain in July,
42 September -- July, August and September. Quite a bit
43 above average. And so, it was hard to string together a
44 few sunny days. I thought the berries here were pretty
45 good, blueberries and cranberries, but I think some of
46 the other species not quite as good. Fishing, I'm sure
47 Greg will address this, but in Ship Creek, right
48 downtown, that fishery had to be closed for -- because
49 of low numbers. And right now, in our local State park
50

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1 just east of here, there's some very limited moose
2 hunting going on.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Thank
5 you, Judy. Let's go ahead and go online here. Ed, you
6 want to go ahead?

7

8 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, sir. Mr. Chair. Excuse
9 me, this is Ed Holsten from Cooper Landing. We had a
10 real rainy July and August into September, as Judy
11 mentioned. Even in June, even though the weather was
12 good. Our upper Kenai River has been up until recently
13 extremely high, and I think that was due to the heavy
14 snowpack we had last winter. We had a little over 100
15 inches a year. With respect to our sockeye, both runs -
16 - we had two runs. First run goes up Russian River.
17 Second run splits, park goes up to Russian. The rest
18 goes up upper Kenai into Kenai Lake. Both those runs
19 were a couple of weeks late. Nobody's quite sure why,
20 whether it was due to water temperature or higher river
21 volumes. But the rub -- both runs, though, once they
22 came in, came in like gangbusters. Met their escapement.
23 Plenty of fish, fortunately. As Greg will probably
24 mention, even the chinook were on, even though we have
25 -- excuse me, even though we have a light small run up
26 way up stream. Chinook runs are still miserable on the
27 Kenai River, and this year coho runs have really been
28 poor. Very, very few runs of coho, coming up the Kenai
29 and fishing's been somewhat restricted for coho. And
30 this is happening elsewhere in Southcentral Alaska.
31 Other than that, I won't mention big game hunting. I'm
32 sure our subsistence folks from Chugach National Forest
33 will mention that later in the meeting. But our berries
34 have been good. Blueberries have been pretty good, as
35 well as cranberries. So, that's it. Thank you so much.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
38 Next, Diane, you on?

39

40 (No response)

41

42 MS. PILCHER: And this is Nissa. Don't
43 forget, it is star six to mute and unmute. Diane, are
44 you on?

45

46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's go
47 ahead and go to Angela.

48

49 MS. TOTTEMOFF: I'm here, Greg. I just
50 need to move rooms. I have construction happening

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1 outside my building. Just give me a second to move to a
2 quieter space. Can you hear me okay?

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I hear you
5 pretty good.

6

7 MS. TOTTEMOFF: Okay. I will echo what
8 the reports that we've seen in the Prince William Sound
9 from Dennis. He did mention that we did have some pretty
10 strange runs there, particularly our silver salmon.
11 Those were very, very slow this year. With our berries,
12 we did have a wet and rainy Prince William Sound summer.
13 So, those came in pretty slim. And so, did our
14 blueberries. So, for some reason, in Tatitlek area, our
15 blueberries come a little earlier in the summer as
16 opposed to the fall, like they do here in Anchorage. So,
17 yeah, that was -- it was a pretty slow. We did, however,
18 have a pretty good strong highbush cranberry run, so
19 that was good. I should also mention, too, that we are
20 seeing an influx of seals and sea otters. And around our
21 area I should also reflect to that -- I just wanted to
22 recognize the work of David Totemoff, he was an elder
23 from Tatitlek. He recently passed in March of this year.
24 He was one of our very respected elders that held
25 subsistence issues in high regard. He was often one of
26 the ones that provided very in-depth reports about what
27 he was seeing. One of those -- one of the things that
28 he was most concerned about was the trawlers. And so,
29 we're seeing a lot of action within our region to try
30 to fulfill his concerns in that area. I also just wanted
31 to mention too that I am -- I sit on the subsistence
32 committee at AFN, and there's a lot of -- there's a lot
33 of things happening over on the AFN side. A lot of this
34 came about with resolution that came up in 2022. This
35 had to do with management between two regions where it
36 -- they were trying to manage the fisheries in the ocean
37 versus on the rivers. That created some contention
38 between the regions. And so, what that did was brought
39 up -- bring up a lot of management issues. A lot of
40 conservation issues and how regions deal with that
41 within their own areas. And so, having tracked that over
42 the past two years, in addition to that you guys are
43 aware of the U.S. v Alaska, where there's that case
44 involves the management of fisheries between subsistence
45 and non-subsistence users or giving preference to rural
46 Alaska versus all of Alaska. So, with that coming down
47 the pipe as well, there's just a lot of discussions
48 happening across the State on what that means for
49 management of our resources. I should also mention too,
50 that AFN is doing a huge effort to educating the public

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1 on what subsistence uses are and what management is. So,
2 you'll be hearing key words such as co-management and,
3 yeah, co-management across the Board. So, that's going
4 to be a huge topic at AFM this year, and I should also
5 mention that I am super impressed with the work of the
6 Native Village of Eyak and also Ahtna. They are leaps
7 and bounds ahead of -- just ahead of the bar in terms
8 of setting the bar for subsistence management and
9 managing their resources in the area. So, I will be --
10 I'd love to get together with both of those regions, to
11 --- both of those tribes to talk about best practices
12 moving forward. I know SERC is also doing a -- there was
13 a designation change in terms of who qualifies for
14 hunting sea mammals. And so, I know SERC is trying to
15 work on a co-management template that each of our
16 communities or tribes within the -- that region should
17 use, adopt and adjust to their communities as well.
18 That's all I got, Greg.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
21 Angela. Thank you. Is Diane online, can you hear us?
22 Diane? Time to report. Okay. I'm not sure what happened
23 there, but Diane if you do come around, give me a holler.
24 I'll go ahead and give my report from Southcentral. For
25 those of you who don't know, I'm from Ninilchik. Been
26 there most of my life, 1948 model. But anyway, we fished
27 down there. I'll tell you a little bit about the fishing
28 here. The reds -- the tribe down there has a net in --
29 on the Kenai, and we fished for the whole rural
30 community. We've been doing it for quite a few years.
31 We had a very successful red run. We filled all the
32 permits. We fished the Kasilof and the Kenai. Fish are
33 getting a little smaller, but not too bad. The Kenai
34 fish were actually not too bad. But anyway, I'll talk a
35 little bit about some stuff on that fish too. We seem
36 to have -- be getting an increase in parasites in those
37 reds. We've had several members get sick eating them
38 prior to freezing, just smoking and eating out of the
39 smokehouse. So, there's some issues there that we need
40 to be aware of and watch. The tribe is watching it there
41 pretty closely, but there's definitely something going
42 on there. And there are some smaller fish. There's no
43 kings. Kings are gone. We could talk about them, talk
44 about them. But we've got to do something different
45 there. We had no subsistence, no education on that. We
46 got zero kings. We did buy some kings from southeastern
47 trawlers, and we distributed them to our elders. The
48 silvers seemed to have kind of crashed, but they might
49 just be a little late, late. And maybe Todd could talk
50 to that, I don't know. But anyway, the silver's been

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1 going down on the Kiana for quite a few years. And we
2 haven't had a good run of them lately. I'm not sure what
3 happens, but the kings that eat fish and silvers that
4 eat fish, they're both going. The ones that plankton
5 seem to be still moving okay. Anyway, I got a few other
6 things here I'll cover on the fishing. The moose hunting
7 was pretty good in our area. That's jumping to the fall
8 there, of course, but I've seen a lot of moose hunts.
9 Had a very exciting moose hunt this year. My son actually
10 got charged by a bull. A big bull, and he dropped him
11 just before he got trampled. The moose actually went
12 past him. He fell down and unloaded him. But anyway, we
13 got some meat but it was a hell of a deal. If I had it
14 recorded, I'd have a bestseller. But anyway, I couldn't
15 shoot at both of them. So, anyway, long story short, but
16 I did something myself this year in the gardens down
17 there. You know, we grow gardens for subsistence and the
18 tribe and different things. I started my own garden. I
19 actually got some carrots. I got wonderful potatoes,
20 more potatoes than I could ever eat in five years. My
21 wife told me I way overdone it. But anyway, the berries
22 and stuff, the gathering wasn't really great so, I'm not
23 sure what's going on there this year. We had kind of wet
24 and miserable weather too. I'm just going to read --
25 jump across, you know, on the west side of Cook Inlet,
26 there's land over there that was Ninilchik traditional
27 homeland. We had a big land dedication there by the
28 silver salmon, and they've been fishing silvers there
29 for years and just for knowledge little bases there. The
30 silvers are down there too, and the bears depend on
31 those a lot. And those grizzly bears are pretty mean
32 over there this fall because they have a lack of silvers.
33 So, that's just kind of going on.

34
35 Let's see, I got a couple other things
36 here I was going to touch on. No kings, no fish. We did
37 form a Cook Inlet Subsistence Commission of six villages
38 on the Kenai, maybe more. Our goal is to maybe get a
39 fishery in the Economic Exclusion Zone for subsistence.
40 That's ongoing down there. You might hear about it in
41 the inlet. As far as I know, they got some halibut. I
42 don't think it was real great. But like Michael said,
43 they were not as plentiful as usual. And I will close
44 that, you know, I've been around for quite a while. This
45 is my 54th wedding anniversary today. And if I don't get
46 home, if I drag this out too long, I don't know if I'll
47 make 55. So, anyway, thank you very much. That's my
48 report. If you got any questions on me, I'll be glad to
49 answer them. Okay.
50

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1 Okay at this time, is there any public
2 or tribal comments of non-agenda items? It's available
3 each morning. Is there anyone like to speak? Karen.

4
5 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
6 the record, my name is Karen Linnell, executive director
7 for Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. I wanted to
8 speak to the request for reconsideration that we had on
9 the Cordova dip netting that went through and how Eastern
10 Interior RAC was told they had no jurisdiction because
11 an arbitrary line was drawn by OSM when the fish that
12 flow through that river go up to the headwaters and
13 Eastern Interior had no say in that request for
14 reconsideration, which is appalling. But also that that
15 request for reconsideration was based -- I asked for a
16 new analysis to be done because the guy that did the
17 analysis was also the one that was soliciting support
18 for that proposal. That didn't happen. They just
19 reanalyzed to see if there was any new information. And
20 so, that's something that still bothers me since last
21 fall's FSB meeting or the spring. And then just to remind
22 folks that every Salmon that goes up that river is under
23 Federal jurisdiction because it's the border of the
24 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and the Eastern
25 Interior has jurisdiction because it goes to Tetlin,
26 Northway, Dot Lake, Tanacross residents as well, which
27 is within the Mentasta Pass area, which is in their
28 jurisdiction. And then I've got a graphic that shows
29 that since 2015, amounts necessary for subsistence,
30 which is a State jurisdiction item or State allocation
31 number has not been met. And except for two times or
32 wait, no. Since 2006, it was met two times. When they
33 adopted the ANS. I've got that graphic and I can get it
34 to Nissa for you folks to see. And then just to say that
35 there's proposals 51, 52, and 53, that addresses -- on
36 the State Board of Fish proposals that I would ask that
37 this body take up for consideration to address meeting
38 subsistence needs on the Copper River. So, if you could
39 add that to the agenda so that those north of the Chitina
40 River bridge can get salmon.

41
42 And just you know, I feel for commercial
43 fishery, but this is a subsistence body, and subsistence
44 fishing is in subsistence -- is the priority for the
45 whole State or should be if they followed the law.
46 Anyway, that's what I like to say. And this year we had
47 in-season management or in-season calls, teleconferences
48 with that was funded by the Wrangell-St. Elias National
49 Park. We had com [si] fish and our in-season manager
50 present from ADF&G. They gave reports and updates. They

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1 got to hear from subsistence users up and down the river.
2 And we had some kings come back that were about the size
3 of trout. I've had bigger than that, but it was really
4 an odd thing. We are sampling salmon and looking at
5 sizes, taken measurements and otoliths and looking for
6 ichthyophonous and other diseases in the salmon. And so,
7 we hope to have some data back for you guys and give a
8 report on that at your next meeting. But anyway, that's
9 something that I just wanted to bring up and ask that
10 you look at and, and I'll email Nissa the graphics that
11 we have. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
14 you, Karen. Yeah, we'll look at that. You send that to
15 Nissa. Also, we do have relevant Alaska Board of Fish
16 proposals on our agenda. So, we do have a spot for that.
17

18 MS. LINNELL: Okay. Thank you so much.

19
20 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
21 record. Karen, could you say those -- the proposal
22 numbers again, please?

23
24 MS. LINNELL: 51, 52 and 53.

25
26 MS. PILCHER: Greg is already on it.
27 Thanks.

28
29 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
32 any other public comments on non-agenda items this
33 morning?

34
35 (No response)

36
37 Okay. Hearing none, we're going to move
38 on. We got some Council training. Boy, we got to go to
39 training first thing in the morning. It's going to be
40 tough. Brian.

41
42 MS. PILCHER: For the record, this is
43 Nissa Pilcher again. I am trying to pull up the
44 PowerPoint in the room, but just so everybody is aware,
45 it is in the supplemental materials packet. For those
46 that have that in hard copy, it is not online because
47 it was not compliant. But I will work on getting it
48 pulled up and it is on -- oh yeah. We could share a
49 screen. We could do that.

50

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1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. UBELAKER: Okay, Mr. Chair, are we
4 ready?

5

6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're ready.
7 Like we're ready to go.

8

9 MR. UBELAKER: Great. Thank you. Good
10 morning.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You want to come
13 back? Excuse me. Yeah, I believe we're ready.

14

15 MR. UBELAKER: Okay, I'll just go ahead
16 and start. Great. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning,
17 everybody. For the record, my name is Brian Ubelaker.
18 I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
19 Management. This morning, I'm here to present to you the
20 delegation of authority training. Moving forward, OSM
21 plans to hold a training session at each Council meeting.
22 We feel this will help new Council members become more
23 familiar with the Federal subsistence management program
24 and serve as a refresher for the more seasoned members.
25 Today, we're going to go over the basics of delegation
26 of authority. This training is meant to be informational
27 and is not an action item. With that, we will get
28 started. Nissa, next slide please. The objectives of
29 this training are to provide information about delegated
30 authority, show the Councils where to find information
31 about delegated authority and to discuss the Council's
32 role in delegated authority. This training is meant to
33 be a broad overview of delegated authority. There will
34 be time for Q&A at the end of the training, to get into
35 specifics and to discuss region specific delegation of
36 authority issues.

37

38 Next slide please. So, on the screen
39 here is the regulation that allows the Board to delegate
40 authority to agency field officials. The regulation
41 describes what kind of actions can be delegated, for
42 example setting harvest and possession limits, opening
43 or closing seasons, etc. We'll try to use plain language
44 in the next few slides to define and describe delegation
45 of authority. So, first off, what is delegation of
46 authority? In the broadest sense, delegation of
47 authority is the transfer of limited decision-making
48 power from the Board to Federal managers. Delegated
49 authority is what gives Federal managers the legal
50 authority to make in-season decisions to manage fish and

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1 wildlife populations. As mentioned in the previous
2 slide. The Board transfers the decision-making authority
3 to Federal managers. For example, this may be National
4 Park Service superintendents or U.S. Forest Service
5 district rangers or Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge
6 managers. Local Federal managers often have a greater
7 connection to and understanding of the resource than
8 anyone in Anchorage. Beyond giving decision making
9 authority to Federal managers who have boots on the
10 ground, why is delegation of authority important? It is
11 important for multiple reasons. It allows Federal
12 managers to make quick management decisions as data and
13 local knowledge become available in-season. For example,
14 maybe the preseason forecast for fish population is
15 strong, but in-season data and local observations
16 indicate that the run is really weak and will not meet
17 escapement goals. The Federal managers delegated
18 authority allows quick action to close the fishery to
19 all users, to protect the population, or close the
20 fishery to non-federally qualified users to protect and
21 continue subsistence uses. It also allows for input from
22 locals when there is a close relationship between
23 managers and subsistence users. Authority can be
24 delegated to managers in two separate places. First is
25 in unit specific regulations. Currently, only wildlife
26 regulations have delegated authority in unit specific
27 regulations because -- mainly because wildlife has a lot
28 of routine management actions. For example, a federal
29 manager has delegated authority to announce the harvest
30 quota for a moose hunt each year before the season opens.
31 This optimizes harvest opportunity conservation, since
32 the quota can be adjusted annually in response to the
33 size of the moose population. Authority may also be
34 delegated through delegation of authority letters. These
35 letters allow Federal managers to issue special actions.
36 We will discuss these letters more in a little bit.

37
38 How the Board delegates authority
39 depends on if the authority is delegated in a letter or
40 unit specific regulations. For delegation of authority
41 letters or DALs, the Board may delegate authority at any
42 time. This is done through an administrative action.
43 Administrative actions require a Board to vote either
44 by email, poll, or during a Board meeting, but do not
45 go through the regulatory process. This allows for quick
46 action by the Board and for the Board to be responsive
47 to changing conditions. This method does not require
48 public input. However, the Board understands the value
49 of public feedback and may ask for feedback from the
50 Councils before creating or modifying delegation of

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1 authority letters. Delegation of authority in unit
2 specific regulations may only happen through the public
3 regulatory process. In other words, it requires a
4 proposal to change existing fish or wildlife regulations
5 during the regulatory cycle. While public input is at
6 the Board's discretion for delegation of authority
7 letters, public and Council input is required through
8 the public regulatory process.
9

10 So, here's an example of authority that
11 is delegated to a manager in unit specific regulations.
12 Again, these currently only occur in wildlife
13 regulations and are for routine annual management
14 decisions. The authority is more limited in scope than
15 in delegation of authority letters. In this example, the
16 authority only pertains to setting permit conditions and
17 announcing closures for a winter hunt. If anyone, the
18 Councils or the public wanted to change or modify this
19 authority, they would need to submit a regulatory
20 proposal. So, in contrast to the authority outlined in
21 regulation, managers may also be delegated authority
22 through delegation of authority letters. These letters
23 give managers authority to issue special actions. The
24 special actions issued by Federal managers are subject
25 to regulatory requirements. For example, public hearings
26 are required for temporary special actions, which are
27 special actions that last more than 60 days but may not
28 extend past the end of the current regulatory cycle. And
29 public hearings are encouraged for emergency special
30 actions, which are actions that may not exceed 60 days.
31 The managers must also seek Council recommendations when
32 the timing of Council meetings allows. Delegation of
33 authority letters can be issued or rescinded by the Board
34 at any time. Issuing or rescinding the letters does not
35 need to take place at a Board meeting or during the
36 regulatory cycle. This gives the Board flexibility to
37 adapt to changing conditions and make sure managers have
38 the tools they need to manage and protect populations,
39 as well as optimize subsistence opportunity. Changes
40 to delegation of authority letters may be requested by
41 the Councils or the public, by letter or during a Board
42 meeting. Delegation of authority letters are not
43 currently published online. If the Council or the public
44 ever wants a copy of a delegation of authority letter,
45 contact OSM or your local in-season manager.
46

47 While letters issued to managers are
48 specific to the areas and species covered, the general
49 language and requirements are the same across all
50 letters. For example, all letters require communication

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1 with affected parties such as the Council Chairs and
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Tribal consultations
3 must be conducted if practicable, and managers may also
4 defer Board decision or excuse me, may also defer
5 decisions to the Board with very controversial issues
6 if immediate action is not needed. The Federal program
7 has fisheries regulations and wildlife regulations.
8 Fisheries and wildlife delegated authority are issued
9 in separate letters. For fisheries, the scope of the
10 letters is broad and consistent across letters. They
11 cover all fish species in an area. A list of Federal
12 fisheries managers with delegated authority by area can
13 be found on page 98 of the regulations book. This
14 contrasts with the wildlife delegation, which tend to
15 cover specific hunts, species and management actions.
16 Most wildlife actions are routine and occur every year,
17 and these unit specific regulations of the Federal
18 Wildlife Harvest Regulations booklet, a white
19 exclamation mark inside a red triangle indicates the
20 additional management actions may be taken by the
21 Federal in-season manager, and you should consult the
22 definition of authority table in the back of the book.
23 All of the authority delegated through letters are
24 listed in this table beginning on page 152. They are
25 organized by Federal manager and lists the area species
26 and authority delegated. Each row corresponds to a
27 separate letter. For example, on page 154, the Izembek
28 National Wildlife Refuge Manager has authority to close
29 the moose season in Unit 9D when ten bulls have been
30 harvested, and the Wrangell-St Elias National Park and
31 Preserve superintendent has authority to manage the
32 Chisana Caribou Hunt in a portion of Unit 12.
33 Specifically, they can open and close the season,
34 announce the harvest quota and the number of permits
35 that may be issued.

36
37 So, in summary, we have delegation of
38 authority, which means the Board transfers limited
39 decision making ability to Federal managers. This
40 authority can be in unit specific regulations or
41 delegation of authority letters. For unit specific
42 regulations, delegated authority can only be added or
43 modified during the public regulatory process. The
44 delegation tends to be for routine annual management
45 actions. They are currently only in wildlife regulations
46 because wildlife has more routine management actions,
47 such as closing seasons when harvest quotas are met. The
48 Council's role in delegation of authority in unit
49 specific regulations is submitting proposals to change
50 the delegated authority in regulation, making

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1 recommendations to the Board on the associated
2 regulatory proposals and consulting with managers before
3 they take action.

4
5 Delegation of authority letters are
6 easier for the Board to change or rescind, giving the
7 board more flexibility to act quickly and respond to
8 changing conditions. Again, changes to the letters can
9 happen outside the regulatory cycle. Delegation of
10 authority letters give Federal managers the ability to
11 issue special actions. The letters are generally broader
12 in scope, but are subject to more requirements, such as
13 requiring public hearings. Both Fisheries and Wildlife
14 regulations have delegation of authority letters. The
15 Council also has a role in delegation of authority
16 letters. The Councils may request to add to or modify
17 them through letters or at Board meetings. The Board may
18 ask councils for feedback on proposed changes to a
19 delegation of authority letter when time allows. The
20 letters also require that managers consult with Council
21 Chairs before issuing special actions. The Chair is
22 encouraged to seek feedback from other Council members.
23 Delegation of authority allows for quick in-season
24 management actions. This allows Federal managers to
25 protect fish and wildlife populations and continuation
26 of subsistence. Managers are required to consult with
27 affected parties before taking action. This commonly
28 includes the Councils, the Alaska Department of Fish and
29 Game, and the Office of Subsistence Management. Council
30 Chairs are encouraged to bring in other council members
31 when consulting with managers. Please contact OSM or in-
32 season managers if you have questions. Thank you so much
33 for your time and attention today. I'd be happy to answer
34 any questions that may come.

35
36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Questions
38 for Brian. Brian, I tell you what, if Andy McLaughlin
39 was here, you'd have plenty of questions. So, we'll go
40 to Michael here first, okay?

41
42 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. Were there any
43 delegations of authority this year with Greg? Any calls
44 with him on any actions needed?

45
46 MR. UBELAKER: Not that I am aware of.

47
48 MR. OPHEIM: I had another one. I was
49 just going to ask -- I'll think of it again now.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone online?
2 Any Council members got questions for Brian?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 You guys are pretty quiet. Judy, go
7 ahead.

8
9 MR. CAMINER: Thanks, Brian. This is Judy
10 Caminer. I just want to thank you for the presentation
11 and for the handouts, which, when Andy has a chance to
12 look at, there could possibly be more questions. But as
13 you know, it's been an issue that's come up before our
14 Council many times and be nice to have that reference
15 material right with us. So, thank you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I know
18 Andy was always concerned with the sunset clause and
19 being able to rescind them and give that feedback to the
20 Board for their decision. And so, that was some of our
21 concern. Now we understand the need for the quick in-
22 season management. But sometimes we were concerned about
23 the overuse of them. And lately I haven't think they've
24 had much. So, it's been good. Thank you.

25
26 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
27 just to kind of lead into the next subject that I'm
28 about to talk about, it ties in with the overuse or the,
29 I guess, the overarching delegation of authority that
30 you see in the plans that OSM takes -- is planning to
31 take in the future to control that.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, great.

34
35 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. And with that, I
36 will jump right into the next topic on the agenda. And
37 I -- once again Brian -- still Brian Ubelaker, wildlife
38 biologist with OSM. I will give you a brief overview of
39 proposed changes to wildlife delegated authority that
40 OSM is planning to take. This is just meant to be a
41 brief introduction to this effort. And the Councils will
42 have additional opportunity at future meetings to
43 further review and comment on this. The Office of
44 Subsistence Management is proposing to move the
45 authority in the existing delegation of authority
46 letters back into the wildlife unit specific
47 regulations. While staff have not thoroughly reviewed
48 every single wildlife delegation of authority letter,
49 the vast majority of them are for routine management
50 actions that happen every year, such as announcing

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1 harvest quotas. Having the delegated authority for these
2 routine actions in unit specific regulations is more
3 appropriate than issuing special actions year after
4 year. This also provides a clear public process for
5 changing delegated authority through regulatory
6 proposals and decreases the administrative burden on
7 Federal managers by eliminating all the regulatory
8 requirements associated with special actions and the
9 delegation of authority letters. The timeline for the
10 proposed change is as follows. In March of 2025, during
11 the next open window to submit wildlife regulatory
12 proposals, the Office of Subsistence Management will
13 submit a proposal to move wildlife delegated authority
14 into unit specific regulations, and to rescind many of
15 the existing letters. In the fall of 2025, so, a year
16 from now, at your next fall meeting, the Councils will
17 consider and make recommendations on this proposal. And
18 then in April of 2026, the Board will take final action
19 on the proposal at the next wildlife regulatory meeting.
20 That is the end of my summary. As I promised, it was a
21 brief overview. If you all have any questions regarding
22 what we're planning to do, I'm happy to answer them.
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I like that
26 summary. Questions from any of the Council members? Go
27 ahead, Micheal.

28
29 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, for the
30 record that decreases public -- decreases burden on
31 Federal managers, no public hearings. Does that mean no
32 input from the Southcentral RAC or other RAC on actions
33 taken by the in-season managers?

34
35 MR. UBELAKER: No. Absolutely not. You
36 will still be consulted. So, I guess to sum it up, to
37 get it down to a level that I can understand it. What
38 we do right now is delegation of authority letters. Give
39 the Refuge manager -- the Kenai, the ability to conduct
40 special actions. And when they really only need
41 authority to set a harvest quota. So, we're going to
42 take that broad, overarching power out of the delegation
43 of authority letters. We're going to whittle it down so,
44 it is just setting harvest quota setting season dates,
45 sex restrictions, any number -- any, you know, specific
46 topic that they are looking at controlling and put them
47 back into unit specific regulations, whereas most all
48 unit specific regulations now include consultation with
49 Council Chairs, Fish and game, OSM and any other affected
50 agencies. So, it will all be in unit specific regulations

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1 that can be changed by you, easier by submitting a
2 regulatory proposal than by asking the Board.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That answer
5 your question, Michael?

6

7 MR. OPHEIM: Well, I don't know. I have
8 a trust issue with it, I guess it -- just because I
9 don't know. Yeah, I don't.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,
12 we're going to have some time to study it and review it
13 here, but let Judy, you got a comment.

14

15 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
16 is Judy. I think what would be really helpful, because
17 you're talking about what may or may not be a big change.
18 It's a little hard for us to visualize. Would you be
19 able to give us an example, maybe before this meeting
20 ends, just as a handout of an existing regulation and
21 delegation of authority and then a proposed new look.
22 So, sort of a before and after proposed language, not
23 that we'll hold it.

24

25 MR. UBELAKER: Oh, that we are -- is what
26 we're hoping to do. Okay. So, WP2501, which is the 804
27 analysis for Nelchina Caribou Herd. There was a wildlife
28 proposal last cycle that took unit specific regulations
29 from Unit 13 Caribou, which the BLM office manager, I
30 can't remember the word now, they were they could set
31 sex restrictions and determine the harvest limit of 1
32 or 2 Caribou. We took unit specific regulations out. We
33 put that language into a delegation of authority letter,
34 which expanded their ability so they, you know, they
35 could set harvest limits, they could close Federal
36 public lands if necessary, gave them much more
37 authority. We're going to take that back out of the
38 delegation of authority letters, put it into unit
39 specific regulations. And this I think Michael, will
40 come into trust issues, all this language in the
41 delegation of authority letter that you don't see right
42 now, that you have to ask to get all the authority, all
43 the language will be in the handy dandy and you will be
44 able to read it. And if you are not happy with it, you'll
45 be able to submit a proposal to change that language.
46 Whereas right now you can't submit a proposal to change
47 language in the delegation of authority letter. So, as
48 we move forward. So, we'll have like, I'm not 100%
49 certain you have the language for the Unit 13 what we
50 would put back into unit specific regulations?

1
2 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin, for
3 the record, and later on in this meeting, you'll all be
4 considering proposal WP25-01, and you'll see this --
5 what we're talking about. So, I don't have a Council
6 meeting book to give you the page numbers exactly. I
7 don't know if anyone's able to let me borrow theirs. I
8 could give you the exact page numbers to see what we're
9 talking about here. I had a printed off separate copy.
10 Oh, good. I turned to the perfect page. So, if you guys
11 look at, like, page 163, you see an existing delegation
12 of authority letter for Units 13A and 13B Caribou. And
13 so, this is the current letter and then if you look at
14 page 151, this is what we're talking about that we're
15 going to -- would rescind this letter. And this language
16 that's currently under the scope of delegation of
17 authority would be put back in unit specific
18 regulations. So, on page 151 under Unit 13 Caribou you
19 see all that bolded language. And that is taken from the
20 existing delegation of authority letter.

21
22 Does that make sense? Are you following?
23 Yeah. And so, we're proposing to kind of, you know,
24 currently there's over 60 delegation of authority
25 letters for wildlife. And we haven't, you know,
26 thoroughly reviewed every single one. But the vast
27 majority of them are these routine management actions
28 that happen every year. And, I mean, it's not appropriate
29 to have to issue a special action every single year. I
30 mean, if you're issuing a special action every year, you
31 should put that in regulation. That's not really the
32 intent of special actions. So, yeah, you'll have an
33 opportunity again to, I guess, consider this for this
34 particular proposal later on this meeting. But you can
35 expect to kind of see this for -- a lot more of
36 regulations, you know, at your meeting next fall with
37 the wildlife proposal. So.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep. Go ahead,
40 Michael.

41
42 MR. OPHEIM: So, Michael Opheim, for the
43 record. So, we're doing away with the letters of
44 authority, putting things into regulation, right? I'm
45 just clarifying this in my head here. And then -- I
46 didn't get much sleep last night so, I'm not thinking
47 real well. So, okay, here's where I was going. So, there
48 would be rescinding of letters of authority as these go
49 into regulation

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1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Correct. That would be
2 part of the proposal that OSM planning on submitting
3 would be rescind the letters, put it in the regulation
4 and you can see for this example Units 13A and B, it
5 lists all the entities for consultation: ADF&G, OSM,
6 Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission and Chair of the
7 affected councils. And that list is open to modification
8 that if there is an another entity that the manager
9 should consult before taking action, you know, you guys
10 could modify that for this particular one later on in
11 this meeting or since it's in regulation, submit a
12 proposal at any time to make that modification as well
13 as you know, a proposal to change what authorities
14 actually delegated, you know.

15
16 MR. OPHEIM: And so, you say there's 60
17 just for wildlife? But you said you didn't know how many
18 of those were going to be rescinded yet?

19
20 MR. UBERLAKER: Correct. This is Brian.
21 Yes. We have not dug into them yet to see which ones are
22 mostly just there for routine in-season management
23 actions. There might be some where there's a complicated
24 issue at hand, and it's going to have to stay in a
25 delegation of authority letter so, we won't know until
26 we actually dig in and put the proposal together.

27
28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. And Lisa Grediagin,
29 and for example, there's a number of delegation of
30 authority letters for cultural and educational permits.
31 And we're not planning on, you know, rescinding those
32 delegation of authority letters for like, potlatch
33 ceremonies or cultural permits.

34
35 MR. OPHEIM: One more follow up?

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Go ahead.

38
39 MR. OPHEIM: And so, with you going
40 through and rescinding and moving things into
41 regulation, will the RACs get a chance to review any of
42 these as you move forward? Putting these into regulation
43 and any that might need to be looked at in case they,
44 you know, we want to add some language to things moving
45 forward?

46
47 MR. UBERLAKER: Yes, we sure will. So,
48 when the -- March 2025 we'll submit the proposal for the
49 upcoming wildlife regulatory cycle, and then we will
50 present it to you, just like we do with every wildlife

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1 proposal. One year from now, at your next fall meeting,
2 and then we'll discuss. I mean, we'll have everything
3 figured out, spelled out by that point. We'll present
4 to you what we are planning to do, and then we can have
5 a discussion.

6

7

MR. OPHEIM: Great. Thank you.

8

9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thanks
11 for clarifying that, but that makes sense. Now we're
12 still going to get a shot at this. But yeah. So, any
13 other questions from the Council members or anyone
14 online for Brian. Go ahead, Brian. You're done? Okay.

14

15

16

MR. UBELAKER: Nissa, did you want to
talk about the current DAL review?

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MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Brian. Nissa
Pilcher for the record. So, you guys -- excuse me. The
Council wanted to start reviewing the majority of the
wildlife proposals. Take a couple at a time. Not the
wildlife proposals. The wildlife delegation of authority
letters took a couple of the time, review them at each
meeting and then go forward. And I could ad lib something
if you wanted. But my assumption was that since things
are changing, you guys may want to wait to start doing
that until we know what, like what's going to move out
of basically the back of the book into the handy dandy
basically. So, if that's okay with you guys, then we can
skip that part of the agenda and take it up when it's
time appropriate.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I think
that would be a good idea. That way we'll hopefully have
the other Council members too, and then we'll get a
heads up. So, that'd be good. Okay. Did we miss anything
now? Are we're good?

MR. UBELAKER: I think we're good. Thank
you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
you, Brian. Good, good discussion.

Okay, now we're going to take a break
because we're going to get into fish polls here. So,
we're going to take 8 minutes. Thank you. 10, for those
of you that need more.

(Off record)

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(On record)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're ready to go ahead and move into some action items here. Fishery proposals and closure reviews, regional proposals and closures. We got Fishing Proposal 25-03A and who's going to present that?

MS. PILCHER: It'll be Hannah Voorhees with OSM. Are you there?

MS. VORHEES: Yes. This is Hannah. I'm here and ready.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you got the floor. We'll be here and listening. Thank you.

MS. VORHEES: Good morning again. This is Hannah Voorhees. I'm an anthropologist with OSM, and I'll be presenting FP25-03A, which begins on page 22 of your meeting book. I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person today. Please let me know if there's any issues with hearing me over the phone.

(Simultaneous speech)

I'll go ahead, if that's all right. I heard someone. Maybe that was you, Mr. Chair chiming in, but I'll continue. Oh, all right. So, this proposal, submitted by Tolsona Community Corporation, requests that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Copper River district by residents of Tolsona. The proponent states that residents of Tolsona have customarily and traditionally harvested Salmon in the Chitina area. The proponent describes Tolsona as a small community with strong ties between residents, who rely on one another to survive in an environment that lacks economic opportunities. Tolsona Community Corporation provided written information submitted with the proposal, describing residents' histories of fishing salmon in the O'Brien Creek, south of the Chitina McCarthy Road Bridge. The proponent states that use of subsistence resources is vital not only to the survival of Tolsona residents, but also to their sense of identity and connection to others. And of note, companion proposal FP25-03B, which was also submitted by Tolsona Community Corporation, requests that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of freshwater fish in the

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1 Copper River drainage upstream from Healy Creek by
2 residents of Tolsona. And that item is next on your
3 agenda. On page 25, in your meeting books, you'll find
4 a map of communities that already have a customary and
5 traditional use determination for salmon in the Chitina
6 subdistrict. The area affected by this proposal is the
7 Federal public waters of the Chitina subdistrict, within
8 and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Wrangell-St
9 Elias National Park and Preserve.

10
11 In regulatory history between 2000 and
12 2005, the Board added communities to the customary and
13 traditional use determination for salmon in the
14 subdistrict. However, in 2002, the Board rejected
15 proposals to add residents of Delta Junction and Lake
16 Louise, and this was due to lack of substantial evidence.
17 In 2023, the Board rejected a proposal to add residents
18 of Serendipity subdivision to the determination in
19 deference to this Council, because residents did not
20 demonstrate the necessary criteria. Last year, the Board
21 also rejected a proposal to add permanent rural
22 residents who live between the named communities along
23 the Alaska Highway from the U.S.-Canada border to Dot
24 Lake to the determination. This was in deference to both
25 the South Central and the Eastern Interior Councils, due
26 to lack of proximity or substantial evidence of a long-
27 term pattern of use and sharing of the resource. In
28 community characteristics, Tolsona is located in
29 traditional Ahtna territory and has an estimated
30 population of 11 residents. Tolsona and neighboring
31 Nelchina and Mendeltna are small Glenn Highway
32 communities that lack distinct population centers and
33 are interconnected residentially and economically with
34 one another. The Tolsona census designated place was
35 created quite recently in 2000, and since then the
36 highest population occurred in 2013, when it was
37 estimated to be 33. During a subsistence survey for the
38 2013 study year, researchers found that several
39 households self-identify with the community of Tolsona
40 but actually lie outside of the Tolsona CDP boundaries,
41 falling either within the Mendeltna CDP or the
42 Glennallen CDP. However, that population number of 11,
43 that is just for the CDP. So, the takeaway of this point
44 is that some people who consider themselves residents
45 of Tolsona, but live within the Glennallen CDP, already
46 have a customary and traditional use determination for
47 both salmon and freshwater fish in the areas considered
48 in this analysis. As part of the Prince William Sound
49 area, Tolsona residents are already federally qualified
50 to harvest salmon in the Glennallen subdistrict. They

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1 are also federally qualified to take salmon in the
2 remainder of the Prince William Sound area, which
3 includes areas further from Tolsona, then the Chitina
4 or Glennallen subdistricts. When conducting a customary
5 and traditional use determination analysis, eight
6 factors are considered, and you can find those listed
7 on page 30 of your book. Please keep in mind that these
8 factors are not a checklist. The Board makes a customary
9 and traditional use determination based on holistic
10 application of these eight factors, as well as the
11 reports and recommendations of your Council. Subsistence
12 surveys conducted by Division of Subsistence provide
13 important information on communities' patterns of
14 subsistence use. Unfortunately, 2013 is the only year
15 for which subsistence survey data specific to Tolsona
16 are available. While there are data for earlier years,
17 in those years a single East Glenn Highway area was
18 surveyed rather than specifically Tolsona. So, that
19 would have included -- the earlier data includes
20 Mendeltna, and Nelchina, as well as anyone living in
21 other areas along about a 40-mile stretch of highway.

22
23 Based on the results of the 2013 survey,
24 residents of Tolsona exhibit reliance upon a wide
25 diversity of fish and wildlife resources in the area.
26 Residents harvested an estimated 311 pounds of wild
27 foods per person, and on average surveyed households
28 harvested nine different resources. That per person --
29 the number of pounds that the community harvested per
30 person is quite high when compared to the region as a
31 whole. Salmon made up an estimated 41% of the total
32 harvest, and was used by 88% of surveyed Tolsona
33 households. And sockeye salmon was the top resource used
34 by the community in terms of edible weight. Households
35 also widely shared salmon. Salmon search and use areas
36 were mapped for the three East Glenn Highway communities
37 combined, rather than for Tolsona only. Even in the 2013
38 survey. So, while other metrics were conducted just for
39 Tolsona when it comes to the geographic information,
40 that still was combined as of 2013. So, therefore it's
41 impossible to separate mapped information about
42 Tolsona's fishing areas from that of Mendeltna and
43 Nelchina. However, findings for the three communities
44 combined are presented in the analysis, and it's worth
45 noting that the Copper River near Chitina was one of the
46 area's residents of the East Glenn Highway community's
47 combined fish for sockeye, chinook and coho salmon in
48 2013. The proponent included written testimony about
49 subsistence practices going back to at least 1946, and
50 that testimony is given in an appendix on page 40. It's

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1 unknown how many of these individuals are still living
2 in the area. Those who provided information referenced
3 personal histories of fishing and O'Brien Creek, south
4 of Chitina Bridge over many years, sometimes with other
5 families, including youth, as well as harvesting and
6 using other subsistence resources in the area. And one
7 resident remembered that between 1954 and 1970, there
8 was only one small grocery store in Glennallen. Tolsona
9 families relied on these Copper River Salmon as a primary
10 food source. Currently, residents of Tolsona can fish
11 for salmon in the Chitina subdistrict under sport
12 fishing regulations or the State Chitina personal use
13 dipnet fishery. Sport fishing data specific to residents
14 of Tolsona are not available. No permits were issued to
15 residents of Tolsona for the State Chitina subdistrict
16 dipnet fishery between 2002 and 2023. However, between
17 2014 and 2023, a total of 13 Federal subsistence permits
18 were issued in error to residents of Tolsona in the
19 Chitina Subdistrict. For permits fished, the average
20 harvest was 29 salmon. In the State Glennallen
21 subsistence fishery, an average of 2.6 permits were
22 issued to residents of Tolsona per year between two 2002
23 and 2023, for years when data are available, residents
24 harvested an average of 163 sockeye salmon and
25 approximately three chinook salmon each year.

26
27 Effects of the proposal. If this
28 proposal is adopted, residents of Tolsona would become
29 federally qualified to harvest salmon in the Chitina
30 subdistrict under Federal subsistence regulations, which
31 are more liberal than the State personal use regulations
32 for Chitina subdistrict. If the proposal is rejected,
33 residents of Tolsona could continue to harvest salmon
34 in the State personal use dipnet fishery or under sport
35 fishing regulations in the Chitina Subdistrict, as well
36 as in the Glennallen subdistrict under Federal
37 subsistence regulations.

38
39 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
40 support this proposal. In justification, Tolsona
41 residence patterns of fishing exhibit the
42 characteristics of customary and traditional uses of
43 salmon in the Chitina subdistrict. Sockeye salmon is one
44 of the top two most important resources for Tolsona
45 residents in terms of edible weight harvested and is
46 also widely shared. Subsistence surveys have not
47 differentiated search areas between the communities as
48 previously noted, and while residents of the East Glenn
49 Highway have had the Chitina subdistrict documented as
50 a search area. It's unknown whether this area was

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1 specifically used by any residents of Tolsona. However,
2 use of Salmon by Tolsona residents within the Chitina
3 subdistrict has been documented through reported harvest
4 under Federal permits that were issued in error and
5 written testimony submitted with the proposal, which
6 goes back to the 1940s. Thank you, this completes my
7 presentation and I'm happy to take any questions.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay,
10 questions. Michael Opheim got a question to start with.

11
12 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, Hannah, this is
13 Michael Opheim. So, if this fails and they're still able
14 to fish under the State permit, which would give them
15 more fish, the State or the Federal?

16
17 MS. VORHEES: The Federal permit is more
18 liberal.

19
20 MR. OHPEIM: Okay, thank you.

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. And Hannah, I'm looking at page 39. The person
24 who wrote in in opposition. I was wondering if anyone
25 had spoken to him, especially their residency kind of
26 question.

27
28 MS. VORHEES: Thank you for that
29 question. Are you asking whether someone has reached out
30 to him and learned more about his residency and his
31 opposition?

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, exactly.

34
35 MS. VORHEES: No, we have not done that.
36 We took the comment at face value, and I will be sharing
37 that comment. I'll be reading it out later in your
38 process.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Michael, go
41 ahead.

42
43 MR. OPHEIM: Just something that's
44 rattling around in my head. Hannah, this Michael Opheim.
45 A few years back, we had somebody put in a proposal for
46 C&T for an area and come to find out, the people in the
47 area didn't even know about it and the person wasn't
48 actually living there, so we didn't pass that. So, I
49 guess that maybe is something that we might want to
50 consider here. This because, you know, if people don't

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1 know in the area that somebody else is putting forward
2 this proposal, they may have opposition to it
3 themselves, as does the community actually support this?
4

5 MR. VORHEES: Thanks for that question.
6 I'll -- so, I think that the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC --
7 when that comment is given, there may be some more
8 information available. And if anyone who is in a position
9 to correct me needs to do so, please go ahead. But I
10 would like to say that based on my understanding of
11 information presented at the Eastern Interior RAC
12 meeting which was -- is still going on, I think it was
13 earlier this week, primarily. So, it does sound like the
14 proponent was at the SRC meeting, and it was fairly
15 clear that the proposal does have fairly wide support
16 in the community. But, you know, that's I'm just telling
17 you that secondarily. So, take it as you will. But the
18 exact quote was -- there was support for the proposal
19 by residents 10 to 1.
20

21 MR. OPHIEM: Hannah, this Michael Opheim
22 again. So, is that second-hand information you -- is
23 shared, is that something directly from a community
24 member or the proponent of this proposal?
25

26 MRS. VORHEES: I don't know, and so maybe
27 others who will fill you in through this your process
28 will be able to better speak to this question than I
29 can.
30

31 MR. OPHEIM: Thanks.
32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Hanna.
34 Anyone else have any questions for Hannah on the
35 presentation she just made?
36

37 (No response)
38

39 Okay, thanks. Okay. I think we'll move
40 on then. Okay. I just for our report on Board
41 consultation, we did not have any consultations on this
42 matter. So, we'll go to agency comments now and we'll
43 go to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
44

45 MS. KEATING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is Jackie
47 Keating, Division of Subsistence Alaska Department of
48 Fish and Game. And I'm here to give our draft agency
49 comments. Just to make a note, there's a slight chance
50 there will be some minor changes to these before the

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1 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. The position of the
2 department is that we are neutral on eligibility
3 requirements for participation in the subsistence
4 program provided under ANILCA, and the department
5 recommends that the Federal Subsistence Board thoroughly
6 and carefully review the data relevant to the eight
7 criteria for those communities that lack a customary and
8 traditional use finding. For some additional background
9 information to complement the information that Hannah
10 provided, under State regulation, the majority of salmon
11 in the Chitina subdistrict are harvested under a State
12 resident only personal use dip net fishery. Households
13 that possess a Chitina subsistence personal use permit
14 are not eligible to have a Glennallen subdistrict State
15 subsistence permit in the same year. And as Hannah
16 mentioned, the most recent Division of Subsistence
17 Comprehensive Household Survey was conducted in Tolsona
18 in 2013, and at this time, by the parameters set for
19 that study year, we had estimated that there were 12
20 households and 24 residents. And that 84% of those
21 households used sockeye salmon in the study year. In
22 pounds usable weight, sockeye composed the greatest
23 proportion of the total harvest at 39%. This comes out
24 to 122 pounds of sockeye salmon per person harvested in
25 the study year. Tolsona residents also harvested 124
26 pounds total or 5 pounds per person of chinook salmon.
27 And the Alaska Board of Fisheries has made a negative
28 customary and traditional use determination for salmon
29 in the Chitina subdistrict. That's why Alaska residents
30 can harvest salmon in the subdistrict under personal use
31 regulation. Because there is a negative C&T
32 determination, there's no amount necessary for
33 subsistence or an ANS finding for this subdistrict.
34 Conservation issues, there would only be concerns if the
35 Federal Subsistence Board and Federal in-season managers
36 allowed these additional federally qualified users to
37 overharvest fish populations in a given area, and there
38 are no known enforcement issues directly related to this
39 proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
42 you, Jackie. Questions for Jackie? Anyone before she
43 leaves? Okay, thank you. Okay, Federal agencies. Okay.
44 We're going to go to tribal then. Karen, you want to
45 come up? I got a card for you.

46
47 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
48 the record, my name is Karen Linnell, Executive Director
49 for Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, which is
50 comprised of eight federally recognized tribes, seven

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1 of whom are dependent on the salmon from Mentasta to
2 Chitina and everyone in between that come into the Copper
3 River. And the two ANCSA Corporations who are the land
4 owners, on both sides of the copper River, 600,000 acres
5 within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. We're in
6 opposition to this this proposal to add Tolsona as a
7 federally recognized tribe. Many of the folks in the --
8 mentioned in the written testimony accompanying the
9 proposal have long been gone or deceased. They don't
10 mention anybody currently in the community using the
11 resource. O.A. Nelson passed away in, like, 69, 70, 71,
12 somewhere in there before the park was formed and before
13 there was a Federal fishery, Marcy White moved away in
14 the early 80s. And the other thing is they didn't put
15 names -- full names in there except for O.A. Nelson, who
16 used to own the Chitina store. Ken and Evelyn Bunch and
17 Bibi and Holly -- I went to -- Bibi and Holly Bunch, we
18 graduated in '81 and Bibi -- or Bibi and I did, and
19 she's moved away and hasn't come back. And she moved
20 shortly after graduation. She might visit once in a while
21 when her mom was still living there, but her mom moved
22 away as well shortly after Ken Bunch passed. So, a lot
23 of these folks that they're mentioning are not there
24 have not been there. There's not been a transfer of
25 knowledge or transfer or sharing that information.
26 They're not, you know, they're not you know, they don't
27 meet the eight criteria. And then the other, Mr. Kirk
28 Wilson, who's written the public testimony in opposition
29 is a full-time, year-round resident of Tolsona. The
30 Tolsona Board, from what he has told me, is people who
31 own businesses or something there. They don't have to
32 reside their full time. And so, that was a recent bylaw
33 change, and there was a little coup thing that happened
34 there. So, there, there there's some differences there.
35 My former in-law who passed away a few years ago, Bruce
36 Heaton, owns the lodge at Tolsona or did own the lodge.
37 And his wife, Michelle, Bruce Heaton, is from -- she was
38 from Chitina and has definitely a tie to that resource
39 and he didn't put in a proposal for this. And so, he
40 passed just a year or two ago. So, the big difference
41 is in what's happening now is that under the personal
42 use fishery -- under a State permit, they're eligible
43 to get 25 salmon plus ten per household. Under a Federal
44 regulation, they'll be eligible to get 200 salmon and
45 five kings. If the household is four or more, they'll
46 be able to get 500 salmon. I think this is what's been
47 going on. Recently they've started allowing dip netting
48 from boats. And you've heard from us before in opposition
49 to that dip netting from boats and you have as well from
50 under the Board of Fish that they're targeting the salmon

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1 while they're held up during high water. And so, they
2 drift down, they'll get to that eddy and they'll drift
3 down and fish and then they'll just go right back up and
4 they'll target that eddy for the longest time filling
5 their permits. And so, for that reason as well, and the
6 fact that I stated earlier that we're not meeting the
7 amounts necessary for subsistence or getting any salmon
8 really in the upper reaches of the Copper River, we
9 oppose this. And I just want to thank you for taking up
10 your time to address this. One of the things that I see
11 happening is that there are communities really trying
12 to exploit the Federal qualifications and getting to
13 participate under Federal hunting and fishing
14 regulations. Proposal 23B, which you'll be taking up
15 next is the same thing. Trout, grayling and burbot are
16 in the back yard at Tolsona. And most people for non-
17 salmon species fish closer to home, they don't have to
18 go to the Copper River. We only have the Copper River
19 for salmon, unless we do a rod and reel and so, and
20 those are limited to the clear waters Gulkana and Klutina
21 really, the other glacial fed are too murky and they
22 don't bite. So, anyway, that's kind of what we're seeing.
23 We're seeing a lot of folks wanting to get Federal rights
24 as things are -- as the populations are reduced, there's
25 increased pressure to get Federal recognition so that
26 they might have a Federal or rural priority. And
27 exploiting that system and so, I ask that you not support
28 this proposal for Federal recognition for Tolsona. Thank
29 you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
32 Karen. Is there any questions for Karen while she's here?
33 Go ahead, Dennis.

34
35 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Dennis Zadra through
36 the Chair. I just want to thank you for that, Karen. You
37 know, I'm reading this and trying to get at you -- you
38 kind of put it in layman's terms for me, so I appreciate
39 it.

40
41 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, me too.
44 Thank you. Anyone online got questions for Karen, on the
45 Council? Thank you, Karen. Is there any other tribal
46 entities, village or Native organizations want to speak
47 to this? Hearing none. Is there any advisory group
48 comments, Regional Councils, Fish and Game Advisory
49 Committees?
50

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1 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
2 record. Hannah if you are there, could you give the
3 Eastern Interior's?

4
5 MS. VORHEES: Certainly. Eastern
6 Interior Regional Advisory Council met earlier this
7 week, and they voted to oppose this proposal. They said
8 not all the eight factors were met. And there is not
9 enough evidence of intergenerational transmission of
10 knowledge and practices. Additionally, resources are
11 declining and there is a need to take care of people
12 locally first. There are conservation concerns and the
13 ANS has not been met in the upper bounds of the river.
14 So, as you can hear, there was a mix of not thinking the
15 eight factors were met, but also strong conservation
16 concerns and not wanting to add users at this time.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you
19 for that. Okay, back to Fish and Game Advisory
20 Committees, anyone? Any AC, Subsistence Resource
21 Commission? There we go.

22
23 MS. COHEN: Hello. For the record, this
24 is Amber Cohen, cultural anthropologist at Wrangell-St
25 Elias National Park and Preserve. And for FP25-03A, the
26 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
27 Commission unanimously supported the proposal.
28 Information in the analysis demonstrated that Tolsona
29 residents have historically used salmon in the Chitina
30 subdistrict. I also wanted to offer to answer any
31 questions about the SRC meeting that was brought up
32 during the earlier discussion, just wasn't sure the
33 right time for that. So, if you have any questions, I'm
34 happy to answer those.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions or go
37 ahead, Michael.

38
39 MR. OPHIEM: Michael Opheim for the
40 record. So, were Tolsona residents at that meeting?

41
42 MS. COHEN: Yes, we had three that came
43 in-person in the meeting. And mostly that testimony was
44 about a different issue that we're working on with
45 Tolsona with the residents. And request is separate from
46 the C&T. And then there were -- there was one that called
47 in support for this proposal and one that called to back
48 up his comment in opposition. So, about a total of five
49 Tolsona residents.

50

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1 MR. OPHEIM: And I -- follow up. So,
2 those residents reside in Tolsona?

3
4 MS. COHEN: That is correct.

5
6 MR. OPHIEM: Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any Council
9 member on the line on a question?

10
11 (No response)

12
13 Okay, thank you. Nissa, do you have any
14 summary of written public comments?

15
16 MS. PILCHER: I do not. Thank you,
17 Hannah.

18
19 MS. VORHEES: Mr. Chair? Yes, one public
20 comment was -- this is Hannah Voorhees, for the record.
21 One public comment was received which was in opposition
22 to the proposal. The comment came from an individual who
23 said that he has been living in the Tolsona community
24 for 34 years -- excuse me, 43 years. He stated that he
25 and his neighbor were unaware of this proposal, and the
26 proponent does not represent him. He stated that the
27 individual listed in the proposal -- individuals listed
28 in the proposal had short lived residency in the area,
29 and some have not lived in the area for 20 years.
30 Additionally, he believes there is ample opportunity to
31 fish at O'Brien Creek under State regulations. He does
32 not think most of the community has used local Federal
33 lands for subsistence purposes.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
36 you. Any others, comments? Okay, is there any public
37 testimony?

38
39 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher, for
40 the record. Just as a reminder, if there's anybody online
41 or called in that would like to call or give public
42 testimony to this proposal or any of the ones coming,
43 you can certainly do that. Press star five to raise your
44 hand. So, we can call on you. You can -- and then
45 remember star six will mute and unmute your phone. So,
46 if there's any members of the public that are online
47 that would wish to offer public testimony for this
48 proposal, please do those things.

49
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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Hearing -
2 - wait a minute. We got one comment.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 MS. KOSBRUK: Good morning. Thank you.
7 For the record, my name is Deanna Kusbruk. I'm from
8 Gulkana Village. Just as Karen had mentioned, down at
9 Healy where those eddies are, I was there and I
10 witnessed, you know about dip netting going down to that
11 eddy and then firing up their engine and going back up,
12 drifting. They were just doing that that whole day, that
13 whole afternoon. So, and just filling up their permits
14 and I didn't know, you know, just as a young person and
15 reading through these proposals, I wouldn't have known
16 that, you know, these names that are listed -- that the
17 proposer listed, I wouldn't have known that, you know,
18 they've been gone for so many years because I was a kid
19 then, and I wouldn't have recognized those names. So,
20 you know, that's really good knowledge for you guys to
21 know and for everyone to know that those people no longer
22 live in that community. And so, yeah, so say it is just
23 11 people that qualify, but say, what is this going to
24 open? You know how many more people are going to start
25 qualifying and moving out there? And it's just going to
26 open a big door. And before we know it, it's going to
27 be out of hand. And we're trying -- our best concerns
28 are to build the numbers back up and to be able to get
29 those fish upriver. So, thank you.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
32 Thank you, Deanna. Okay, we're ready for Regional
33 Council recommendation. Motion to support and get it on
34 the table. Go ahead, Michael.

35
36 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make that motion to
37 support the -- where are we at? 25-03A and support that.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
40 second to that?

41
42 MR. ZADRA: I'll second.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
45 Dennis. Moved and seconded to put it on the table for
46 support. All in favor?

47
48 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, aye.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We
2 support and then we'll do the discussion next. But is
3 there any objections to the support of it? What I'm
4 trying to get. Hearing none. Let's go on. Okay. Let's
5 go ahead and deliberate here -- discussion. Michael, do
6 you want to start?

7
8 MR. OPHEIM: Sure. I'm probably going to
9 oppose this proposal. Just because of -- doesn't sound
10 like the proponent is from the area there. Doesn't sound
11 like there's support from the community. There is a
12 conservation concern. So, I just don't know, maybe there
13 needs to be more information brought to us to help us
14 make that decision a little better. But right now, I
15 think I'll oppose it.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
18 Michael. Any other one comment? Go ahead, Dennis.

19
20 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. For the record, Dennis
21 Zadra. Yeah. I'm going to oppose this. Mainly for reasons
22 -- the proponent was not here and has not testified, you
23 know, that to me is big, if this is your proposal, you
24 should be able to speak to it. I -- the written testimony
25 against, I think is compelling to me. Plus, Karen's
26 testimony and all that. So, I will not be supporting
27 this.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
30 Dennis. Judy?

31
32 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
33 is Judy. Well, I'm a little bit torn because Division
34 of Subsistence was out in Tolsona. But it's been 11
35 years ago, and it did sound like pretty good use out
36 there. I'm hearing that people from Tolsona were at the
37 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC and spoke to it. And OSM analysis
38 seems to feel that C&T would be warranted. I'm still a
39 little confused, Heather or other, whether anybody from
40 OSM contacted either Matt, who seemed to take a lot of
41 this testimony or anyone else in Tolsona, to try to
42 clarify maybe some of the statements or whether people
43 were alive or not. And so, that might be useful
44 information to have as well. So, if Heather could answer
45 that, please. Excuse me, Hannah. Sorry about that.

46
47 MS. VORHEES: No worries. Thanks for that
48 question. This is Hannah Voorhees, and I did speak with
49 one -- theres -- you know, it wasn't just a single
50 person. But I did speak with one person behind this

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1 proposal just to clarify their intent. But at that time,
2 we hadn't dug into the testimony, and we actually did
3 not, you know, go through each individual and determine
4 what their life history was. So, I don't have that
5 information to offer. Apologies.

6

7

8 MS. CAMINER: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 This is Judy. Maybe a general comment. And I think this
10 happened with Moose Pass, and probably Greg would
11 remember other examples where this Council is concerned,
12 as Dennis said that a proponent appear here when we have
13 a proposal like that. Now, given that people may not
14 know our process exactly, I would appreciate it if OSM
15 or the Federal agency may be most involved in that area,
16 would just kind of coach people to tell them it's
17 important to provide some testimony when we're having
18 these discussions. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Those
online here is -- any comments on there from either
Diana, Edward -- Ed or Angela.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Greg. This is
Angela. I will be opposing this proposal. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
Angela.

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is -- Mr. Chair,
excuse me. This is Ed Holsten. I'm going to oppose this
for many of the reasons that previous people have spoken
about. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Chucked you
off, sorry about that. Yeah, after listening to the
debate, I think that that we do have some concerns here.
Number one, we don't want people that are not living --
dead there to be put in the record to use. I -- at least
my opinion, I think that the proponent should be present,
I think in my predecessor, Ralph Lohse, once said that,
you know, if you're interested in a proposal you should
show up to support it or reject it one way or the other.
We've always liked that for them to show up and come
here. And as far as getting it out to them, I think
we've done pretty good in that job, and I think we do
better. But there's a lot of things that are unanswered
here. Also, as Eastern Interior opposing it, I take that
into great consideration also. So, I know that SRC
supported. So, it's kind of a cluster, but I could see
that this would be, in my opinion, premature. So, if I

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1 had to vote in a tie, I'd probably vote against it.
2 Thank you.

3
4 Okay. Would you like to restate the
5 final motion for the record?

6
7 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa. So, the
8 motion on the table is to support FP25-03A.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Motions to
11 support, remember so, all in favor to support it signify
12 by saying aye.

13
14 (No response)

15
16 Those opposed, nay.

17
18 IN UNISON: Nay.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Motion fails.
21 Okay, thank you. I guess Nissa's is cooking lunch. I'm
22 not sure what's going on. Anyway, do you guys want to
23 break for lunch?

24
25 MS. PILCHER: I'm going to interject one
26 thing. This is Nissa, for the record, just -- we did
27 appear to lose Deanne, but we do have six of ten members
28 so, that is quorum.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we could
31 either go on but we can take a break for lunch. Would
32 you guys help, what's the wish for lunch? What's that?
33 Lunch on the back table. Yeah. Okay, let's take a half-
34 hour then, if that works for people. I don't know, I
35 guess there's nothing close by. So, we do have a lot of
36 goodies here that works for you folks. And I'll just
37 tell you, we got to be out of here by four. I just found
38 out. So, it's going to kind of push us to today, but if
39 everyone will take a half-hour and walk around, stretch
40 out and grab some goodies. If you need a little more,
41 I'll be patient to restart. Okay. Thanks.

42
43 (Off record)

44
45 (On record)

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Our next agenda
48 item is Fish Proposal 25-03B and is Hannah gonna do that
49 one?

50

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1 MS. PILCHER: She is, Hannah, are you out
2 there?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, if it's no
9 objection from the Council, I'm gonna move down the
10 agenda. We'll go down to the sheep proposal, and we'll
11 go ahead and take that, and we'll move back up to the
12 fish proposal.

13
14 MS. PILCHER: All right, everyone, this
15 is Nissa Pilcher for the record again. So, the Western
16 Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council would like to
17 share a document that they have drafted entitled Dall
18 Sheep Management Strategy Guidelines, which is found on
19 page 167 of your meeting book. The Council drafted this
20 document after becoming increasingly concerned with the
21 decline of sheep in the Western Interior Region and the
22 lack of any action taken to attempt -- and the lack of
23 any action taken to attempt to reverse this trend. The
24 Western Interior Council would like your Council to
25 review this document, and to use it as a template to fit
26 your region's needs to work towards this system. Members
27 of the Western Interior Council are also open to meeting
28 as a working group to further discuss this issue, as
29 well as solutions moving forward if the Council wishes
30 to take action to do so. The Western Interior Council
31 has taken steps to help sheep in their region by
32 requesting a closure in the most accessible areas to all
33 hunting for sheep on Federal land. Forging the
34 opportunity to be able to harvest sheep themselves,
35 excuse me, foregoing the opportunity to harvest sheep
36 themselves so that the population has a chance at
37 rebounding, and expressed that all regions may need to
38 look into this option if the downward trend across the
39 State continues. In closing, if the Council wish to work
40 -- if the Councils wish to work together in a working
41 group as just outlined, please do so by formally
42 appointing up to two members to a statewide working
43 group. Formal action would also be needed to adopt the
44 Council's Management Strategy Guidelines document in
45 order to tailor it to the region. So, in that case, it
46 is a two-part action item. But you can also choose to
47 take no action, and it's not in my script, but as -- the
48 document isn't going away so, even if you choose not to
49 take action at this time, on creating something similar
50 for your region, it's out there. And if you have a

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1 concern about it later, we can put it back on an agenda
2 at a later point in time. Thank you.

3
4 Yep. So, the two action items would be
5 to one, form a working group with other statewide or,
6 excuse me, other Regional Advisory Councils. And two,
7 to formally adopt this harvest management strategy to
8 then tailor it to your region.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you heard
11 her presentation here on the sheep discussion. So, I'll
12 open it to the Council to either take no action or take
13 action in one or two of the parts that mentioned before
14 here, that would be the template and the working group,
15 (indiscernible).

16
17 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

20
21 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, this is Judy. I
22 guess how much of a sheep declining issue do we have in
23 our region? And if so, I do think we should appoint
24 maybe one person, be probably hard to find two people
25 able to or interested to attend. But in general, I
26 certainly support what the Western Interior RAC has
27 done. But I don't have a good sense of whether we need
28 to participate, or we just may want to stay informed as
29 to what -- how they progress.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a good
32 question, Judy. I know we got Unit 7 in the area so, we
33 might want to discuss some of this. And, Brian you could
34 help us out, please?

35
36 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Brian Ubelaker, for the record. I don't think there is
38 as pressing of a sheep issue in Southcentral as what
39 they see in Western Interior, they have larger numbers
40 decreasing. The sheep in Unit 7 have always been, I
41 think, lower numbers, lower density. So, it's not a big
42 -- I mean, you guys don't have that many sheep in the
43 first place, you're not losing that many. I might look
44 at Todd to see if he has anything more specific to add.
45 I have not dealt with any sheep proposals. Unit 13
46 anywhere else, 19C, that's not down here. Those sheep
47 numbers are decreasing, but I don't think you guys have,
48 like, a sheep crisis.

49
50 (Pause)

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I caught your nod already, you had a nod. Go ahead, Todd.

MR. ESKELIN: Mr. Chair. Todd Eskelin, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Sheep numbers are declining statewide. Fish and Game has set up several different working groups to help address that and at this point on the Kenai, we fluctuate between a handful and then we'll have a couple of years where harvest numbers go up. It seems to be mostly tied to people's perception of how many available sheep there are, and there are so many airplanes flying around the Kenai that almost every sheep is known before the season. So. it's, you know, it's a poor situation. But, you know, we have -- we still have some federal opportunity for Unit 7 and 15 sheep. So, as long as everybody's still happy, I think we're doing okay.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Todd, thanks. That's good information, that's helpful. Also, Ed, I'm gonna call on you, being from Cooper Landing area there, do you have any information or anything you want to interject here on the sheep? If not, we'll keep moving on.

(No response)

Ed, you still out to lunch?

(No response)

Ed, this is Greg, I just had a question. If you have any comment on the sheep in Unit 7?

(No response)

I'll take that as a no comment. No other Councils have yet to appoint anyone to a working group is the information I've been presented with. So, it's up to our Council to take no action or whatever.

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hear you loud and clear, Ed, I just had a question. If you have any concerns or any comment on the sheep in Unit 7?

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1 MR. HOLSTEN: Well, yeah, in Unit 7, I
2 think the last couple of years when surveys were
3 conducted, they did not see a legal full curl ram. And
4 as previously mentioned, our populations are pretty low
5 to begin with. But, right now, I don't think there are
6 any permits given out in Unit 7 for sheep.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks.
9 Michael, go ahead.

10
11 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, Michael Opheim, for
12 the record. Ed or maybe Todd, I don't know who can --
13 what's the population like in that -- for Lakes Trail
14 area there? Last time I hunted that was like in 1986 or
15 some weird thing way back when -- what does that
16 population look like. Is it still there?

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Ed's napping again.

21
22 MR. HOLSTEN: No, this is Ed. I don't
23 know about that population.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Ed,
26 Todd's gonna enlighten us. Thank you.

27
28 MR. ESKELIN: Through the Chair. Todd
29 Eskelin, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. We've seen
30 significant declines in sheep populations from when I
31 was a kid. Areas that you know, I would go and see 140
32 sheep and now there's 20 and we have several studies
33 from the Refuge standpoint and the Forest Service
34 conducting studies to look at some of the drivers of
35 those declines. But there are still sheep in many of the
36 areas that you used to hunt. There's sheep, you know,
37 there are some sheep in the Fuller Lake area, we're
38 investigating a cool aspect of the Swan Lake fire, where
39 it burned up into the Alpine. See if that's a positive
40 or a negative effect for sheep. But you know, long story
41 short, we have declining numbers, hunting is probably
42 not the driving force behind that with full curl
43 management for so long. But, you know, at some -- at
44 what point does it get low enough that we cut that out.
45 I don't feel like anybody believes we're there cause
46 that's not a driving force. But, you know, the outcome
47 of several different studies over the next few years
48 will maybe shed light into what those drivers are.

49
50 UNIDENTIFIED: All right, thank you.

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1
2 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin for the
3 record, and I just wanted to mention the other major
4 sheep populations in the Southcentral Region are in Unit
5 11 within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and we
6 haven't received any proposals recently for those. There
7 are a couple right now under the Board of Game, but my
8 understanding, like Todd said, is, I mean, sheep
9 populations are declining statewide and perhaps
10 Wrangell-St. Elias might have more information on that.
11 But I also wanted to clarify this agenda item a bit and
12 I think the Western Interior's Council main intent was
13 to point out that they wrote this sheep management
14 strategy for their region, and they provided it in your
15 meeting books as an example that you might consider using
16 as a template. And they're encouraging other Councils
17 to follow their example and write their own sheep
18 management strategy. I know that Eastern Interior
19 Council has also drafted this sheep management strategy.
20 And, you know, I guess a working group, you know, maybe
21 if you guys want to go that route. But their main
22 intention was to just provide this example and encourage
23 other Councils with sheep in their regions to follow
24 suit and write their own management strategy.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you for
27 that comment. If you're ready to take action on this I
28 think we could write a policy on it. You guys wanna take
29 any action? No. Okay, that's fine. We'll bring it up at
30 a later date when we have a sheep -- better understanding
31 of where we're at on the Keian. Thank you.

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm going back
36 to the proposal. Did you have something on what I have
37 now?

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED: On the sheep sheet.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're still on
42 the sheet?

43
44 UNIDENTIFIED: Do we need to take a
45 formal action?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI No.

48
49 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, thank you.

50

00055

1 (Pause)

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CHAIRPERSON WRIGHT: Okay, we're gonna go back on the agenda. Hannah is here, fish proposal 25-03B.

DR. VOORHEES: I am here. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon, this is Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM. And next I'll be presenting FP25-03B, which begins on page 42 of your meeting book. This proposal was also submitted by Tolsona Community Corporation, and requests that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of freshwater fish in the Copper River drainage upstream from Healy Creek by residents of Tolsona. The proponent's justification for this proposal repeats that shared in my previous presentation. So, I won't repeat that. The proposal further states that lake fish and river fish are important resources for the community of Tolsona. On page 46, you will find a map of communities and areas that currently have a customary and traditional use determination for freshwater fish in the Copper River drainage upstream from Healy Creek. The area affected by this proposal is the federal public waters of the Copper River drainage upstream from Healey Creek, within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Additionally, there are BLM General Domain lands located within the proposal area. The Board adopted the current customary and traditional use determination for freshwater fish in this area in 2001. In 2002, the Board rejected proposals to add Lake Louise and Paxson to the determination. The rejection was in deference to this Council, which stated there was insufficient evidence or proximity.

In 2003, the Board considered another request to add Paxson, as well as those living along the Richardson Highway between milepost 169 and 200. The Board instead created a new customary and traditional use determination specific to the Gulkana National Wild and Scenic River and added the Paxson Sourdough area to that determination. As I have already presented on Tolsona's community characteristics, I won't repeat that information here. I will also refer you to my earlier presentation for an overview of the eight factors and information on Tolsona's broad pattern of subsistence use. During the 2013 study year, surveyed Tolsona households harvested six different species of freshwater fish, which contributed relatively small amounts of food in terms of weight, but were still important in terms

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1 of the percentage of households using these species. 75%
2 of surveyed households used burbot, 63% used rainbow
3 trout, 28% used char, and 25% used whitefish. Burbot
4 were harvested with subsistence ice fishing gear,
5 whereas rainbow trout and grayling were caught with rod
6 and reel, and burbot was the most shared freshwater fish,
7 with 50% of households receiving it and 25% giving it
8 away. As I previously described in my earlier
9 presentation, fish search and harvest locations for
10 Tolsona are not available separate from those for
11 Mendeltna and Nelchina. In 2013, residents of the East
12 Glenn Highway communities combined fish for burbot in
13 three lakes north of Tolsona. They fished for rainbow
14 trout in small lakes close to Mendeltna and Tolsona, as
15 well as in the Anchorage area. And you can find maps of
16 these areas on page 48. Arctic grayling, lake trout, and
17 whitefish were fished from creeks and lakes in the East
18 Glenn Highway area.

19
20 All these areas are in the Copper River
21 drainage, upstream from Healy Creek, with the exception
22 of Lake Louise and of course, the Anchorage area. As
23 part of their proposal, Tolsona Community Corporation
24 submitted written testimony as we've discussed, but this
25 really just focused on salmon and Copper River, and there
26 were no specific accounts for freshwater fishing.
27 Currently, residents of Tolsona can fish for freshwater
28 fish in the Copper River drainage under state sport
29 fishing and subsistence regulations. However, there is
30 no information available on Tolsona's fishing under
31 these opportunities. One alternative considered, and
32 this is relatively minor, it would just be a correction
33 to the regulations. The alternative considered was to
34 modify the customary and traditional use determination
35 area to clarify that the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River
36 is excluded because a separate C&T exists for that area.
37 The modified area would read, Copper River drainage
38 upstream from Healy Creek and excluding the Gulkana Wild
39 and Scenic River. Including -- so, the Gulkana River,
40 as I mentioned, is a separate C&T area, and continuing
41 to include it in the Copper River drainage area is just
42 a regulatory oversight dating back to 2003. However,
43 this oversight could also be corrected administratively,
44 so the alternative was not considered further. If the -
45 - this proposal is adopted, residents of Tolsona would
46 become federally qualified to harvest freshwater fish
47 in the Copper River drainage upstream from Healy Creek,
48 under Federal subsistence regulations.

49
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1 A permit is required to harvest
2 freshwater fish in this area under Federal regulations.
3 If the proposal is rejected, residents of Tolsona could
4 continue to fish in this area under State subsistence
5 and sport fishing regulations. OSM is neutral on this
6 proposal. We are seeking additional information through
7 this regulatory process to determine whether residents
8 of Tolsona do meet the eight factors for use of
9 freshwater fish in the proposal area. While there is
10 evidence of significant use by residents of Tolsona the
11 location of harvest and the time depth of this use is
12 unknown. There are several points of evidence that lend
13 support to the proposal, but which alone are
14 insufficient. Tolsona is located within the Copper River
15 drainage upstream from Healy Creek, the area in which
16 the proponent has requested a determination. Although
17 Tolsona is not surrounded by Federal public waters. The
18 Board has previously recognized Tolsona's C&T for
19 wildlife species in Units 11 and 13. There is a single
20 survey year, and this survey showed that surveyed
21 households harvested and used freshwater fish. And while
22 it's reasonable to assume that this harvest occurred
23 close to home, we cannot know for sure. No information
24 is available on fishing -- under existing opportunities.
25 So, while Tolsona may have a pattern of customary and
26 traditional use of freshwater fish, data on areas fished
27 and time depth, this fishing is simply lacking. Thank
28 you, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. That completes
29 my presentation, and I'll stand by for any questions.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
32 you, Hannah. We have questions from the Council? Judy,
33 go ahead.

34
35 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
36 Hannah, I'm not sure I quite caught, you said OSM is
37 seeking more information, but didn't -- I don't think I
38 heard the sort of the second half of the sentence. Is
39 it from these meetings or maybe for some actual
40 interviews that might occur? Thank you.

41
42 DR. VOORHEES: So, OSM is seeking
43 information, not through any additional interviews or
44 that kind of work, which we tend not to be able to do.
45 We're seeking information through the regulatory
46 process, as we always do. But in this case, you know,
47 it just -- it seems very natural that Tolsona residents
48 may have a pattern of use in this area. But, you know,
49 unfortunately, the data are just very thin. So, we were
50 hoping that perhaps, you know, we might hear from --

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1 hear public testimony, of course, hear from this Council
2 just all the advisory comments that this Council hears.
3 We didn't want to close off the conclusion too early.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any
6 other questions? Michael, go ahead.

7

8 MR. OPHEIM: Hi, Hanna. This is Michael
9 Opheim. So, again, is the community supporting this
10 proposal? It didn't sound like there was much support
11 for the last one. So, is this similar that the community
12 members don't know that this is going on, or is this
13 more supported by the community? What -- have you had
14 any discussions with community members on this?

15

16 DR. VOORHEES: This proposal was
17 submitted really together with the previous proposal.
18 They were separated out for the purpose of analysis. So,
19 I would say that my statements made in reference to the
20 FP25-03A, apply to the B proposal as well. We -- I think
21 it's just, you know, I just don't have that information
22 about how wide the community support is for this
23 proposal. And yeah, maybe, you know, we'll hear more
24 about this in the future. But, for now, I guess I can't
25 say anything else other than what's been shared.

26

27 MR. OPHEIM: All right, thank you.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any other
30 questions for? No. Anyone online? Questions, Council
31 members?

32

33 (No response)

34

35 Okay. Thanks, Hannah.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 Okay, agency comments. Let's go with the
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Jackie.

41

42 MS. KEATING: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
43 members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name
44 is Jackie Keating, Division of Subsistence for the
45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And here to share
46 the department's draft comments on FP25-03B. Like the
47 previous proposal, the department is neutral on
48 eligibility requirements for participation in the
49 subsistence program provided under ANILCA, and we
50 recommend that the Federal Subsistence Board thoroughly

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1 and carefully review the data relevant to the eight
2 criteria for those communities that lack a customary and
3 traditional use finding. For a bit of additional
4 background information in the upper Copper River
5 District of the Prince William Sound area. Permits are
6 required to harvest freshwater fish under both State and
7 Federal regulations, and harvest and use of finfish is
8 also documented through the Division of Subsistence
9 Comprehensive Household Harvest surveys. As we've
10 established, we only have one study year that's
11 specifically about this community. To expand a little
12 bit on the information that Hannah provided. As she
13 mentioned, there were six different species of
14 freshwater finfish harvested in the 2013 study year. For
15 some numbers around that, burbot was harvested at about
16 10 pounds per person, humpback whitefish were second,
17 at around 5 pounds per person, and lake trout were also
18 about 5 pounds per person. Of those, burbot were the
19 most widely used, with 75% of households in the study
20 using that species. Half of the households actually
21 harvesting the species, and then an additional half of
22 households receiving that from other people.

23
24 As far as opportunity provided by the
25 State, the Alaska Board of Fish has made a positive,
26 customary and traditional use finding for freshwater
27 finfish other than salmon in the Prince William Sound
28 area, and Alaska State Law requires the Board of
29 Fisheries to determine the amount of the harvestable
30 portion of a fish population that's reasonably necessary
31 for customary and traditional uses. This is the amount
32 necessary for subsistence or ANS. The Board does this
33 by reviewing extensive harvest data from all Alaskans,
34 collected either by the department or other sources, and
35 the Board of Fish has found that 25,000 to 42,000 usable
36 pounds of freshwater finfish, other than salmon, are
37 reasonably necessary for subsistence in the Prince
38 William Sound area. There would only be conservation
39 concerns if the Federal Subsistence Board and Federal
40 in-season managers allowed these additional federally
41 qualified users to overharvest fish populations in the
42 Copper River drainage. And as far as we know, there are
43 no known enforcement issues. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
47 Jackie. Questions for -- anyone?

48
49 (No response)

50

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1 Anyone online? No questions, okay. Okay,
2 Federal agencies, anyone?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Tribal entities. Karen, I think we got
7 another card here. But you're a tribal entity anyway,
8 so come on up.

9
10 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
11 the record Karen Linnell, Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
12 Commission Executive Director. We are opposed to
13 proposal 20 -- 25-03B. The proximity of freshwater fish
14 aside from salmon, the burbot, the trout, the grayling
15 -- is readily available in lakes and streams much close
16 to home. Usually that's how it works, you fish as close
17 as you can at home. You don't have to travel, you know,
18 50, 100 miles away to go get it. And so, they've got
19 burbot, trout and grayling, dolly varden and all on the
20 -- all on State lands and within driving distance.
21 Crosswind Lake, Fish Lake, Tolsona, Mendeltna Creek. I
22 fished those myself. And there's two Tolsona creeks, one
23 where these folks live and one on the road to
24 Chistochina, which is where I come from. And then yeah
25 -- so, we're opposed to this, we see this as an
26 opportunity for them to have -- acquire Federal C&T and
27 then use that to expand, to get Federal C&T for salmon,
28 to get Federal C&T for moose, and caribou, etc. Although
29 they do -- they may have Federal C&T for BLM lands along
30 the Richardson Highway and the Gulkana Corridor, but not
31 for Wrangell-St. Elias I - right, So, but yeah. So, this
32 is just a toe-in for that kind of expansion of their
33 rights.

34
35 And as Mr. Wilson put in his letter that
36 the Tolsona Association, or the proponents of this
37 proposal only have to be a landowner or a business owner
38 in that area. There's been some purchasing of land and
39 things like that, in hopes to expand for, like a
40 recreational area, cause it's a beautiful lake out there
41 at Tolsona where Kirk had his lodge for 30, I think 30
42 plus years. He just sold it to, again, my cousin-in-law,
43 Bruce Heaton, and his wife, Michelle, a few years back
44 now. Probably six, eight years now. So -- and then. So,
45 there's a lot happening there, and they're trying to
46 expand that area into a more of a recreational area,
47 which is concerning for us. And so, we just urge you to
48 oppose this proposal. Again, many of the proponents
49 there are long gone and have been for quite some time,
50 and then there's nothing in their comments -- that they

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1 submitted, talked about trout, grayling, or burbot, or
2 whitefish within the - within Federal lands, so. I just
3 -- I wanna say thank you for your time and thank you for
4 the opportunity to speak.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
7 Karen. Has anyone got questions for her?

8
9 (No comment)

10
11 Any questions? The Council members
12 online.

13
14 (No comment)

15
16 Thank you. Karen, did you speak for all
17 the organizations you wanted to there?

18
19 MS. LINNELL: Yes. (distortion)

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I
22 just I..... (simultaneous speech)

23
24 MS. LINNELL: I Double, I doubled.....

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI:two
27 cards..... (simultaneous speech)

28
29 MS. LINNELL: (simultaneous speech) my
30 cards, yes. Sorry about that.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No problem, no
33 problem. Okay, thank you.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 Any other Native tribal villages want
38 to comment on this or?

39
40 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher
41 again, for the record. Just as a reminder, it is star
42 six to mute and unmute. You can unmute and try to get
43 our attention by saying excuse me, Mr. Chair, something
44 along those lines. You can also press star five to notify
45 those monitoring the Team's chat that you would like to
46 speak. Or also, if you're in the Teams meeting, you can
47 just hit the raise hand button. Thank you.

48
49
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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, no hands
2 up. Alrighty, we're gonna move on to advisory group
3 comments. Is there other regional Councils?

4
5 (Whispered conversation)

6
7 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, did I just hear
8 you ask for Regional Advisory Council feedback?

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

11
12 DR. VOORHEES: Okay, yes. So, Eastern
13 Interior Council opposed this proposal, and the
14 justification was that not all of the eight factors were
15 met. There is no long term (distortion) on traditions.
16 Harvest records are not available to substantiate use,
17 and the testimony submitted by the proponent is
18 outdated.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
21 you.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 Okay, Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
26 anyone?

27
28 (No comment)

29
30 Subsistence Resource Commission.
31 Commissions.

32
33 (No comment)

34
35 Okay, summary of written public
36 comments.

37
38 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is Hannah
39 Voorhees. One public comment was received which was in
40 opposition to the proposal. This is the same comment
41 that I shared in reference to FP 25-03A so I won't repeat
42 it here. I did also just want to take a brief opportunity
43 to note there was some discussion about following up on
44 public comment previously, and I said we had taken this
45 comment at face value. Unfortunately OSM just -- we don't
46 have a practice of following up on public comments. In
47 this case there was just one, but often we receive
48 hundreds. So, it's just not been in our practice in the
49 past and I just wanted to note that. Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty.
2 That's a good note, thank you. Alrighty. Is there anyone
3 that wants to have public testimony? You do?
4

5 MS. PILCHER: Yes. Well, not me directly.
6 This is Nissa Pilcher, for the record. I did receive a
7 public comment via email from Matt Warnick. He is part
8 of the proponent, and he writes and this is directly
9 from what he wrote. I, as in Matt, apologize for not
10 being able to attend in person as I have a medical
11 appointment starting in a few minutes that I couldn't
12 move. I would like to thank the Board for considering
13 this proposal from the Tolsona community. As I was
14 researching the history of Tolsona, the oldest living
15 permanent residents spoke about many subsistence uses
16 of fishing, hunting, and other resources, as they were
17 available. The Copper Basin Area Board, recently
18 recommended approval of the (indiscernible) salmon
19 proposal. These residents (distortion) about using the
20 local lake fish to feed their, it says familiar, but I
21 believe that is family and friends throughout the year.
22 This proposal is strongly supported by the local
23 community and the larger region. Thank you for your
24 consideration. And that is the end of the email.
25

26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
27 you. You got anymore public testimony? Anyone online for
28 public testimony?
29

30 (No comment)
31

32 Okay, we're gonna move on to regional
33 Councils recommendation, a motion to support
34 (indiscernible).
35

36 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, Michael Opheim, for
37 the record. I moved that the proposal FP 25-03B on the
38 record for support.
39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
41 Michael. Is there a second?
42

43 MR. ZADRA: I'll second, Dennis.
44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
46 Dennis Zadra, thank you.
47

48 (Pause)
49
50

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1 It's up to you guys, but we had an
2 earlier comment on 25-03 (indiscernible).

3
4 MS. CAMINER: Yeah, I was just gonna say
5 I just would compare it to saying, look at my previous
6 comments.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

9
10 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Yeah, I would
11 feel less certain about this proposal because several
12 data gaps have been identified and you know, not exactly
13 sure how the community could go about getting some of
14 that information that would be useful to us and to others
15 for evaluation. And I guess I'm also surprised maybe the
16 SRC just didn't take any action on that, so. That just
17 seems a little different in -- anyway, not sure why that
18 happened, but yeah.

19
20 (Whispered conversation)

21
22 But I'm glad the proponent did get in
23 touch with us, and it's unfortunate that person couldn't
24 be here at the moment, but hopefully will understand
25 that it'd be great if he could participate next time
26 this is discussed.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. (Pause)
29 Are we ready to restate the motion?

30
31 MS. PILCHER: All right. So, this is
32 Nissa Pilcher for the record. So, what -- I've forgotten
33 what I said the last time, but it was -- so FP 25-03B.
34 The motion was to support FP 25-03B so a motion in
35 affirmative would be a motion to support. Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's correct,
38 you did it good. Okay, alrighty. All those in favor of
39 supporting it, signify by saying aye.

40
41 (No response)

42
43 All those opposed.

44
45 IN UNISION: Nay.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, motion
48 fails.

49
50

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1 MS. PILCHER: Sorry, just to double
2 check. That was Ed and Angela on the line, correct?

3
4 MS. TOTEMUFF: Correct.

5
6 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, correct.

7
8 MS. PILCHER: Do we have Diane?

9
10 (No response)

11
12 Okay.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, there he
15 is. Kevin, we're ready. He put up a nice sign there,
16 thank you. Anyway, you're ready to go, you go ahead,
17 OSM.

18
19 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members
20 of the Council. For the record, my name is Kevin Foley,
21 and I'm a fish biologist with the Office of Subsistence
22 Management. And I'm joined here today with my colleague,
23 Dr. Hannah Voorhees, OSM anthropologist, who is phoned
24 in and available on the line. Before we dive into the
25 priority information needs discussion, if it pleases the
26 Council, I would like to lead off with a brief update
27 on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring program, and there
28 are no materials for this update. So, no new projects
29 were funded by the monitoring program for the 2024 fiscal
30 year. Previous decisions on funding in OSM and
31 unfortunate circumstances did not allow us to proceed
32 with any new projects. However, a single project was
33 submitted in response to the 24 notice of funding
34 opportunity for the Southcentral Alaska region. When
35 asked if investigators wish to keep their proposal
36 packets in for processing for potential 2025 start, all
37 said yes, but we won't know funding until sometime after
38 the new fiscal year, which we know happened, but we're
39 still waiting. Currently, there is one ongoing project
40 in the Southcentral Alaska region, and that's project
41 number 22-504, the Copper River chinook salmon in river
42 abundance. The Office of Subsistence Management
43 administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
44 and will announce the 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity
45 for the monitoring program this winter. We will be
46 seeking proposals for projects that gather information
47 to manage and conserve subsistence fishery resources in
48 Federal public waters. The monitoring program is also
49 directed at supporting meaningful involvement in
50 fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural

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1 organizations, and promoting collaboration among Federal
2 State, Alaska Native, and (distortion) organizations.
3 The first step in this process is for the Regional
4 Advisory Councils to identify the priority information
5 needs for their respective regions.

6
7 These are research needs or gaps in
8 information needed to manage Federal subsistence
9 fisheries. These priority information needs provide the
10 framework for soliciting, evaluating, and selecting
11 projects for funding through the monitoring program. The
12 development of the priority information needs is an
13 important process for the Council. Your final version
14 of priority information needs determines the types and
15 subjects of project proposals that are sought for your
16 region. Three primary types of research are requested:
17 harvest monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge,
18 and stock, status, and trends. Projects provide
19 information directly from subsistence users, including
20 descriptions of fishing effort and harvest and use
21 patterns. Stock status and trend projects address fish
22 abundance, migration, and behavior in specific
23 fisheries. Research priorities that fall outside that
24 scope of the monitoring program are not considered or
25 funded, and they include projects focused on habitat
26 protection, mitigation, restoration and enhancement,
27 hatchery propagation, restoration enhancement and
28 supplementation, and contaminant assessment evaluation,
29 and monitoring. These kinds of projects are most
30 (distortion) appropriately addressed by the local land
31 management or regulatory agencies. In addition, projects
32 for which the primary objective is education or
33 outreach, such as science camps, technician training,
34 or intern programs are not eligible for funding under
35 the Monitoring Program. Council Chairman Encelewski and
36 Council member Andy McLaughlin met with OSM staff to
37 exchange information and discuss priority information
38 needs for the Southcentral Alaska region. We will
39 discuss the results of that meeting now and then ask
40 this Council to finalize and adopt the 2026 priority
41 information needs for the Southcentral Alaska Region.
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. This
43 concludes the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
44 update. Are there any questions before we begin
45 reviewing the list of priority information needs?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
48 Michael. Question.

49
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1 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, for the
2 record. You mentioned the one project happening in South
3 Central, was that a multiyear project, and would it be
4 funded in 2025, if it is?

5
6 MR. FOLEY: That's a -- through the
7 Chair. That's a good question. I'm not as familiar with
8 the project, the lead investigator, Matt Pichette. This
9 is a project that is with the Native (indiscernible) out
10 of Cordova and look through some information that I may
11 have on it. (Pause) I'd have to get back to you on that.
12 So, if I -- if I'm -- understand the question is, yeah
13 it would be funded to at least -- to the next cycle,
14 'cause it's ongoing.

15
16 MR. OPHEIM: Okay, thank you.

17
18 MR. FOLEY: Yeah, sorry for the delay.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Other
21 questions before we move on?

22
23 MR. SARAFIN: Mr. Chair, this is Dave
24 Sarafin.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dave.

27
28 MR. SARAFIN: Yeah, I just wanted to
29 point out that also through priority information needs
30 the -- an FRMP proposal cycle that Tanada Creek Weir has
31 been funding and is still ongoing right now, and it is
32 likely a proposal will be coming in for the next round.
33 And it does relate to escapement counts. So, I just
34 wanted to point that out.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks.

37
38 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
39 group worked through the 2022 and 2024 priority
40 information needs, previously funded projects, and data
41 gaps. The resulting draft is provided on page 21 of your
42 supplemental material packet. We can work through these
43 one by one and make any final edits the Council sees
44 fit. I recommend after we have reviewed all the priority
45 information needs, the Council put forward a motion to
46 approve the list, including any changes that you decide
47 to make. At which point, the 2026 priority information
48 needs will be final and will be published in our Notice
49 of Funding Opportunity this winter. Mr. Chair, at this
50 time, I would ask the Council if you would prefer for

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1 me to read aloud through the draft list of information
2 needs, or if the Council prefers to read through the
3 list themselves and then provide comment.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think we'd
6 like you to read them.

7

8 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm now
9 going to read through the Southcentral Alaska region
10 draft Priority Information Needs for the 2026 FRMP
11 cycle, which are found in your handout. And I'd like to
12 point out that these are presented in no particular
13 order. First item in this list is estimate chinook, coho,
14 and sockeye salmon escapements into the Copper River
15 drainage and delta systems with a high degree of
16 certainty. For example, projects utilizing weir sonar
17 and or mark recapture methods. Next, collect baseline
18 information of juvenile chinook, coho, and sockeye
19 salmon outmigration, including abundance and or timing,
20 condition, and mortality across the unique subwatersheds
21 of the Copper River and the Kenai Peninsula drainages.
22 Next, understand food web dynamics and factors affecting
23 early marine survival rates of Southcentral origin wild
24 chinook and coho salmon stocks, including variables such
25 as, primary food resources and prey availability,
26 competition with hatchery-produced salmon, and prey
27 buffering during periods of high or low abundance. Next,
28 understand effects of environmental and or climate
29 change on stock specific migration, timing, and
30 abundance of juvenile and adult salmon, as well as
31 implications for harvest management in the Copper River
32 and Kenai Peninsula drainages. Next, estimate measure
33 of abundance and or run timing, spawning site fidelity,
34 fecundity, age, sex, and length composition for chinook,
35 coho, and sockeye salmon in the Copper River or Kenai
36 Peninsula drainages. Mister Chair, members of the
37 Council, that completes the list of information needs
38 for the Southcentral Alaska region. Are there any
39 questions from the Council about this list or changes
40 that it would like to see made?

41

42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Council,
43 did you guys understand the list you got there from.....

44

45 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead.

48

49 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, just for
50 clarification, Kevin. I mean, these five information

00069

1 needs, these are pretty much what we've had the last
2 many years. Okay, thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, we worked on
5 these. I'll let you go ahead and talk to her, Kevin. Go
6 ahead.

7

8 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair. This is -
9 - I don't have the information on previous years priority
10 information needs list. I can say that some of these are
11 duplicative from previous FRMP cycles. But we -- this
12 list was developed with feedback and input from the
13 Council members. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and I can
16 speak to some of that because I was involved in it. But
17 yeah, we -- they were some from the original, we modified
18 some of the -- we were pretty passionate about these,
19 we worked pretty hard, but anyway. That's -- and Andy
20 was heavily involved in this. (Pause) He felt pretty
21 strong about dynamic food web, dynamic factors affecting
22 some of the marine survivals too.

23

24 MR. FOLEY: Mr. Chair, as this is an
25 action item, we will need a motion from the Council to
26 approve the Southcentral Alaska Regional Priority
27 Information Needs for the 2026 cycle. Thank you for your
28 time, that concludes my presentation. Once again, for
29 the record, this is Kevin Foley, fish biologist with the
30 Office of Subsistence Management, and I and my
31 colleagues are standing by for any further questions.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
34 Kevin. I got one more here. Nissa, you want to read this
35 one in for me?

36

37 MS. PILCHER: I can, but would you want
38 Amber to come up?

39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, yeah can
41 you come do it. We just got your letter, yeah. That's
42 great.

43

44 MS. COHEN: Great. For the record, this
45 is Amber Cohen, cultural anthropologist at Wrangell-St.
46 Elias National Park and Preserve. And a letter was handed
47 out to the Council members in person and will be handed
48 or emailed to those of you online and this is from the
49 Subsistence Resource Commission. We had a meeting last
50 week where we reviewed the fisheries priority

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1 information needs that the Council came up with, and the
2 SRCs supports the draft priority information needs for
3 the region, with the suggestion of adding an additional
4 one to study the effects of in river predation on salmon
5 as they migrate upriver. The justification being it is
6 important to have information about factors that can
7 impact whether fish are getting to their spawning
8 grounds. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you
11 for that. Everyone's got a handout. We just heard it,
12 so that's good, okay. (Pause) Questions by Judy, go
13 ahead.

14

15 MS. CAMINER: Yes, thank you. This is
16 Judy. Now it looks like under the five points that you
17 read. Andy McLaughlin identified another priority
18 information need. Which I'm not sure is completely
19 represented by one of these five needs up above. So, is
20 that another thing we can or should consider in this
21 discussion, as well as what we got from the SRC.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Toxins and the
24 contaminants.

25

26 MS. CAMINER: Uh-hum.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm not
29 sure we could squeeze it in there. We thought it was
30 important though so, yeah. (Indiscernible).

31

32 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Is there a limit
33 to the number of Priority Information Needs?

34

35 (Indiscernible)

36

37 MS. CAMINER: Okay, okay.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I would
40 imagine there is, but we did have our priorities locked
41 in, so that depends how you look at it, I guess.

42

43 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
46 Michael.

47

48 MR. OPHEIM: Could we add that
49 information that Andy had mentioned here on the last
50 sentence of that paragraph. Could we put that under

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1 collecting baseline information? For the toxicity and
2 contaminants?

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm sure we
5 could.

6

7 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair, Mr.
8 Chairman. I do have some questions on the role of
9 contaminant evaluation and its relevancy towards the
10 types of projects that the FRMP is able to fund. And I
11 remember that we had this discussion during our Priority
12 Information Need development meeting. And unfortunately,
13 the FRMP is structured in a way that it allows for
14 funding of some projects, and not necessarily of others.
15 For those points mentioned earlier that those are most
16 appropriately addressed by local land managers and
17 regulatory agencies. And within the guidance that we
18 have, there is contaminant assessment, evaluation, and
19 monitoring that's identified. Now, I suspect that could
20 be open to some interpretation on what the extent of
21 that means. And perhaps we can find greater clarity in
22 that. But that certainly spoke out to us at the time of
23 the meeting. On why that didn't -- why that particular
24 item of contaminant assessment in some of these salmon
25 species might not rise to the level of evaluation through
26 the FRMP process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thanks for
29 clarifying that and reminding me why we put it in the
30 comments, okay.

31

32 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
33 is Judy. Well, then, going to the comment by the SRC
34 about the effects of in-river predation, can we squeeze
35 that -- those words into one of the five categories we
36 have there, the five needs that we've identified.

37

38 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair. If that's
39 the desire of the Council, then we can make it so.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

42

43 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is that our
46 desire? I got a lot of nods. Hopefully online you're
47 following what we're doing here, but we want to add the
48 SRC support for the draft in, on suggested adding
49 additional effects of in-river vegetation, etc.
50 migratory upriver.

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MR. FOLEY: Mr. Chairman. Just as a point of clarity for the record. We -- are we suggesting that we add it as an individual priority information need or include it with some of the language of an existing priority information need? And if -- I see Chairman Judy is nodding her head.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you. Yeah, I think you could put that into perhaps the middle one or wherever it's most appropriate, but just add the few words into the best possible location here, where it makes sense and appreciate [sic] that the commission came up with that suggestion.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes, it was to squeeze it in.

MS. CAMINER: Through the Chair, if I may make a recommendation for the Council, perhaps we include it as its own unique priority information need.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: (Indiscernible) good with that, make it stand alone. Okay, thank you. Good. Okay, so now we added one and we should be ready to make a motion to support that.

MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair, do we need to make that as amended for that.....

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That'd be good.

MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim for the record (distortion) Move that we support the priority information needs, as amended.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good enough. Is there a second to that?

MR. ZADRA: I'll second, Dennis.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Dennis. Any other discussion on the matter? All in favor of that motion, aye.

IN UNISION: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone opposed?

(No comment)

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So, carries. Thank you, Kevin. Good, we got through that. Thank you. That was a good presentation, good talk, good discussion. You see how we modified it on the run? That's pretty good.

(Pause)

Anyone need a break?

(No response)

Or something? I'm not gonna to make you move twice, okay.

MR. OPHIEM: Gotta watch out for those muskox running around, you know.

MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, Brian Ubelaker wildlife biologist with OSM. I'd like to give you a brief summary of wildlife proposal WP 25-01. This analysis begins on page 53 of your meeting book. 25, what -- WP 25-01, was submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management. This proposal requests that in ANILCA section 804 User Prioritization Analysis be conducted for the Nelchina Caribou Herd, and that all Nelchina Caribou Herd hunts in Units 11, 12, Remainder and 13 be changed to may-be-announced seasons with authority delegated to Federal in-season managers. First of all, I would like to give you some background information on the section 804 or the user prioritization process. Section 804 of ANILCA says that when it is necessary to restrict some, but not all, subsistence users. For example, when there are not enough Caribou, those with a priority to harvest should be identified as considering -- by considering three criteria. And these three criteria are customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood. Local residency, and the availability of alternative resources. When a section 804 prioritization is in place, some Federally qualified users will be able to continue hunting caribou on Federal lands in the hunt areas, but others won't until the section 804 is lifted. When we start a section 804 analysis, we take all the communities that are Federally qualified, meaning they have a customary and traditional use determination for caribou in a hunt area, and then evaluate the three criteria for each community in that area.

1 As you know, there is currently no
2 hunting opportunity for the Nelchina Caribou Herd.
3 However, this proposal would identify communities to be
4 prioritized ahead of time so that this framework is ready
5 when the herd begins to recover enough to support a
6 small hunt. It is important to the Board that this
7 proposal go through the full regulatory process and the
8 Council may have important feedback, especially on the
9 preliminary conclusion, which lists the communities that
10 OSM proposes be prioritized in each area. On page 61 of
11 your meeting book, you can find the customary and
12 traditional use determinations for each community. Each
13 community is Federally qualified only in areas where it
14 has a customary and traditional use determination for
15 Caribou. The biological background and harvest history
16 are virtually identical to that presented for WSA 2400
17 - 203, which closed the Nelchina Caribou Herd hunts for
18 the 2024 and 2025 regulatory year. The most recent
19 population estimate for the Nelchina herd was 6,983
20 caribou. The section 804 analysis begins on page 73 of
21 your meeting books, where the three criteria are listed.
22 Consideration of criterion number one. Customary and
23 direct dependence upon the population as the mainstay
24 of livelihood begins on the next page.

25
26 Data from subsistence surveys as well
27 as harvest data are included here. You will find tables
28 summarizing different measures of Caribou use for each
29 community, averaged over the year in which the survey
30 was conducted. Continuing criterion one. Next, you will
31 see community profiles starting on page 84, which give
32 more detailed information on Caribou use by each
33 community, including where their harvest has been
34 documented in subsistence surveys and through harvest
35 reports. These profiles contain information on the top
36 five most important species for each community, and this
37 is also relevant for considering alternative resources.

38
39 Analysis of criterion two local
40 residency begins on page 138. You will see a map for
41 each customary and traditional use area, and for each a
42 list of communities located within or close to the area.
43 Criterion three availability of alternative resources
44 begins on page 145. There is a discussion of which
45 communities have greater access to store-bought foods,
46 and a table showing the top five resources harvested by
47 each community during their last survey year. We
48 included information about the status of Moose and
49 Salmon populations, since these are important
50 alternative resources. Next, alternatives considered.

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1 One alternative considered was to exclude Unit 11 from
2 the section 804 analysis, because there are no recent
3 harvest records, since there is no State hunt and the
4 Federal season has never been announced.

5
6 However, prioritization will likely be
7 needed and feedback from the regulatory process, for
8 example from tribes can help fill in this gap. Another
9 alternative considered was to extend this analysis to
10 Unit 20E, because a significant portion of the Nelchina
11 Caribou Herd overwinters there in some years. However,
12 including Unit 20E is beyond the scope of this analysis.
13 The two other alternatives have to do with how the Board
14 delegates authority. OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
15 support the proposal, with modification, to specify
16 which communities are eligible to hunt caribou in each
17 hunt area. Add the Wrangell-saint Elias and Denali
18 National Park and Preserve superintendents to the
19 entities consulted in Unit 13 Remainder, and move
20 existing delegated authority to Unit specific
21 regulations. You will find the modified regulations on
22 page 150. Next, I will read out the communities that OSM
23 recommends for prioritization in each hunt area. Council
24 members also have a handout which shows which of these
25 communities with C&T are being recommended for
26 prioritization in each area, and which are not. I think
27 it would probably be in your best interest to flip to
28 page 150. And you can follow along as I read through the
29 list of communities, because it can get quite
30 convoluted.

31
32
33 We're ready? Okay. The modified
34 regulation reads Federal public lands in Unit 11, north
35 of the Sanford River are closed to caribou hunting,
36 except by residents of Chistochina, Gakona, Glennallen,
37 Gulkana, Mentasta Lake and Slana/Nabesna road hunting
38 under these regulations. For Unit 11 Remainder, the
39 communities recommended for prioritization are Chitina,
40 Copper Center/Silver Springs, Kenny Lake/Willow Creek,
41 Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, McCarthy, McCarthy Road,
42 Tazlina, and Tonsina, hunting under these regulations.
43 Unit 12 Remainder Alcan border. Dot Lake. Mentasta Pass.
44 Northway. Tanacross. Tetlin and Tok, hunting under these
45 regulations. Unit 13 a Chickaloon. Chitina. Copper
46 Center. Silver Springs. Glacier view. Glennallen.
47 Gulkana. Lake Louise. Tazlina and Tolzona, hunting under
48 these regulations. Unit 13B, Chitina Chickaloon,
49 Chistochina, Copper Center/Silver Springs. Gakona.
50 Glacier view. Glennallen. Gulkana. Kenai Lake. Willow

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1 Creek. Lake Louise. Mccarthy. Nelchina River. Paxson.
2 Sheep Mountain. Slana. Tazlina. Gulkana and Tonsina,
3 hunting under these regulations. Unit 13C are closed to
4 caribou hunting except by residents of Chistochina.
5 Gakona. Glennallen. Mentasta Pass. Excuse me. Mentasta
6 Lake, Mentasta Pass, Slana/Nabesna road, Tazlina and
7 Takotna, hunting under these regulations. Unit 13D,
8 Chitina Copper Center Glennallen. Kenai Lake, Willow
9 Creek, Tazlina, Tolzona and Tonsina hunting under these
10 regulations. Unit 13E Cantwell Chase. Denali Village,
11 formerly McKinley village, and the area between
12 mileposts 216 to 239 of the Parks Highway, excluding
13 residents of Denali Park headquarters, hunting under
14 these regulations. Also of note, Kevin and Blaine Mayo,
15 and their households, have individual CNTs qualifying
16 them to hunt caribou in Unit 13, in areas managed by the
17 National Park Service where subsistence uses are
18 allowed.

19
20 Their names do not appear in regulation,
21 but they are on a list maintained by Denali National
22 Park and Preserve. It is OSM's intent that these
23 individuals remain eligible to hunt caribou in these
24 areas. This would also be the Council's opportunity to
25 make any comments or recommendations on this element of
26 the analysis. Based on information provided in the
27 analysis, the communities listed in the modified
28 regulation meet the three criteria for a section 804
29 prioritization. Delegating authority and changing to
30 may-be-announced seasons would allow for maximum
31 flexibility to open a hunt when a harvestable surplus
32 becomes available. Rescinding the existing delegation
33 of authority letters and moving the delegated authority
34 into Unit-specific regulations is a programmatic
35 initiative, because it is more appropriate than issuing
36 special actions for routine annual management actions.
37 Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
38 have lands in Unit 13 Remainder, so they should also be
39 consulted prior to any in-season management actions in
40 that area. Thank you. This concludes my presentation.
41 I'm happy to answer any questions. I will also note that
42 my colleague Hannah Voorhees is on the line and ready
43 to answer questions if you have them. It may make sense
44 that we can go back over the recommended communities for
45 each area. If you have comments on any or all of them,
46 thank you.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.
49
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1 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
2 is Judy. So, just this handout that has the highlights
3 and the X's of who would be eligible. That's, this is
4 current and applies to what you just read.

5
6 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, it is.

7
8 MS. CAMINER: Thanks. It's obviously a
9 tremendous amount of work to get to this step. And I
10 know we requested it. So, we definitely appreciate it.

11
12 MR. UBELAKER: I will just make a note.
13 Hannah did a lot of work on this presentation. I'm just
14 here soaking up all the glory. Exactly. You're welcome.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Going to sort it
17 out. We're working on a path forward. Give us one minute.
18 Objections? Comments? Council members. I'll open it up
19 for discussion here right now. I know we're on the
20 presentation, but we need to discuss what your thoughts
21 are.

22
23 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Michael.

26
27 MR. OPHEIM: Is there a map showing these
28 things? This is even with this list, I'm. It's a lot.
29 You guys did some amazing stuff here. But, yeah, I guess
30 I'm a little more visual. So.

31
32 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is,
33 this is Hannah Voorhees. Yes, there are. There are
34 several maps throughout the analysis. There isn't a map
35 that just shows these prioritized communities, per se.
36 But if you look at criterion two, which I'll find the
37 page number for you in a second here, those -- their
38 maps of each, each it's essentially each customary and
39 traditional use area. So, you can see, you know, each,
40 like Unit 12 Remainder or Unit 11 north of the Sanford
41 River. And then these communities are not, it's not
42 showing exclusively these communities that are
43 recommended for prioritization, but they will be on the
44 map. And, just a second here, let me find in the talking
45 points where that is. I believe it's page -- local
46 residency begins on page 138. And there's a map for each
47 area that has a recommended prioritization. I know this
48 is a lot of information to digest and, yeah, you know.
49 We don't, unfortunately, we just, we don't do
50 determinations just for herd. We have to do it for each

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1 hunt area. As Brian discussed. So, you have 35
2 communities with C&T broadly, and then seven different
3 customer and traditional use areas. So, it is a lot and
4 I, I guess I just, you know, encourage the Council to
5 not feel too rushed and let me know if you can if I can
6 answer any questions.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that was
9 helpful. The. City had a suggestion, comment, or.

10

11 MS. CAMINER: Just a suggestion. I guess
12 for future Council discussion is maybe. Let's hear any
13 testimony public input, and if we get some severe
14 objections or confirmation, that would be helpful for
15 our decision to.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll,
18 we'll take some more agencies and stuff. Well, let's
19 start listening to the rest of the story and see where
20 we come up. Thank you, Brian and Hannah. It's a lot. A
21 lot of stuff. A lot of work. Okay. We got the
22 introduction done. We've got the report on the Board
23 consultation and done. Agencies. Alaska Department of
24 Fish and Game. No comment. Thank you. Federal agencies,
25 any comment? Tribal entities. Karen, I got a card for
26 you here. Shed some light on us.

27

28 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
29 the record, my name is Karen Linnell, executive director
30 for Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. With eight
31 Federally recognized tribes that range from Cantwell in
32 the, on the eastern side of the map on page 139. Mentasta
33 in the northern end of Chitina on the southern end. In
34 looking at this map, you'll see, and why Cantwell is
35 part of the Ahtna region, is they're closely related to
36 folks from Gakona and Gulkana and all that land in
37 between Gulkana and Cantwell was where their homes were
38 and they would winter. And - so, that's Unit 13A and B
39 and E. And then, again, so what I see in here and what's
40 not included is -- Gulkana should have part of have 13C
41 and Gakona should have 13A, as part of their Customary
42 and Traditional use. And then, Chistochina and Mentasta
43 also use portions of Unit 12 within the Ahtna territory.
44 And so, those are amendments that I'd like to add to
45 this as Customary and Traditional use. And as far as
46 game management Unit 11, we did hunt Caribou there, but
47 since it's been under Federal regulation, there has
48 been no hunting because of the commingling of the
49 Nelchina herd with the Mentasta Herd and the Mentasta
50 Herd since the park has formed, went from 3,000 to 600.

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1

2 And we just, if you recall, we just got
3 on the books last -- a few years ago, a may-be-announced
4 hunt for hunting Caribou in GMU 11. And after that
5 passed, we had the crash. (Pause) And that, in this
6 analysis, the 2,500 or so permits from the Delta area
7 are not included. Which, which we appreciate. It sets a
8 priority for those most dependent on the resource. So,
9 I just would ask that you add Gulkana to 13C as in
10 Charlie Gakona to 13A and Alpha, and to add Chistochina
11 and Mentasta to GMU 12. And, that's our backyard and
12 where we, where we hunt from Chistochina. So, there was
13 some BLM lands there at one time, but they did a
14 homestead disposal right in the middle of our hunting
15 grounds. There's a little sliver, but there's houses
16 really close. But, yeah, it's important that we're able
17 to participate there and, and hunt in those areas. So,
18 thank you.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
21 questions for Karen? She's up here. Thank you.

22

23 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, sir.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Advisory
26 Group's comments. Is there any other Regional Councils
27 that want to talk to us? 13.

28

29 MS VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This is
30 Hannah Voorhees. Brian, I can give that if you'd like.
31 Or you can go ahead.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: He's halfway
34 there.

35

36 DR. VOORHEES: Okay.

37

38 MR. UBELAKER: Brian Ubelaker. Mr. Chair,
39 the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council met
40 earlier this week and made a recommendation on this
41 proposal. They voted to support, as modified by OSM and
42 additionally modify to add Gakona to 13A, Gulkana to
43 13C, and Mentasta Lake and Chistochina to Unit 12
44 Remainder. They stated that the Nelchina Caribou Herd
45 population is low, and this Section 804 is unlikely to
46 go in place for many years. There is a significant
47 conservation concern for the herd. Some Federally
48 qualified users will benefit from a section 804 and
49 others will not, but it is necessary to protect the
50 resource. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
Questions. Judy.

MS. CAMINER: Can I just clarify? And I probably took the notes wrong. You just said Mentasta Lake and I think, Karen, were you saying Mentasta Lake or Mentasta? Thank you.

MS. LINNELL: Thank you. Mentasta Pass is already in part of Unit 12 Remainder. It will be Mentasta Lake, the village, that would be added to Unit 12 Remainder. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Pretty quick, pretty quick. Real quick. In fact, if you just want to sit there. Fish and game advisory committees. None that we know of. Subsistence resource Commission. And then we will get to public comments.

MS. COHEN: For the record, my name is Amber Cohen, cultural anthropologist at Wrangell-saint. Elias and the Subsistence Resource Commission did meet last week, and they voted to unanimously support this proposal as modified in the OSM preliminary conclusion. Replacing current seasons and harvest limits with maybe-announced seasons, and delegations of authorities to Federal managers will ensure that the Federal Nelchina caribou hunts remain closed until the herd has had a chance to recover. While the Commission supported the OSM preliminary conclusion regarding the section 804 user prioritization, it expressed concern about the amount of information in the analysis, and so created a working group to delve into the details of those communities. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
Questions. Written public comments.

MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Brian Ubelaker. There were no written public comments. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Public testimony. Anyone? Hearing none.

MS. PILCHER: Well, as a reminder if you do wish to make public testimony time star six mute and unmute. Star five raises your hand. Or you can press the

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1 raise hand function if you're on Ms. Teams. Nissa Pilcher
2 for the record, Thanks.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Hearing
5 none, we're going to go ahead and move on to. Whoops.
6 Wait a minute. We got someone called in.

7

8 MS MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
9 is. Sorry. Were you calling on me?

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes, I was. All
12 right.

13

14 MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
15 thank you to the Board. This is Katherine Martin with
16 Ahtna Incorporated, and I just wanted to put on record
17 that Ahtna incorporated supports this proposal. And also
18 the amendments that are being recommended. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
21 Okay. Any others? I have to patient. Okay. Okay. Now
22 we'll go to Regional Council's recommendation motion to
23 support.

24

25 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair. I will move that
26 we support the, what is it, the proposal 2501 and, as
27 amended.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah, we
30 have to.

31

32 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Angela.
33 This is just a reminder to be cognizant of the mike. It
34 gets really quiet.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We slid
37 him up closer. I'll get closer. Okay. I got a motion to,
38 as amended, to approve it as amended. Does that cover
39 all the amendments we wanted? Is that, what's your
40 question, Judy?

41

42 MS CAMINER: You didn't have to mention
43 amendment.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. We didn't
46 mention amendment.

47

48 MS. CAMINER: Just to support the
49 proposal.

50

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1 MR. OPHEIM: Okay, I'll change that to
2 supporting proposal 2501.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Do you
5 want to offer an amendment? You know, we haven't got a
6 second yet. As I thought you said, as amended.

7
8 MR. OPHEIM: That's right. Yeah. Yeah, I
9 did. I said as in the original proposal or the original
10 thing. My brain's going here so quick. My original --
11 was to support 2501, as amended by OSM.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah. We
14 wanted to add the comments we heard from Karen and with
15 --

16 MR. OPHEIM: With the support of Ahtna
17 and -

18
19 MS. PILCHER: Can I help?

20
21 MR. OPHEIM: You can help all you want
22 right now.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

25
26 MS. PILCHER: I know, I know Michael's
27 been up for quite some time today. This is Nissa Pilcher,
28 for the record. So, just to clarify, the motion that is
29 on the table, that has not gotten a second yet, would
30 be to support WP 25-01, as modified by OSM. and
31 additionally modified the suggested language
32 modification of adding Gulkana to 13C. adding Gakona to
33 13a, adding Chistochina and Mentasta Lake to GM, to Game
34 Management Unit 12 Remainder. Was that the intent?
35 Michael. Okay. We're still looking for a second though.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That was what he
38 said exactly. Okay. Is there a second?

39
40 MR. ZADRA: I will second that. Dennis.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Dennis. Okay,
43 Dennis. Thank you. Okay. Did we get you covered?

44
45 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good. Okay. We
48 got it moved and seconded. All in favor?

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm just approving the motion to go now to discussion. Okay. We're going to go ahead and have a discussion if you want to go ahead and speak to it.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we -- this is Judy. As we mentioned before, it's a tremendous amount of effort that went into this. And it is very complicated. I thank AITRAC and Ahtna for developing other comments on it. And just a timing question. I think it's great that we'll be able to do a vote today, but hearing that SRC wants to have a working group, I mean, unless SRC is meeting before the Federal Board is meeting, there's not really much of a chance for input. Everybody, of course, could go to the Board meeting and should anything have changed from what we did today, provide your own public testimony. But there's, in a way, there's a short time frame, for, for taking official actions on this. So, I'm glad we have the opportunity today and I support it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Other comments. Go ahead Michael. Yeah.

MR. OPHEIM: Just, yeah, this was a lot of work a lot of information here. Thank you, everybody, for what you guys put together here and the comments and, yeah, I believe I will be supporting this as well, just because of the information that was shared with us. It makes it pretty clear.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other comments? Anyone online on the Council?

MS. CAMINER: Thank you. This is Judy. It's really unfortunate we're in this situation because of such a severe conservation concern, but it sounds like everybody is teaming up to make the best of the situation, and that's what needs to be done under this really rough circumstance.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I agree. It's good. Just for clarification, you know, as the Chairman here, when I go to Regional Council recommendation and I make a motion to support, what I was doing, was trying to get the first and second and approve that motion. And then I go through the discussion, justification and, and a final motion. That's why you guys are always trying to stop me. But.

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1 Anyway, I support it too. Is there anyone else to talk
2 to it? Okay. Nissa, would you please restate the final
3 motion for the record?

4

5 MS. PILCHER: I will do my best. This is
6 Nissa Pilcher again. The motion was to support WP 25-
7 01, as amended by OSM and also as amended, we can sum
8 it up easily by saying by the Eastern Interior Regional
9 Advisory Council.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll go
12 for a vote now. All in favor of the motion, Say Aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?
17 Motion carries.

18

19 MS. PILCHER: Let me just double check.
20 And. Angela, are you on?

21

22 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'm here.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's at least
25 one.

26

27 MS. PILCHER: I am showing Ed that you
28 are there. It looks like you're muted. If you could
29 press star six. (Pause) Well, currently we have five
30 eyes of support. We do need Ed's vote, but I will, I'll
31 make a note of that, and we'll circle back when we can
32 figure out what technical issue we're having where we
33 can't hear him. All right. I have you guys's votes. I
34 just need Ed's so you guys don't have to.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's a
37 little unorthodox.

38

39 MS TOTEMOFF: This is Angela. We're not
40 taking roll call votes. So, it's my understanding that
41 the ayes have it.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.
44 But I think she's trying to make sure for the record.
45 So, it did pass. So, I'm good with that. Okay. With that
46 said, let's take a ten minute pause and stretch out a
47 little bit and come back and tackle the rest of it.
48 Thank you.

49

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You guys
2 ready? Okay. Who am I missing? We lost Michael. Michael's
3 in the back. Okay. I'm ready. I'm more than ready. I'm
4 waiting. I told them that, but they're still talking.
5 Okay, next item on the agenda we're going to move to
6 here is annual report. Nissa, you said you're going to
7 talk to that.

8
9 MS. PILCHER: I sure am. So, Mr. Chair,
10 members of the Council. For the record, my name is Nissa
11 Pilcher and I wanted to draw your attention to the
12 Federal Subsistence Board FY 23 Annual Report reply to
13 the Council, which starts on page 23 of your Supplemental
14 Materials book. This is also found by navigating to the
15 Supplemental Materials tab on the South Central Meeting
16 Materials website, given previously. Once again that is
17 www.doi.gov/subsistence. Under the regions tab, choose
18 South Central and then meeting materials. So, I'm going
19 to quickly run down the list of your guys' topics. I
20 won't read the replies because you do have them in front
21 of you. But please keep these topics in mind as we move
22 to the next agenda item, which will be to formulate your
23 next annual report. So, topic one was to request an
24 ANILCA section 804 analysis be started on the Nelchina
25 Caribou Herd. So, we seem to know how that worked out.
26 Topic two was on how ongoing climate change impacts this
27 region in relation to ocean resources. Topic three was
28 to request the initiation of a review and evaluation of
29 the current C&T use determination process. Topic four
30 was on concerns on the jurisdiction on subsistence
31 shellfish resources in Prince William Sound, and the
32 last topic. Topic five was on the lack of public
33 involvement with the removal of delegation of authority
34 letters. So, the Board appreciates your effort to
35 communicate through your annual report to the Board on
36 issues outside of the regulatory process that affects
37 subsistence users in your region. So, this is not an
38 action item, but it ties in with the next one which is
39 an action item.

40
41 So, the next agenda item is identifying
42 issues for the FY 24 annual report. Once again, Nissa
43 Pilcher Council coordinator for the South Central
44 Regional Advisory Council. Now is the time for the
45 Council to decide what issues to include in your annual
46 report. For your information and updated version of the
47 guidelines for annual reports can be found on page 174
48 of your meeting book. And this is an action item. ANILCA
49 established the annual report as a way to inform the
50 Federal Subsistence Board of regional subsistence uses

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1 and needs, and to provide recommendation recommendations
2 for regional Fish and Wildlife management strategies,
3 policies, standards, guidelines and proposed
4 regulations. Section 805, A3D of ANILCA, stipulates that
5 your annual report should contain identification of
6 current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and
7 wildlife populations within the region, and these are
8 listed on page 174 if I do go too fast. An evaluation
9 of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish
10 and wildlife populations within the region. A
11 recommended strategy for the management of fish and
12 wildlife populations within the region to accommodate
13 such subsistence uses and needs, and recommendations
14 concerning policies, standards, guidelines and
15 regulations to implement the strategy. In order for the
16 Board to adequately understand and respond, if needed,
17 to the Council's annual report. Topics. Council members
18 should discuss in detail on the record the issues that
19 they would like to include in the report. There are some
20 issues that may be better communicated through letter
21 writing instead of in the inclusion in the annual report.
22 Council should indicate whether a topic is informational
23 only or if they would like a response from the Board.
24 If a response is requested, the Council should clearly
25 articulate what they are asking for, such as the
26 Council's requesting a Board action to do X or Y.

27
28 To make the annual report process more
29 productive consider the Board 's authority under title
30 eight of ANILCA when formulating your requests, which
31 is kind of a fancy way of saying just remember what the
32 Board can and can't do when you're asking them to do
33 something. So, your annual report ensures that the Board
34 has the most up to date awareness of issues, concerns,
35 and current events that impacts your subsistence way of
36 life. With your report and recommendations, the Board
37 can make informed decisions on regulatory and policy
38 actions. Items shared today will be drafted into topics
39 of your annual report based on information that is
40 provided today, and the Council will review the draft
41 at your guys' next meeting. In the winter meeting, no
42 additional topics can be added, but you guys will review
43 and, and edit the report. So. But if you can't think of
44 topics to include right now, but you think of something
45 else during this meeting, with the Chair's approval, of
46 course you can bring that back up and add it to the
47 annual report. So, as noted, the bullet points are put
48 -- discuss fully what you guys want on in the annual
49 report and why. And then you guys already do in your
50 annual report, say if it's informational or if you want

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1 the Board to take action. And that's normally teased out
2 of what you guys say. But if you want to go further in
3 that to help in the drafting of the annual report, that's
4 always welcome. And that -- I will turn it back over to
5 the Chair.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. You
8 heard the spiel. It's a good one. And we've been through
9 this quite a few times. So, the Council members online
10 be thinking of what you want to add. We'll just open it
11 up for discussion. You could start -- anyone who wants
12 to add any items. And now, Judy, you're very good at
13 coordinating this thing. So, give us some ideas and we'll
14 just whoever wants to go first. Fine with me. Go ahead.
15 Michael.

16
17 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair. I do think we
18 need to keep number two ongoing climate change impacts.
19 On there. Maybe request some information on funding for
20 the FRMP. And I don't know if this is something we can
21 include or not, but I was in Valdez and talking to one
22 of the elders there. They were trying to have a Potlatch
23 for somebody who had passed, and their desire was for
24 shrimp, and it sounded like there was quite, a, quite a
25 process for them to try and get that done. So, if there
26 was a way, you know, we have ceremonial Moose, things
27 like that. The, you know, is there a way to ask for
28 ceremonial shrimp?

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Which one do you
31 want him to answer to? Go ahead Judy.

32
33 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
34 a couple thoughts, but I don't even know if they're
35 practical or not. One, the discussion we had about
36 contaminants are not part of the FRMP. I don't know if
37 we could ask for a reevaluation of the criteria for the
38 FRMP. And the other one was, and Greg, I'd probably look
39 to you, is there anything we could ask for in terms of,
40 you know, on how the Cook Inlet salmon are doing that
41 the Board might be able to look at or weigh in on.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'll just
44 mention something on the Cook Inlet side. There's,
45 there's so much happening. It's tumultuous times, as you
46 know. And we mentioned it a little bit in my report and
47 other things, of course, the lack of Kings, and they've
48 been studying them forever. The fish are getting smaller
49 and so on and so forth. Silver Salmon. So, I don't know
50 exactly how you'd have the Board look into that. But,

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1 but there's a lot of concern out there, and there's a
2 lot of things happening that I'm privy of, and you all
3 are, too. But our fish and game is depleting at a rapid
4 rate in the State and a lot of things. And I've mentioned
5 this before, you know. Where I grew up, we used to have
6 plenty of kings. We had silvers, we had king crab, we
7 had shrimp. We don't have any of those things now and
8 we don't have clams anymore. And clams was one of our
9 biggest staples. And even on the west side of Cook Inlet,
10 they're getting lower. So, there's needs on this
11 contaminant thing and some of the things, you know, they
12 come up with various reasons why these things are
13 happening, some of them is climate change - it's
14 possible. Something's happening in our food chain. One
15 thing that's been identified to me in, in some of our
16 meetings that -- our last couple of subsistence meetings
17 was that it was shocking to me to see how much hatchery
18 fish is being put into the system.

19
20 And it's taken up a lot of the food in
21 the ocean. You know, there's 70% of the, of the things
22 are hatchery fish all the way from the Pacific Northwest,
23 up around up to the northern side of the western side
24 of Alaska. And a lot of that is coming from Chile and
25 Russia also. But, but I don't know how you, you condense
26 that down to a smaller topic, but definitely we need to
27 be concerned. The Cook Inlet tribes of Cook Inlet, which
28 I am one of them, I'm with the tribe Ninilchik. But we
29 started a fish commission just because we're, we're all
30 very concerned with what's happening. And we kicked off
31 that fish commission with a lot of study, and we had
32 people come in and talk. We were trying to get a fishery
33 and economic zone there. But, I do know that the fish
34 are, are still there for the reds, the commercial
35 fishers, that they're over escaping the Kenai every
36 year. And it's kind of sad. They don't let the setnetters
37 fish anymore. There's a lot of fight amongst user groups,
38 but even, even with the reds being still plentiful,
39 everything else is really demised and it's really a thing
40 of concern. I listen to people all the time that, that
41 come and visit in different places, but the one guy had,
42 he was on the Kuskokwim, they had 36 villages up there.
43 They rotate the years they fish, but everyone fishes
44 maybe once every four years.

45
46 It's very sad, you know, to get kings
47 and stuff. And so you all know this. I mean, I'm not
48 preaching to the choir. I'm just trying to figure out
49 how we could, we could really identify what's going on
50 and help, help our subsistence needs. There's areas of

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1 abundance and there's areas of crashes, and we need to
2 identify how that's happening. My theory is things that
3 living on plankton are doing okay. Things that live off
4 of fish. You know, the orca loves big fat King Salmon.
5 Well, so do I. And I wish the orca would share with me.
6 But you know, we're not we're not, we're not, not getting
7 our fair share, so to speak. But I rambled on quite a
8 bit, but that's kind of my answer, Judy. There's a lot
9 of things - contaminants, it's climate change. It's
10 overfishing, it's allocation of resources. It's
11 trawlers, interception, all that stuff. And someone
12 needs to just do the hard things, you know, sometimes
13 even in the commercial situation, and I know in the
14 Dillingham area they had to shut down fishing for quite
15 a few years. I do know that in Bristol Bay we all think,
16 oh, that's the greatest place on earth for fish and
17 reds. Those things are getting so damn small. They're
18 fishing with little humpy gear now. And they kept going
19 down sizes and sizes. So, I'm getting old too. But I'm,
20 I'm heeding the warning. Well. Thank you.

21
22 MR ZADRA: Thank you. Oh, for the record,
23 Dennis, Dennis Zadra. I think what might be important
24 to you if we could somehow investigate the effect of the
25 Chitina Subdistrict personal use fishery on the
26 Federally, Federal subsistence fishery. The research
27 I've done, that's, that's the only fishery on the Copper
28 River system that's expanding while the rest of them are
29 getting less and less.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Excuse me,
32 anyone online want to add to our annual list here?

33
34 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa.
35 Clarification, the Chairman means anyone on the Council,
36 so. Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone on the
39 Council? Thank you. Yeah, we could throw it out too.

40
41 MS TOTEMOFF: This is Angela. I have
42 nothing to add at this time.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela. Anyone
45 else? Did you want to look at our list? You want us to
46 do some more? But as we go -- we've got a good start, I
47 think. And as we go through the day and a little tomorrow
48 we'll, we'll add to it if something comes to mind. Go
49 ahead.

50

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1 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
2 record. Just. Do you guys want me to run through? Sure.
3 There. And then that way it might help when you go to
4 make a motion. Because this is an action item. All right,
5 so the topics listed that I have is to carry over topic
6 two, which was the ongoing climate change that impacts
7 this region in relation to ocean resources. That was
8 kind of an informational based request to the Board. You
9 guys didn't say you wanted something to be done. It was
10 just making the Board aware. I mean, they're aware, but
11 putting it in the report to make sure that they, they
12 know that you guys -- I am screwing this all up. Anyhow,
13 it was informational. You just wanted to make sure the
14 Board is on the same page as the Council. Let's try that
15 one. Other topic was how to allow for shrimp and
16 shellfish as Federal subsistence ceremonial harvest. Did
17 you want to expand it or just keep it as shrimp?

18
19 MR. OPHEIM: I think right now, just keep
20 it at shrimp. Okay?

21
22 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Just keep it at
23 shrimp. Review the FRMP process to evaluate criteria for
24 how to allow for contaminant testing to be funded through
25 this process. That would be an action item of --
26 basically requesting to evaluate the criteria. Another
27 topic which would be informational. And Chairman
28 Encelewski did put quite a bit on the record, so I won't
29 go all the way through it, but it was an informational
30 topic on the wildlife and fish are being depleted at a
31 rapid rate in the region. And the -- strongly encourage
32 investigation of why this is happening. And then as,
33 because, in order to move forward with fixing it, you -
34 - there needs to be identification on why this is
35 happening. And then take necessary action to reverse it,
36 even if it is difficult. Is that those are the topics
37 that I wrote down.

38
39 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Yes, thanks
40 Nissa. I think that's a great summary. I'm wondering
41 with that number two, if there is something we can we
42 don't have to do it now, but maybe we can brainstorm a
43 little bit as to how to make that topic two more of a
44 question that we would like the Board to respond to or
45 make a recommendation on the climate change. Yeah.

46
47 MR. OPHEIM: Just one other thought.
48 There's been a lot of discussion and everything about
49 the listing of king salmon and its habitat. I don't know
50 if we want to get that into our report to the Board

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1 somehow informational or asking for information. I'm not
2 sure.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think it'd be
5 good. It's not only habitat, it's. It's intercept. It's
6 all kinds of usage. Go ahead Dennis.

7
8 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, I did in that summary,
9 I did not hear anything about the Chitina subdistrict
10 personal use fishery.

11
12 MS. PILCHER: That was on the next page
13 that I didn't scroll to. My apologies. Yes. Okay. Thank
14 you. And investigation of the personal use fishery. And
15 how it impacts the Federal subsistence fishery. My
16 apologies. And I did now add the listing of Chinook and
17 habitat. And just to let the Council know on your agenda
18 there is an update. There is written in an update by
19 NOAA on the request to list Chinook Salmon in the Gulf
20 of Alaska. While the information is in your packet, the
21 individual that was going to give the presentation ended
22 up not being able to. So, hopefully we can circle back
23 and see where we are in the winter meeting and actually
24 get that presentation more updated.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We want to have
27 a motion to support that list.

28
29 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make a motion to
30 support the list of information that we want to put in
31 our report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
34 Second.

35
36 MR. ZADRA: I'll second.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
39 Dennis. Any other discussion? Hearing none. All in favor
40 of our new list, signify by saying aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. All
45 ayes. Got it. It's over. You're still trying to find
46 someone, but I got all the ayes. Ed, we heard you. Thank
47 you. Okay, our next item here is we have relevant Alaska
48 -- and we mean relevant Alaska Board of Fish proposals.
49 And Mark, you requested to talk first, and we got a hand
50 out from you. So, is he here? Yeah, he could come up

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1 and. And the reason I state this, we want we want to
2 definitely listen to the proposals. We don't want to get
3 into all the State proposals. But he has specifically
4 51, 52, 53 and a few others, I think. Thank you.
5

6 MR MILLER: I am here, as the Chair
7 indicated, to introduce proposal number 51 to the Alaska
8 Board of Fisheries for this current Board cycle for the
9 Prince William Sound area. This is a proposal submitted
10 by Wrangell-saint Elias National Park and Preserve, and
11 I'm going to speak from this handout right here. I'm
12 going to go over the issue statement, the proposed
13 regulatory change, and then there's lots of details that
14 follow in the handout. And I'm just going to give a
15 broad overview of those. And then I'll pause for, for
16 questions. So, the issue at hand to be addressed by this
17 proposal, and I'm just reading from the proposal that
18 the park submitted to the Board. Management of the Copper
19 River District Commercial fishery by the Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game, or the Department; in five
21 of the most recent years, 2018 to 2023, resulted in
22 disproportionately high harvest or exploitation rates
23 for early-run Copper River salmon stocks without action
24 by the Board to mitigate this issue, persistent,
25 disproportionate exploitation of stocks with early
26 migratory timing has the potential to diminish the
27 overall population diversity of Copper River sockeye and
28 king salmon, while threatening food security for Copper
29 River subsistence users. And particularly those who fish
30 upstream of the Quyana River of the Gakona River in the
31 uppermost portion of the Glennallen subdistrict. And
32 later in my presentation, I'll. I'll describe what we
33 mean by disproportionate. The proposed regulatory change
34 is as follows. Revise the Copper River district salmon
35 management plan as follows, with the revised text
36 underlined in bold.
37

38 There's an -- bold, underlined excerpt
39 is on the first page, and you'll see the context in the
40 full management plan on the second page. The language
41 is as follows. The department shall manage the Copper
42 River District commercial salmon fishery to conserve and
43 avoid disproportionate exploitation of early run Copper
44 River sockeye and king salmon stocks by comparing
45 cumulative sonar passage and management objectives by
46 date, as follows. After two commercial drift gillnet
47 openings, the Copper River district shall not open to
48 commercial drift gillnet fishing when cumulative sonar
49 passage is less than 70% of the cumulative management
50 objective for the same date. That's the proposed

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1 regulatory change. On the second page you can see the
2 full management plan there. The, the proposed language
3 is again repeated at the bottom there. I'm not going to
4 go over the management plan in detail, but you can see
5 that upper portion describes the composition of, or the
6 disposition rather of, of salmon that the commercial
7 fishery manager is required to enable passage into the
8 river to meet these fisheries. Allocation needs, not
9 formal allocation, but proportions of salmon entering
10 the river by these different fisheries. And to account
11 as well for lower bound escapement goal for both Chinook
12 and Sockeye Salmon. So, now I'm going to move to page
13 three which looks like this -- a bunch of figures, a
14 couple of figures on the page. And I'm going to orient
15 you to these figures because they're key to management
16 of the fishery in season.

17
18 And the top version is a depiction of,
19 in 2019, the daily sonar passage. And, so, a figure more
20 or less just like this is developed and dated throughout
21 the course of the season by the Alaska Department of
22 Fish and Game and is available on a department website.
23 The, the green curve there is the daily management
24 objective curve that's established preseason on the
25 basis of historic run timing and the minimum number of
26 salmon required to meet that in-river goal that's in the
27 management plan on the previous page. So, that, that's
28 posted on the website at the beginning of the season,
29 and that doesn't change. That's the basis for the
30 commercial manager. He compares what's happening in the
31 fishery with how many fish that have to enter the river
32 in order to meet that minimum green curve. And then the
33 blue curve is the actual daily sonar count at the Miles
34 Lake sonar, where the fish passage is counted as the
35 fish enter the river upstream. Or rather, yeah, upstream
36 of the commercial fishery. And that, that blue curve is
37 updated on a daily basis over the course of the season,
38 once the sonar is installed in mid to late May. The, the
39 bottom curves are similar, basically the same, except
40 rather than in the top curve, those are daily numbers.
41 And then the bottom curves are cumulative numbers. So,
42 again, the cumulative curve is established by the
43 department preseason. Because it's just a sum of the,
44 of the daily counts and the upper curves.

45
46 So, that's just the cumulative counts.
47 The same numbers just summed over the course of the
48 season. And then, likewise, the blue curve grows over
49 the course of the season. And our regulatory proposal
50 indicates it refers to 70%, 70% of the management

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1 objective curve. That's the management objective curve,
2 it's the green curve. And so the red curve is 70% of the
3 green curve. And our proposal has to do with when the
4 when the blue curve crosses the red curve. Okay. I'm
5 going to move on. Page, page four now. So, thus far I
6 just oriented you to the figures and, and the data
7 streams and how they play out in season and how they,
8 how they affect management. And now, at -- what I'm
9 going to do here is actually use 2019 as that year, as
10 an actual example. And in the, in the top figure. (Pause)
11 I'm going to pause. (Pause) Sounded spooky. Okay, so
12 2019 as an example. So, those same curves, the blue and
13 the green curve, are curves -- are there in that upper
14 figure there. They're shorter because the, the y axis
15 is bigger. And in this case we have commercial harvest
16 which occurs in the episodes are like 12 to 24 hour
17 periods, sometimes longer. Those are the black bars. And
18 they're, they're scaled so that the, the black bars are
19 scaled to the same scale as the sonar passage, the actual
20 sonar passage and the objectives passage. And then, down
21 below, is the similar thing where the commercial harvest
22 is superimposed on the cumulative curves.

23
24 And then the fourth thing I want to
25 point out here is, remember I mentioned we use the word
26 disproportionate or proportionate in the, in the, in the
27 language in the proposal, and I'm going to show you what
28 I mean. And this may be hard to read, but what we want
29 to happen ideally, and the department manages ideally
30 such that the, the curve for the commercial harvest
31 matches the shape of the curve for the sonar passage.
32 The commercial harvest curve should match the, the sonar
33 curve. And so, you can eyeball it that the shape should
34 match and therefore be proportionate. And in, in 2019
35 they're pretty darn proportionate. Proportionate to one
36 another such that the, you know, if you actually run the
37 numbers they're within like 5% of each other over the,
38 over the stat weeks. As you over the weeks as you
39 progress through the season. And that's a good, that's
40 a good outcome. We like that outcome. Okay. Moving on
41 to page five. So, now so that was 2019 as an example.
42 Just showing the, showing the harvest in relation to the
43 actual passage and the management objective and the
44 proportion -- proportionality of those numbers. And 2023
45 now is a counter example, much different. And let's go
46 ahead and turn the page again to page six. Because I've,
47 I've annotated those, those figures from page four a
48 little bit. So, at the top the main, the main point of
49 the top figure is that we see, we see what happened in
50 2023.

1
2 If you compare the green curve which is
3 the objective, versus the blue curve, which is the actual
4 run, that there was an early season sonar deficit and
5 that there was later in the season, there was a sonar
6 surplus such that there were a lot more fish entering
7 the river later in the season than were required by the
8 management objective. So, that's a sonar deficit early
9 and a sonar surplus later. And then if you look at the
10 bottom figure this is important because now you can see
11 that that blue curve, which is the actual sonar passage,
12 the cumulative passage for a significant amount of the
13 early part of the season, is actually below that red
14 line, right? Below that red curve, which is what we're
15 proposing as a management threshold, and that the blue
16 curve doesn't cross or the red. Yeah, the blue curve
17 doesn't cross the red curve, the management trigger
18 until June 17th. Okay. In contrast with 2019 when that,
19 when that blue curve, the actual sonar cumulative was
20 above the red curve all season long. Okay, turn the page
21 again. Now, this is page seven. We're on page seven
22 together. There's a lot going on here. So, these are the
23 same figures. But in this case, I've superimposed like
24 where is that. There's that 70% date. So, you can see
25 where that occurs in that upper figure, I've identified,
26 I've identified that that June 17th 70% date.

27
28 And then that dashed rectangle. What
29 that does is it's, it's framed in such a way that, you
30 know, you see the two the first two openers are outside
31 the rectangle, right. And then the, the proposed
32 regulatory change comes into effect. And, and that's
33 what's depicted by that rectangle. Now, the important
34 thing is if, if this regulation were to be adopted by
35 the Board, it wouldn't -- There's, there's six openers
36 in that rectangle that would be affected by, by this
37 proposal. But that does not mean that all six openers
38 would be closed. It would definitely affect the first 1
39 or 2, probably the first two. But those, those fish that
40 weren't harvested are going to stay in the river and
41 they're going to pass the sonar. Right. And that's going
42 to change the relationship of the blue curve to the red
43 curve. And so that's an important point to consider. Not
44 all six of those openers would be closed. Likely only
45 the first 1 or 2. Those fish would go upriver across the
46 sonar and the curves would change. And it would affect
47 the management decision making. And you could go, we
48 could go through different scenarios as to how that might
49 play out, but it's sort of conjecture. Okay. The other,
50 I guess the other thing I want to point out on this one

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1 page. On page seven is, remember 2019, I suggested that
2 we visually compare the shape of the harvest curve. To
3 the shape of the blue sonar passage.
4

5 And they were proportionate in 2019. But
6 here, if you do that same sort of visual comparison,
7 they're disproportionate early in the season. And that's
8 what we mean by disproportionate harvest. And we can put
9 numbers on those. And we have. So, we could quant -- so,
10 we can quantify patterns in proportionality or
11 disproportionality among years over time. Okay. Moving
12 moving on. Page eight. We're done with those complicated
13 figures now. Now, these are a bunch of sort of snapshots
14 of trends in data, and I'm just going to gloss over
15 these. The point is that this, this pattern of
16 disproportionality is increasing in frequency and
17 magnitude over time. And these are the, each of these
18 different little boxes are, are different versions of
19 that general generalization. And then there are then
20 impacts. Actually, the bottom two in that set of six
21 have to do with trends in the in the percent of sockeye
22 harvest, and the trend in the percent of harvest of
23 Chinook that correspond with that same pattern. Okay,
24 let's turn the page again. And now we're looking at a
25 map. Thus far, we've just been talking. We haven't been
26 talking about implications for Federal subsistence
27 users. So, this map is the first step towards that. This
28 is a map of the Glennallen subdistrict upriver. So, the
29 you know, for orientation the commercial fishery is well
30 below the, the map. Right. We don't see that. This is
31 the Glennallen subdistrict. And it's divided into three
32 reaches that are depicted by, by those red lines across
33 the river.
34

35 And they're subdivided into those three
36 reaches. For purpose of comparing harvest levels in
37 relation to ANS amounts. Amounts Necessary for
38 Subsistence established by the Board back in 2005. And
39 what, what we're going to focus on, on the next page is
40 that uppermost reach, which is the Gakona to Slana reach.
41 So, before we turn that page, let's just reflect on what
42 we're talking about. So, in, in some years and over a
43 period of time, there's increasing frequency and
44 magnitude of disproportionate early season harvest.
45 Which has an impact on early run stocks and in general
46 terms, you know, early run stocks enter the, enter the
47 river early because they're destined for the uppermost
48 tributaries. So, we're drawing a connection between
49 increasing disproportionality in early season harvest
50 and potential impacts on harvesters in the upper

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1 headwaters. Okay, so that's that connection and the
2 geography. Now, turn the page to the last, the last page
3 and the top half is the same as the previous couple
4 pages that you saw. That's just an -- I've squished them
5 to fit the lower numbers at the bottom of the page. And
6 what we see at the bottom of the page. There's two
7 patterns I want to point out to you. So, in general, in
8 the, in the yellow highlighted box, harvest patterns in
9 the Federal subsistence fishery in the Gakona to Slana
10 reach are as follows. Put the box on the left that shows
11 the trend in harvest total salmon per permit, and you
12 can see that trend from the 2004 to 2013 time period.
13 85 per permit, then the next ten year period. 64 or 65
14 on average.

15
16 Salmon per permit. And then in the most
17 recent five years, about 46 salmon per permit. Of course,
18 there's, there's different variables that affect that.
19 So, the box to the right is an attempt to standardize a
20 little bit more, to control for different variables that
21 may affect harvest per permit. And that right hand box
22 is trend in harvest per day fished. And we -- that's one
23 metric for catch per unit effort right. It's like how
24 many how many fish did you catch when you had your wheel
25 operating one day? Of course, we don't know for how many
26 hours it was operating it for one day. So, there's still
27 a variable not accounted for here, but it's one metric
28 of catch per unit effort. And you can see that same
29 declining pattern from the 2004 to 2013 period. It was
30 22.5. Then, the next ten-year period it dropped slightly
31 to 19.4. And during the most recent five-year period,
32 it's 14.2. And then at the very bottom, there's the
33 permit level ANS amount, which is about 76. So, you can
34 compare that to the left hand box at the bottom. Like
35 what? What do those numbers mean relative to the ANS
36 amounts established for that reach. And that that
37 concludes my presentation and I can take questions if
38 any.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead
41 Dennis.

42
43 MR. ZADRA: Oh yeah. For the record,
44 Dennis Zadra from Cordova. So, I'm not a fisheries
45 biologist, but I've been sitting in gillnet and the
46 commercial fishery for every year for 33 years. And I
47 have a lot of problems with this and the way the data
48 and what's being presented, the three proposals are
49 pretty similar. It's just we're going to blanketly tie
50 ADF&G hands for any kind of management in years of excess

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1 and all that, we're just going to have to keep us held.
2 This year, commercially, we fished two days of the first
3 23 days of that river. That was 8.7% of the time. Your
4 proposal, I think, will reduce that to 4% of the time
5 in a year, similar to this year. Is that 4%? Do you feel
6 that that is what's going to get all the subsistence
7 users their fish?

8
9 MR MILLER: For the Council member,
10 that's a good acknowledge. It's a good question. First,
11 I don't think the I don't think the percentage decline
12 in the commercial fishery would be -- it's hard to know
13 what it would be exactly. But back to that, back to that
14 point that I made. With the dashed box that like, not
15 all in. And that was an example from 2023, not all of
16 those six openers would have been closed, right. The
17 first, the first 1 or 2 likely would have been closed,
18 right. Per, Per the proposal that we've submitted to
19 enable more fish into the river. And that would have
20 changed the sonar passage, and it likely would have, you
21 know, then sonar, the observed sonar passage would have
22 gotten above that 70% threshold. And then the, and then
23 the commercial fishery would have would gone, would have
24 gone on as operated as it operates normally under the
25 discretion of the commercial manager. The other, the
26 other point is that we can see from that one figure also
27 in 2019, in the in that good year that there, there was
28 ample there was a lot of surplus actually.

29
30 No, it was the 2023 figure where there
31 was a -- an imbalance early in the season and a great
32 surplus later in the season, and so the commercial
33 harvest can occur during the surplus period of time. I
34 think there was another part of your question. I think
35 it had to do with -- and correct me if I, if I
36 misremember, whether the change in the commercial
37 fishery would how that would affect the upriver
38 subsistence users in terms of the proportion of fish
39 they have access to. But in general, you know, the
40 commercial fishery, if one looks at the long-term data,
41 the commercial fishery accounts for about 80% of the
42 total harvest of Copper River Sockeye Salmon. And so
43 relatively small changes in operations of the fishery
44 at the mouth, I acknowledge it has impacts on the
45 individual harvesters, such as yourself, participants
46 in the commercial fishery. But overall, those changes
47 in operations of the, of the commercial fishery down
48 below have significant impacts upstream. They, you know,
49 the commercial fishery on average accounts for 80% of
50 the harvest.

1

2 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Through the Chair, if
3 I may. Dennis Zadra again. Yeah. That figure comes out
4 a lot. I have been to a lot of Board of Fish meetings
5 and all. That's a 20-year figure. And yeah, you know,
6 20 years ago, we were catching a lot of fish. I would
7 encourage you to run those figures again for the last
8 five-year average and see what percentage of the, of the
9 the catch is there. Two of the years, from 2018 and I
10 believe possibly 2020, the personal use fishery
11 harvested more than the commercial fishery did. So, that
12 data is not accurate. The other thing that this curve
13 really fails to look at is these runs are getting staged
14 later and later. You know everybody's saying these fish
15 are coming in later. Well, that, that green line does
16 not account for that. That's a ten-year average. If you
17 take your green line in 2023 and move that over a week.
18 It almost mirrors the blue line. But. And remember, once
19 all this harvest, all this over there, those fish are
20 gone. We can't catch those fish. Everything above the
21 green line, below the blue line, is forsaken commercial
22 harvest. Looking at your 2023 data, we would have crossed
23 the blue line. It looks like about the 17th of June. On
24 the 17th of June, we were given 36 hours of fishing
25 because there were so many fish over the river that they
26 wanted us to catch them. And again, we can't run up
27 there and catch them. They're already gone. And I just
28 wonder, and I haven't done the math, but I can -- if we
29 would have missed the opener we had on June 8th, if we
30 would have missed the opener that we had on June 11th
31 for 24, for 24 hours, the opener on June 14th for 24
32 hours, And the opener on the 17th for 36 hours. All that
33 commercial harvest would have then been escapement. And
34 how much over-escapement do you think that would have
35 given to the Copper River? The Copper River does not do
36 good with over escapement.

37

38 MR. MILLER: I can't provide a good
39 estimate for that. I understand, I understand the point
40 you're making and your concern. I do want to add on, on
41 the, on your point about how the runs are getting later
42 and that's what's attributable or that's a factor in
43 this. It's -- I think it's important to recognize that
44 like I've looked at the, the record from 2003 to current
45 and the five years when this when this so-called
46 imbalance or excuse me, imbalance between harvest and
47 sonar passage. The top five years for, for those numbers
48 the degree of disproportionality. Two of those years
49 were 2018 and 2020. So, you know, when the numbers
50 appear, appear disproportionate early in the season,

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1 it's not always attributable to it being a late run that
2 in some cases, like in 2018 and 2020, those numbers
3 indicate they're, they're early indications of low runs
4 that are conservation concerns. Not just late runs but
5 low runs.

6
7 MR. ZADRA: And I don't mean to turn this
8 into a debate. Dennis Zadra again, the managers used to
9 use the commercial fleet and the harvest as an indicator
10 of the strength of the run. You know, that river has a
11 capacity to get really loaded up with fish before any
12 are counted over the over the counter and again once
13 they're gone. And so that part is not really taken into
14 into consideration. If we didn't, we used to fish three
15 24 hour periods with the inside open. And then we saw
16 what we caught and then we were adjusted accordingly.
17 Now we're lucky to get two, maybe three, 12-hour periods,
18 and then we're usually shut down at that. But even if
19 we weren't shut down, if we just got our 12-hour periods,
20 that's less than 15% of the time that we're fishing in
21 front of the river. You know, 85% of the time the fish
22 have free passage. So, I'm just a -- I don't see the
23 logic in saying, well, we just cut that down more that
24 it's going to solve the upper river issues, you know,
25 and. That's all I have.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
28 you. Judy, did you have a comment? No, no, just just so
29 you gentlemen know, 3:45 is the cutoff for this debate.
30 Because I, I need to get another thing in before we
31 close at four. Okay, so go ahead.

32
33 MR. MILLER: I can take more questions.
34 I have nothing further to, to add.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone have any
37 more questions? Mark. Thank you. That was good
38 information. We'll have to figure out how it's relevant.
39 Yes.

40
41 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Dennis Zadra for the
42 for the record, just to remind everyone, we are listening
43 to these proposals in Cordova at the Board of Fish. So,
44 if it's important to you, show up and argue your case
45 before the Board. Thanks.

46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Dennis. Do you
47 have additional stuff you wanted to add to those three
48 proposals there? I have. Some people that want to talk
49 to it too. Yeah, there's 51, 52 and 53. So, do we want
50

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1 to take a take a gander at the 52 53? I also have several
2 people that want to talk to these two. So.

3

4 MR. ZADRA: Dennis Zadra. For the record,
5 I don't have anything further on this. No.

6

7

8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
9 Okay. Ryan, do you want to come up here? Is there a Ryan
10 in here? Here you are. You've got the relevant Board
11 proposals here. And so, if you want to go ahead and
12 address the Council, that'd be great.

13

14 MR. ASTALOS: Thank you. My name is Ryan
15 Astalos. I live in Anchorage and representing myself
16 today. I attended the Anchorage AC meeting this week.
17 And also, the reason I'm speaking is, is because I
18 noticed on your agenda you're speaking to the topic of
19 bycatch. I've noticed that the other nine RACs have
20 written letters on that, and I was pointing to this
21 section of the Board of Fish, and so I'm here to talk
22 as myself and not affiliated with the authors of the
23 proposal, but I just wanted to bring up to your attention
24 that there are four proposals surrounding the Prince
25 William Sound State managed trawl fishery. Three of
26 those were put together by Chenega IRA Council, and the
27 fourth was Alaska Outdoor Council. And two of them are
28 centered around closing the trawl fishery together. One
29 is changing the bycatch amounts and how they're
30 configured from a pounds to -- or excuse me, from
31 percentage to pounds. And the fourth is about observer
32 coverage. And I just wanted to bring them up to your
33 attention. You know, I've sat here and listened to a lot
34 of the different issues that you've discussed. And the
35 fish coming back to rivers is, you know, very important
36 to subsistence users. And this particular trawl industry
37 that's managed by the State in Prince William Sound is
38 also the same boats that are fishing the Federal waters,
39 which goes from mile 3 to 200 managed by the North
40 Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

41

42 And in the process, and why it's
43 important is, is these trawl vessels are
44 indiscriminately fishing for pollock, which is used for
45 fish sticks and alike. They are bycatching Chinook
46 salmon and shortraker and rockfish which are non-pelagic
47 fish, which means that they're at the bottom of the
48 ocean. And this is supposed to be a pelagic fishery,
49 meaning that they're midwater. So, I think the
50 importance that I'm trying to make here is that for the

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1 habitat of the various different species, and for
2 reducing the amount of bycatch, you know, these
3 proposals are important. I just wanted to bring it up
4 to your attention. And, this is my first meeting. Thanks
5 to Nissa telling me about it and coming here. But, like,
6 I don't know if there's an action item of, like, sending
7 a letter of support or what have you, but that's just
8 kind of where I'm coming from. And I emailed these to
9 Nissa, but I also have two hard copies if anyone wants
10 them.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
13 you. Yeah, I wouldn't mind a hard copy of it. Yeah, it's
14 definitely the -- the issue affects Federal fish
15 (indiscernible) and all. So, they're very important
16 issues. And I know that they often as we mentioned
17 earlier this morning, they're going to be taking up a
18 lot of stuff on this trawl fishery also, on their
19 subsistence committees that they moved. And here on the
20 Federal fishery, we definitely want to look at anything
21 that may impact subsistence or anything like that
22 upriver or downriver, in between the river. Someone
23 else's river, any Federal qualified users. So, thank you
24 for bringing that attention. Questions for Ryan. Go
25 ahead. If someone's got a question, go ahead. Judy.

26
27 MS. CAMINER: This is Judy. Thank you,
28 Ryan, for coming here. Not really a question, but just
29 so you know, the Federal Subsistence Board does always
30 have a representative from the Office of Subsistence
31 Management at the Board of Fisheries meeting. So, we'll
32 make sure he's aware of these concerns.

33
34 MR. ASTALOS: Thank you for that
35 information.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you
38 much. No questions.

39
40 MR. ASTALOS: Thank you. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Karen, I got
43 your blue slip next, if you want to come up.

44
45 Speaker11: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nissa
46 might want to pull up that slide or the, the graphics
47 that we sent.

48
49 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa. For the
50 record, I have been trying to get my computer to talk

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1 back with that because that was so easy today. That's
2 why I accidentally rolled that up. I can't make it work.
3 And I don't know what's going on, but I do have it on
4 my computer, and I will try to figure out how to get it
5 somewhere. Okay.

6
7 MS. LINELL: If we can just get that
8 printed and or emailed out to them so that they can see
9 it before they make any decisions today, that would be
10 great. Thank you. Thank you. For the record, my name is
11 Karen Linnell, executive director for Ahtna Inter-Tribal
12 Resource Commission. And I'm speaking on behalf of the,
13 the eight Federally recognized tribes. Seven of whom are
14 dependent on the salmon that returns onto the Copper
15 River. We wrote a proposal trying to look at proposal
16 52 to look at shifting the dates, having a test run,
17 openers for commercial fisheries, and then waiting until
18 they meet a management objective date. But we're also
19 supportive of proposal 51. It hadn't been submitted when
20 we submitted ours. So, and we're, we appreciate
21 Wrangell-St. Elias and Mark Miller in their efforts to,
22 to address concerns that were raised during, I think,
23 it was the first few months of Marc's tenure at Wrangell-
24 St. Elias. His first meeting with me got an earful when
25 we were getting a preseason report from our department,
26 Department game fisheries manager Mark Summerville at
27 the, at our office with tribal citizens present and
28 getting to hear how bad the fishery was going to be in
29 2018. And that we weren't getting the amounts necessary
30 for subsistence in, in the upper reaches of the of the
31 Copper River. One of the things that, you know, Mr.
32 Zadra brought up about the later returns of the fish.
33 But one of the things that hasn't changed is they
34 continue even though the fish are coming back later,
35 they continue to have openers at the beginning of or mid
36 early, mid-May. And that hasn't changed. The late
37 returns are the ones that go the farthest. They go to,
38 to Benson Eddy and Tanana and up into Copper Lake. And
39 Fish, Fish Lake up by Mentasta. Those are the fish that
40 go the farthest. And we're not seeing those counts. In
41 the graphic that I sent to or that we sent to Nissa that
42 you'll get, you'll see that although they were at that
43 the harvest above Gakona to Slana and into Benson Eddy,
44 was at the lowest ever at 2,000 Salmon harvested. That
45 that, was despite the fact that they were at 71% over
46 the management objective. So, the fish were coming in
47 the river, but they weren't reaching the furthest north.
48 And that's why the earlier closures are so important,
49 so that we get that escapement farther upriver. And I'm
50 speaking to you, Dennis, so that you can understand where

000104

1 I'm coming from, because that's where my fish camp is.
2 Catherine Martin, who's also on the call. Her fish camp
3 is at Benson Eddy. Katie John's birthplace. And so, you
4 know, this -- sometimes I hear from our State manager
5 that we're not putting in effort. We run our wheels when
6 you run them for 24 hours and you only get two fish.
7 That's not good numbers. And so the way we were taught
8 was to shut our wheel down to stop it, to let that little
9 bit escape. We also have it the other way. When you're
10 getting too much and you you're catching lots, you stop
11 it so that you can let some go by to look at that
12 sustainability. And you mentioned over escapement. I
13 serve on the National Fish Habitat Partnership Board.
14 And I sit on that Board with a bunch of scientists from
15 all over the country. And I was sitting at lunch with
16 some scientists with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and
17 I was asking them to explain to me what over escapement
18 is. He said he never heard the term. It's only a term
19 heard in Alaska. There is no such term as over
20 escapement. When it was only the Ahtna people on that
21 river, there was never over escapement. We had abundant
22 fish and you could almost walk across Siłak Nuna Creek
23 with the number of king salmon that were coming in there.
24 Now you're lucky to see 12, 16 kings in that, you know,
25 20 kings in that river, in that creek. And and it's not,
26 you know, because we're overfishing it.

27
28 We used to just go down there just to
29 watch them. It's just, it's a beautiful sight and we're
30 not seeing that anymore. We haven't seen that for a
31 while. When I first moved back to my dad's birthplace
32 and, and fish camp about 15 years ago, I could fill my
33 permit. I haven't filled my permit in -- The biggest run
34 that ever hit Chistochina was 45, and that was the day
35 that I had to go to a meeting. So, that fish went to my
36 auntie. And so that's, that's the way it's been, you
37 know, it's been very slow. After that, it dropped down
38 to 2 or 3 a day again. And, and so it makes it difficult
39 to, for people to use it. And so what we've been doing
40 is I have a fish wheel. My cousin Ernie has a wheel, my
41 uncle Guilherme has a wheel, and my Aunt Lena has a
42 wheel. And one person is collecting. We're, we're
43 pooling them together in order to process, you know.
44 Hands and practically dragging them on the ground with
45 the King Salmon. They were so big. Now I had a King
46 Salmon like I reported earlier, that was about the size
47 of a trout. And that's been going on for quite some
48 time. Thank you for getting this handout out. So, if you
49 look at it, that amount necessary for subsistence for
50

000105

1 the Gakona to Slana area and Benson Eddy was set in 2006
2 and it's only been met twice.

3
4 If you look on the other side, the from
5 Tonsina River to Gakona, the ANS was set again in 2006,
6 and they have not met it since 2018. That's really close
7 to Chitina. And then even in Chitina from Chitina Bridge
8 to Tonsina, they, -- out of -- since 2016, they met at
9 twice 2016, 2019 and 2023. So, it's not for lack of
10 trying. It's, it's there's changes that are happening
11 in the river and the run timing. The other thing that
12 isn't taken into consideration with the department's
13 management objectives and their escapement or in-river
14 goals, I've got to say, in river goals, because it's not
15 escapement, they're doing math. They believe they have
16 the finger on the pulse of what's happening with personal
17 use fishery and the number of folks that are fishing
18 that. And we can always agree on that one, that it's
19 increasing and the pressure that they're putting on and
20 they're targeting them now as an industry, held up during
21 high water. But it's math. They're subtracting what they
22 think is being, being harvested and what is being
23 harvested and reported by those with fishing permits.
24 But it's always done at the end of the year.

25
26 We're not seeing what's happening. We've
27 asked for proposals for week-long or two week-long
28 personal use permits so that we can get more timely
29 reporting. Sometimes they don't punch their ticket and
30 they come back and get more. We've seen personal use
31 fishermen with freezers on trucks, with motorhomes. And
32 then I had staff at O'Brien Creek this year or last,
33 last fall and again this year looking at historical sites
34 and burial grounds that have been desecrated by the state
35 and the railroad and personal use fishermen and, and
36 they had seen the drift net, the, the drift. And it's
37 trawling when you're dragging a net and a moving boat,
38 it's trawling. And it at least by the definition that's
39 in the State regulations. And we tried to address that
40 as well. But they're targeting them while they're held
41 up in the water, high water. And they'll float and down
42 and then come back up and float again, and they get
43 right to the line where it's closest, and they'll drift
44 a little bit past that and then power up and go and
45 that's where the fish are trying to hold up. And so,
46 they're targeting them in those areas. But the burden,
47 the burden of conservation shouldn't be only on the
48 subsistence user as we're the last user. And so, just
49 trying to look at healthy populations. We have to work
50 together or it's going to continue to fail.

000106

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2 I've seen in with one management
3 objective in, in combining all the different species on
4 the river, you and the different stocks and blending
5 them and expecting it to be able to manage to that it
6 causes failure. We've seen it on the Yukon. There --
7 over five years now of not fishing in Canadian First
8 Nations Whitehorse area. They haven't fished in 20
9 years. It broke my heart when I heard that we're not
10 meeting treaty obligations, and I don't want to see that
11 happen on the Copper River. And this year, we did have
12 a Chinook closure under state permits. And the Federal
13 manager was asked to close the retention of Chinooks for
14 Federal subsistence users as well. And, and at least the
15 last report I had is over 8,000 King Salmon were sold.
16 So, you know, it's, it's through commercial fisheries.
17 So, it's a lot more than what we're thinking --
18 expecting. And then we also expect to see additional,
19 additional closure of Chinook in the, in the coming year.
20 They're predicting that it will be low again. So,
21 preliminary discussions anyway. So, those are our
22 concerns. And there's got to be a shift in those. We've
23 got proposals before the Board of Fisheries as well, to
24 address personal use, fisheries and pushing them back a
25 couple of weeks as well. So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank you
28 Karen. Unfortunately, we're going to have to wrap her
29 up here. So, we're going to have to continue this in the
30 morning. But it's almost 4:00. What else you got?

31
32 MS LINNEL: If, if I might, Mr. Chair?
33 We would, we would agree to supporting proposal 51 and
34 taking no action on 52 and 53 based on the work that was
35 done by Mr. Miller and the Park Service and just
36 supporting one proposal.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got a
39 hard stop here quick, but I got two things I need to do.
40 Whether we want to take action on this proposal 51 and,
41 and no action on the other two. We could do that real
42 quickly if you want to do it. We've already lost Angela.
43 But then we have to also get the next -- identify the
44 meeting dates for next winter. So, two items if you want
45 to take them up.

46
47 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, thank you. Well,
48 I wonder if we should wait for Angela to get back on in
49 the morning so we can have a quorum or get someone else
50 on.

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MS. PILCHER: Yeah, I did just realize that with the loss of Angela, we did actually then lose quorum for things other than future meeting dates. I just have her vote for future meeting dates on my phone. We will do, we will do our best for quorum tomorrow. Maybe Heath can call in or Hope. But it may be sketchy tomorrow, which is one of the reasons I wanted to get through the dates today.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: What she's saying is, if we wait, we may not have a quorum. So, we need we need to wrap up something we need today.

MS. PILCHER: Yeah. And we don't have a quorum for the fisheries proposals right now. We only have a quorum for the future meeting dates because Angela let me know what she wanted.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got a little shakiness here, but we're going to get through it. Future meeting dates, anyone? What do we got to confirm?

MS. PILCHER: So, on page 175.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: 175.

MS. PILCHER: Of your meeting book your winter meeting March 12th and 13th in Cordova. And then fall. Where is it? There it is, October 14th and 15th in Anchorage. Angela, let me know that she is available for the fall meeting. She has an overlapping issue with the winter dates. But, it's the will of the Council. Honestly, you could only really move it down the week of the 17th week, of the 24th week, or of the 31st. Because we can't really do two meetings the same week. And all of those are all taken above. So, you could certainly do that.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The only other thing I did discuss with Nissa. We possibly need an alternative for Cordova if there's a boarding problem, but we can still leave it on there and we'll hopefully make it. Okay, I'll entertain a motion to keep the two dates or modify them if you so choose.

MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair. I'll make a motion to keep the four dates that we have currently for the 25 winter and fall meetings.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is there a second to that motion?

MR. ZADRA: I will second that. Dennis.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Dennis. Any other discussion? Hearing none. All in favor of that, Aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed? All right. Thank you. Ed I. Angela. She voted. Aye. All right. So, we got to vote on that. So, we got the future meeting dates covered. Thank you. With that said, we've done a fair amount of business today. There's always a ton to continue. Hopefully we can finish up by early tomorrow afternoon or sooner. So, we'll look bright and early here at 9:30. And bring your lunch or. Oh, no. Let's finish up before lunch. Yeah. Okay. Yeah. No. No lunch. We're going to be on the road. Okay. Well, okay. So, with that, I will just adjourn the meeting until tomorrow.

MS. CAMINER: I assume we can leave everything.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I second we leave our stuff here. Question. Okay. Yeah. Those online. Thank you. We're going to adjourn to 9:30 tomorrow am. All right.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

000109

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 108 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 10th day of October;

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 6th day of November 2024.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager