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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

LARSON CHARLIE COMMUNITY HALL

Galena, Alaska

October 2, 2024

9:00 am

COUNCIL MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff  
Jenny Pelkola  
Tommy Kriska  
Don Honea  
Robert Walker  
Timothy Gervais  
Darrell Vent

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

Recorded and transcribed by:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Galena, Alaska - 10/02/2024)

(On record)

MS. PILCHER: Hey, guys. So, once again, this is Nissa Pilcher. We are waiting for the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting to get going. We had a member that voted in this morning, and it took him a little longer to get here than he was expecting. So, if everyone could just hang tight a little longer. He is in Galena. We're just trying to meet up with him and get him here. But yes, just please hang tight. And thank you very much for your patience. To double check, we were expecting -- I guess. Tim, are you still on?

MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I am.

MS. PILCHER: Okay. Thanks, Tim. And then how about Don or Darrell?

MS. PILCHER: All right, thanks. Once again, thank you very much for your patience. We will get going as soon as we can. Thanks.

(Pause)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we're gonna -- Tommy just came into the room, so we're going to start this meeting up. Can people hear me on the phone?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Phones are open. So, we're.....

UNIDENTIFIED: Well, to clarify Jack, we can hear you on Teams anyway.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And we need --we need to get going here. So, can you give us an invocation, Jenny? And we need to - Robert! Robert! Boomer! We're starting the meeting. I need my gavel.

MS. PELKOLA: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Jenny's going to give us an invocation.

1 MS. PELKOLA: Heavenly father, we thank  
2 you for this beautiful day. We ask that you be with us  
3 as we have to make decisions for our area. Lord God, we  
4 think of the Pitka family. Evans right now, Lord, as  
5 they lost their daughter. And we just ask that everything  
6 goes smoothly for them. Father, be with us again and we  
7 thank you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Amen. So, we're  
10 going to call the meeting to order, which I just wanted  
11 to get that invocation on the record. Call the roll call  
12 and establish quorum. Let's see here. I'll go around the  
13 room first. Well, I'll go on the phone first. Who's --  
14 how many Council members have we got on the phone? Tim,  
15 you still there? Can you hear us fine? Gervais? Can  
16 anybody on the phone hear me?

17  
18 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, I can hear you,  
19 Jack. It looks like Tim's still on. I don't know if he's  
20 just muted right now.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, Tim Gervais  
23 I think you're muted. And Don and Tommy or correction,  
24 Don and Darrell.

25  
26 MS. PILCHER: Don calling in right now.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. And Tim, can  
29 you hear me? Some of our Council members are - their --  
30 you're either muted -- what is -- do you have to push  
31 star six to unmute or if they use that, go ahead and  
32 give the give them a protocol on how to open up.

33  
34 MS. PILCHER: Gotcha. Okay, once again  
35 this is Nissa.....

36  
37 (Simultaneous speech)

38  
39 MR. GERVAIS: Guys, this is Tim.

40  
41 MS. PILCHER: There's Tim. All right. But  
42 I'll give one anyway just for everybody else. So, for  
43 all participants on the phone and online, please  
44 remember to mute yourself when you are not speaking. So,  
45 you can do that either by hitting the mute button on  
46 your phone or -- but you can also press star six and  
47 that will mute you. Star six will also unmute you as  
48 well. So, at times during this meeting, there will be  
49 an opportunity for the public to interact with the  
50 Council, to give public testimony, to give comment. You

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1 can either do that by pressing star six to verbally get  
2 our attention, or if you've joined by MS Teams, you can  
3 hit the raise hand button on the MS Teams. We are also  
4 monitoring that as well. Thanks.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, Tim, you  
7 hear us fine now?

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. You're coming in  
10 clear.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, all right.  
13 And do we have Darrell on the phone? Darrell Vent? And  
14 has Don showed up yet, Don Honea?

15

16 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Could you hear me?

17

18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I can hear you fine  
19 Don. Yeah.

20

21 MR. HONEA: Okay, great. All right. Okay.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You're five by  
24 five. Loud and clear. Do you know where Darrell is? Have  
25 you talked to Darrell today?

26

27 (No response)

28

29 Okay, Darrell's not there. So, I want  
30 to get the Council members on the record. Anyone --  
31 Robert.

32

33 MR. WALKER: Yes.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert's here.  
36 Tommy Kriska.

37

38 MR. KRISKA: Here

39

40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Jenny

41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Here.

43

44

45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And myself Jack  
46 Reakoff. And that covers our Council, all of our Council.

47

48 MS. PELKOLA: Pollock?

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, Pollock, oh  
2 yeah. Has Pollock called in, or do you know what?

3  
4 MS. PILCHER: He has an unexcused  
5 absence. He didn't feel that he would be able to  
6 participate fully with his hearing if he had to call in.  
7 And his.....

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

10  
11 MS. PILCHER: He was -- had some health  
12 issues that kept him at home today.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. I thought  
15 for a while that he was going to call in, but. Okay.  
16 That covers our Council. So, then we're going to cover  
17 the people on the phone, and then I'll go around the  
18 room here and I'll have the room people step up to the  
19 mic there because we want to get this on the record. So,  
20 people on the phone.

21  
22 MS. PILCHER: Hey, guys, this is Nissa  
23 for the record again. What we're going to do is we're  
24 going to go through by affiliation to -- for the most  
25 part. So, if you're a member of the public and not  
26 affiliated with anyone, if you could please introduce  
27 yourself now.

28  
29 MR. HONEA: Could you make me some toast?  
30 Okay.

31  
32 MS. PILCHER: All right. We could hear  
33 somebody talking, but we couldn't quite hear what they  
34 were saying.

35  
36 MR. GERVAIS: That was Don. He was  
37 wanting a cup of coffee.

38  
39 MS. PILCHER: Gotcha, thanks.

40  
41 MR. HONEA: Sorry about that.

42  
43 MS. PILCHER: We all need -- Oh, no  
44 worries, Don. All right, so if there's anyone affiliated  
45 with a tribe or a corporation or any other -- yes tribal  
46 corporation.

47  
48 (No response)

49  
50 All right, how about any NGOs?

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MR. VENT: Hey this is Darrell.

MS. PILCHER: Oh. Hey, Darrell. Thanks for joining. So, now we have Darrell Vent, another Western Interior Regional Advisory Council member on. So, Darrell, just to give you a heads up, we do have quorum. Everybody is either on the phone or in the room, other than Pollock at this point. All right, so moving on with introductions. Anyone from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game online?

MS. STUBY: Good morning, everyone. Lisa Stuby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish. And I'm here in Fairbanks.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Welcome, Lisa.

MS. JALLEN: Hi, Lisa. And hi Jack. This is Deena Jallen with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Yukon River summer season manager also here in Fairbanks.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Deena.

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. GLEASON: Good morning, Mrs. Christie Gleason. The fall season manager here in Fairbanks.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Was that registered? Christie. You're breaking up just a little bit. Good morning, Christie Gleason. Who else do we got?

MS. DECKER: Good morning, everyone, this is Sam Decker with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the Kuskokwim area manager.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: State your name again.

MS. DECKER: Sam Decker with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the Kuskokwim area manager.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thanks so much for calling in.

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1 MS. FISHER: Good morning. My name is  
2 Brooke Fisher, and I work with the Department of Fish  
3 and Game in the Subsistence Division.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, good  
6 morning, Brooke.

7  
8 MR. OLSON: Good morning. Matt Olson,  
9 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks. Fall  
10 season assistant area manager.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
13 Matt.

14  
15 MR. RUNFOLA: David Runfola, Alaska  
16 Department of Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries calling  
17 in from Fairbanks. I work with Sam Decker on the  
18 Kuskokwim.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, good  
21 morning, Dave.

22  
23 MR. RUNFOLA: Good morning.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Any more ADF&G?

26  
27 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Hello. Good morning.  
28 This is Jordan Pruszenski, wildlife biologist with fish  
29 and game. Assistant area biologist for the northeast.  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
33 Jordan. Any more ADF&G?

34  
35 MR. STOUT: This is Glenn Stout with  
36 Alaska Department of Fish Game, the Galena area  
37 biologist. And with me is Justin Jensen, the assistant  
38 area biologist.

39  
40 Good morning, Glenn and Justin. Good to  
41 hear you on. Any more ADF&G?

42  
43 (No response)

44  
45 MS. PILCHER: All right. How about the  
46 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

47  
48 MS. CARROLL: Good morning. This is Holly  
49 Carroll. I'm the Yukon River in-season manager. I'm  
50

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1 attending by Teams. I wish I could be there in person,  
2 though.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
5 Holly.

6  
7 MR. RANSBURY: Good morning. This is  
8 Shane Ransbury. I'm the fisheries biologist up in  
9 Fairbanks for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
12 Shane.

13  
14 MS. FOX: Good morning, everybody. This  
15 is Joanna Fox. I'm the Refuge Manager for Kanuti National  
16 Wildlife Refuge, and I'm in Fairbanks.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
19 Joanna.

20  
21 MS. MORAN: This is Tina Moran. I'm the  
22 Deputy Refuge Manager for Kanuti here in Fairbanks.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Tina.

25  
26 MR. SMITH: Good morning, this is Cody  
27 Smith, law enforcement officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
28 in Fairbanks.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We had crossovers  
31 there. Say your name again.

32  
33 MR. SMITH: Cody Smith. Law enforcement,  
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Good morning.

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning.

37  
38 MR. HARDWOOD: Good morning. This is  
39 Chris Harwood at Kanuti Refuge in Fairbanks.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
42 Chris.

43  
44 MR. KNUDSEN: Good morning. This is Tim  
45 Knudsen, Refuge Biologist at Arctic National Wildlife  
46 Refuge here in Fairbanks.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Say your name  
49 again. I missed that one.

50



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1 MR. KNUDSEN: Tim Knudsen.

2  
3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim. Good morning,  
4 Tim.

5  
6 MS. MICHEALS: Good morning, this is Alex  
7 Michaels at Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. And you're  
10 what position?

11  
12 MS. MICHEALS: A biologist.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Biologist. Okay.  
15 Okay. Anybody else from U.S. Fish and Wildlife?

16  
17 MR. LONG: Good morning. This is Jared  
18 Long, U.S. Fish and Wildlife officer out of Fairbanks.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
21 Gerald.

22  
23 MS. PILCHER: It was Jared, J A R E D.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Jared. Okay, thank  
26 you.

27  
28 MS. KLEIN: Yeah, Hi, good morning. This  
29 is Jill Klein. I'm normally the regional Subsistence  
30 coordinator with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based  
31 in Anchorage, and I'm also currently acting as our deputy  
32 assistant regional director for Fisheries and Aquatic  
33 Conservation. Good morning.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning.  
36 Jill. Anybody else?

37  
38 (No response)

39  
40 MS. PILCHER: All right. How about  
41 National Park Service?

42  
43 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Jack and  
44 Council members. This is Eva Patton with the National  
45 Park Service Regional Subsistence program in Anchorage.  
46 Wish I could be there with you all in Galena too.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Eva.

49  
50 MS. PATTON: Good morning.

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MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is Marcy Okada, subsistence coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, calling from Fairbanks. Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning. Marcy. Is Denali on this call? And Eva, is somebody from Denali going to -- we're going to start including Denali in our discussions because we have sheep issues in the Alaska range. And so, we've been requesting, and we did get their update, and we're going to have anybody from Denali to be discussing this sheep population issues at some point in this meeting.

MS. PATTON: I will touch base with them, Jack, and get back to you to confirm if they'll be able to call in to talk sheep.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Well, Nissa just gave me a note here. Pat Owen is supposed to be taking that discussion.

MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thanks. Got that confirmation.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Anybody else from NPS? BLM?

MS. JULIANUS: Hey, good morning. This is Erin Julianus with BLM and Fairbanks.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Erin.

MS. JULIANUS: Good morning.

MR. BEYERSDORF: Good morning. This is Geoff Beyersdorf. Hello to you, Chairman Reakoff. And to the members of the RAC. I'm with BLM out of Fairbanks as the district manager. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Jeff. Good to hear your voice. Anybody else from BLM?

MS. PILCHER: How about BIA?

(No response)

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Nobody there. And  
2 do we have DOI going to call in on these kinds of things,  
3 or are they going to be participating? Since we're moving  
4 over into this DOI oversight of the OSM?

5  
6 MR. VICKERS: (Indiscernible)

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The DOI.

9  
10 MR. VICKERS: Are they going to have  
11 representation?

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I'm wondering, you  
14 know, they're switching -- OSM is going under DOI and  
15 I'm wondering are they going to overview these Regional  
16 Council meetings or are they going to actually know what  
17 we do? I would like them to be listening in. Go ahead.

18  
19 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair. This is Brent  
20 Vickers from Office of Subsistence Management. We are  
21 going to have some people from the Office of Secretary  
22 visiting meetings this cycle. I believe they're planning  
23 to visit both the Eastern Interior and the Southeast  
24 Council. Beyond that, I know people have been listening  
25 in. We're trying to teach them as much as we can in the  
26 meantime, as much as we can about our whole program. So,  
27 I'm sorry if no one's listening in on this Council  
28 meeting, but I know they are planning to learn more  
29 about and attend in person some of the meetings.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I'll state for  
32 the record here that I feel that OSM should -- you should  
33 contact DOI and tell them to delegate, that you know,  
34 they don't have to come to the meeting, but that somebody  
35 should be listening in for part of this meeting. I want  
36 them to be aware of what they're doing. Going to EIRAC,  
37 they might talk about stuff completely different than  
38 YRAC is going to talk about, southeast going to talk.  
39 Each region has regional things, and I would like them  
40 to listen in at least for half a day, especially when  
41 we're discussing various issues that are important to  
42 this region. They have to know what's going on in this  
43 region, which is not going to be the same for all the -  
44 - just two representative regions. That is just not  
45 acceptable. So, they want to go, they want to take this  
46 program, but I want them to be aware of what this program  
47 actually is doing, because there's a difference of each  
48 one of these Councils, the Federal Subsistence Board.  
49 And I think the DOI needs to be listening in on this  
50 call. Some -- they got plenty of staff. They can just

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1 get somebody to listen in and take a few notes. That's  
2 what I would say.

3

4 MS. LEONETTI: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

7

8 MS. LEONETTI: Crystal Leonetti. I'm  
9 listening (distortion)

10

11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You're breaking  
12 up, stand by, stand by. You're breaking up. You're too  
13 far from your mic. You want to stand, get closer to your  
14 mic.

15

16 MS. LEONETTI: How about now?

17

18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I can hear you.  
19 Good. Who are you?

20

21 MS. LEONETTI: This is Crystal Leonetti  
22 and I'm the Acting Director currently for OSM. I hear  
23 what you're saying loud and clear. And I will definitely  
24 pass that message along. I can tell you that my direct  
25 supervisor in Washington, D.C., Eric Werwa, who is the  
26 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Environmental  
27 management. We attend weekly meetings with him and his  
28 staff. And I also attend regular meetings with Principal  
29 Deputy Assistant Secretary Joan Mooney updating them on  
30 all things going on, including which RAC meetings are  
31 happening. And I will let you know, too, that they are  
32 very interested in coming to Alaska to attend RAC  
33 meetings in person. But I also hear that attending online  
34 is an option and I'll let them know that they can do  
35 that and learn more about each region separately by  
36 attending those separate meetings. So, thank you for  
37 saying that and I will definitely pass that along.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so  
40 much, Crystal. I feel more comfortable with your liaison  
41 position with DOI being involved at this meeting. So, I  
42 didn't know you were on the call. So, thank you very  
43 much. All right. And Nissa.

44

45 MS. PILCHER: Which actually brings me  
46 to the next part of the online introductions. If anyone  
47 from OSM is on, introduce yourself.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, this is Katya  
50 Wessels. Good morning, Jack. Good morning members of the

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1 Council. It's nice to hear you all this morning. And I  
2 am glad that the meeting is happening. So, I'm the  
3 supervisor for the Council Coordination Division with  
4 OSM, but also currently acting as the Deputy for OSM.  
5 And I'm wishing you all successful meeting. Thank you.  
6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
8 Katya. Thanks so much.  
9

10 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning, everybody.  
11 This is Brian Ubelaker, wildlife biologist with OSM.  
12 Sorry I can't be out there in person, but I'll be  
13 monitoring everybody online today.  
14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
16 Brian.  
17

18 MS. GREDIAGN: Hi. This is Lisa  
19 Grediagin, the wildlife division supervisor with OSM.  
20

21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
22 Lisa. Anyone else?  
23

24 MS. MORROW: Hi, this is Kristen Morrow.  
25 Just calling in. I'm the anthropology pathways intern.  
26 Happy to hear everyone's voices this morning.  
27

28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
29 Kristen. And anybody else from OSM?  
30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, Jack. This  
32 is Brooke McDavid. I'm the Council Coordinator for  
33 Eastern Interior. I'm going to be trying to listen in  
34 to most of your meeting.  
35

36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Good to hear  
37 your voice, Brooke. I would like to if I get a chance,  
38 I would like to listen in to the EIRAC meeting so, also.  
39 So, appreciate you being here. Thank you. Any other OSM  
40 people? And we have OSM staff in the room here, will  
41 introduce in a moment. Anybody else on the phone?  
42

43 (Simultaneous speech)  
44

45 MS. CHAPA: Hi. Good morning. This is  
46 Gisela Chapa. I'm also on the Council Coordinators. Just  
47 listening Thank you.  
48  
49  
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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We're getting a  
2 crossover again. So, I got a lady and a man speaking  
3 simultaneously. Give me a lady first.

4  
5 MS. PILCHER: I believe that was Gisela  
6 Chapa. She's the council coordinator for -- to attend  
7 and.....

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Her name again?

10  
11 MS. PILCHER: Gisela Chapa? Yes.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, okay. And then  
14 the man then? Oh, it was background, okay. Anybody else  
15 on the phone?

16  
17 MS. PILCHER: And anyone that we've  
18 missed either agency or non-agency. Please let us know  
19 you're there.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I think that  
22 covers the phone. So, we'll introduce staff here in the  
23 room. Then we're going to go around the room. We got  
24 public participants in the room. Go ahead.

25  
26 MR. GRAHAM: Hello, good morning. Cory  
27 Graham, fisheries biologist with OSM.

28  
29 MS. PILCHER: And you guys are going to  
30 have to come up to the mics. Unfortunately, they won't  
31 pick you up otherwise.

32  
33 MR. VICKERS: Good morning again  
34 everyone. I am Brent Vickers, I am the Anthropology  
35 Division supervisor at the Office of Subsistence  
36 management. Today or this meeting, I have the  
37 opportunity to represent the leadership team of Office  
38 of Subsistence Management and really looking forward to  
39 it. Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Cory  
42 and Brent.

43  
44 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning. I'm Liz  
45 Williams, anthropologist at OSM for the Eastern and  
46 Western Interior Councils.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Liz.

49  
50 MS. PILCHER: Don't be shy.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, just -- let's come -- let us come up to the mic.

MS. CLEAVER: Good morning. My name is Marie Cleaver and I'm the Refuge information technician for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning. Marie.

(Distortion)

MS. BRYANT: Hi. My name is Jenny Bryant. My nickname is Boomer. I'm a wildlife biologist here at Koyukuk-Nowitna Refuge in Galena.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Boomer.

MR. MERRILL: Good morning, everyone. My name is Clayton Merrill. I'm the Subsistence coordinator for Arctic Kanuti and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Clayton.

MR. CALVIN: Good morning, Councilmen and Council. This is Calvin. I am the Deputy Refuge Manager here at Koyukuk -- Kayukuk, Nowitna and Innoko.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning. And your first name again?

MR. CALVIN: Doug.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Doug, okay. Good morning.

MR. REBARCHIK: Good morning. My name is Bob Rebarchik. I'm a former Refuge Manager for the Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko Refuge. I'm just visiting.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Bob.

MR. ITCHOAK: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Council. My name is Karlin Itchoak. I'm the assistant regional director for the National Wildlife Refuge System in Alaska, Chief of Refuges. Nice to be here.

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
2 Karlin.

3  
4 MR. ITCHOAK: Morning.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I'm glad you're on  
7 board with us, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. We  
8 appreciate that. Good morning.

9  
10  
11 MS. STICKMAN: I'm Colleen Stickman from  
12 Nulato. Nulato Tribal member.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning.  
15 Colleen.

16  
17 MS. DAVIS: Hello. My name is Brooklyn  
18 Davis. I work for Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
19 and I'm the new program technician here in Galena.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Good  
22 morning, Brook.

23  
24 MS. ERICKSON: (In Native) Diloolo  
25 Erickson. I work with Tanana Chiefs Conference in their  
26 Tribal Resource Stewardship Division.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Your first name  
29 again?

30  
31 MS. ERICKSON: Diloolo Erickson.

32  
33  
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Good  
35 morning. And that covers the room.

36  
37 MS. PILCHER: And this is Nissa Pilcher  
38 again. Just to let you know, Orville Lind, the Native  
39 liaison for OSM is online. He was just unable to navigate  
40 the mute unmute part.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay good morning,  
43 Orville.

44  
45 MR. MOSES: Hello Jack, can you hear me?

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I can hear you. Go  
48 ahead.

49  
50



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1 MR. MOSES: Oh, this is Aaron Moses. I  
2 was trying to also unmute, but it wouldn't go through  
3 earlier. This Aaron Moses at Yukon Delta.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Aaron. Yeah,  
6 You're under Fish and Wildlife. Okay. So, good morning.  
7 Good to hear you there. And I would like our court  
8 recorder to introduce herself.

9  
10 MS. TELEMAQUE: I'm Tanya Telemaque and  
11 I am doing the audio recording of this meeting. Thank  
12 you.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning.  
15 Tanya. And the court recording company has changed. And  
16 Tanya is going to be doing our meeting today. We used  
17 to have Tina and her son Nathan doing our meetings quite  
18 a bit. And they're not going to -- they're basically  
19 retired now. And so, they're going to be doing meetings  
20 in Fairbanks and Anchorage only. So, I think that covers  
21 everybody in the room and all the introductions, which  
22 that's kind of a lot, which is great. And so, officer  
23 elections and Nisa.

24  
25 MS. PILCHER: Actually, I'm going to  
26 switch it up. I'm going to do a brief meeting  
27 announcement that I should have given before we actually  
28 officially started. And then I'll finish the meeting in  
29 need right away after the officer elections. But so once  
30 again, just to be clear, this is the Western Interior  
31 Regional Advisory Council meeting we're meeting in  
32 Galena. Everybody's doing a great job. But just as a  
33 reminder star six will mute and unmute your phone. If  
34 you're not talking, please leave yourself muted. If you  
35 would like to speak, please press star five to raise  
36 your hand in teams. But if you're calling in, just unmute  
37 yourself and let us know that you have something to say  
38 by saying excuse me, Mr. Chairman, or something along  
39 those lines. For those of us that are not in the room,  
40 the meeting materials for this meeting, including the  
41 agenda, is online on the Federal Subsistence Program  
42 website. And that internet address is  
43 [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence). And then on the Regions tab  
44 choose the Western Interior and then scroll down to the  
45 meeting materials, either a tab or a tile, depending if  
46 you're on your phone or on a computer itself.

47  
48 All right. So, now on to officer  
49 elections. So, so in accordance with the Council  
50 charter. Council members elect a Chair, a Vice Chair and

1 a Secretary for one year term. During the winter meeting  
2 in Anchorage, the Council voted to retain the current  
3 membership or the current officers until this meeting,  
4 with the expectation that there would be more members  
5 present. And this was a misunderstanding of the process  
6 on my part. As I noted, in accordance with the Council  
7 charter, these things are supposed to happen. So, at  
8 this meeting, we will be electing officers, which will  
9 serve for this meeting only. And then we will revert to  
10 holding them, as we normally do in the winter election  
11 for a one-year term. So, just to review your current  
12 members or officers. So, of course Chairman Reakoff is  
13 the Chair, member Pelkola is the Vice Chair and member  
14 Vent is the current Secretary. My plan was to do these  
15 elections via, like, post-it notes, so we don't have to  
16 do a verbal election. If there's more than one person  
17 that gets nominated for either of the offices. That might  
18 prove difficult with folks on the phone.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: They can text.

21

22 MS. PILCHER: Yep, they can text me.  
23 Other than Don. And Don, if you can email me and Tim,  
24 I'm not sure if you can text, but you could also email  
25 me as well. So, I'm going to run the Chair election, and  
26 then I will turn over the floor to the Chair to conduct  
27 the rest of the elections after that is settled. So, at  
28 this time, I would like to open the floor for nominations  
29 for the Council's Chair. Once again, for this meeting  
30 only. And please be reminded that the nominations do not  
31 need to be seconded.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: This is Tim. I would like  
34 to nominate Jack Reakoff for the Chair.

35

36 MS. PILCHER: Thanks, Tim.

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second.

39

40 MS. PILCHER: All right. Are there any  
41 other nominations at this time?

42

43 (No response)

44

45 All right. Do you guys want to vote  
46 since there was only one nomination or is it just as it  
47 stands? So, moved? Robert called the question. So, I  
48 guess that means we vote, if we get a question.

49

50

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1 All right. I guess, well, the roll call  
2 vote was only if we got more than one nomination so we  
3 could do a roll call vote, because there is only one  
4 nomination. So, Jenny.

5  
6 MS. PELKOLA: Yes. Oh. Yes.

7  
8 MS. PILCHER: Tommy.

9  
10 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

11  
12 MS. PILCHER: Robert.

13  
14 MR. WALKER: Yes.

15  
16 MS. PILCHER: Jack. I'm assuming you  
17 vote?

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes.

20  
21 MS. PILCHER: Tim.

22  
23 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

24  
25 MS. PILCHER: Darrell.

26  
27 (No response)

28  
29 MS. PILCHER: And Don?

30  
31 MR. HONEA: Yes. Did you get my yes? Am  
32 I online? Could you hear me?

33  
34 MS. PILCHER: Yep, sorry Don, you are.  
35 My phone beeped and I thought it might be Darrell  
36 texting, but it was not. So, with everyone but Darrell.  
37 So, voting -- Jack will retain Chairmanship. Once again  
38 this is for this meeting, and we will do this again for  
39 the full year at the winter meeting, and I will turn the  
40 meeting back over.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Now we're  
43 going to take nominations for Vice Chair. Current Vice  
44 Chair is Jenny. And so, open the floor to nominations.

45  
46 MR. HONEA: Okay, this is Don. I nominate  
47 Jenny for Vice Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I have a nomination  
50 for Jenny. Do you have any other nominations? They don't

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1 really need to be seconded. You can submit another  
2 nomination.

3

4 So, hearing no further nominations, I  
5 would like unanimous consent. Don and Tim. Voice.

6

7 MS. PILCHER: In unanimous consent. You  
8 just say aye or aye.

9

10 MR. HONEA: Aye.

11

12 MS. PILCHER: I think that was Don.  
13 Correct?

14

15 MR. HONEA: Yes, it was. Yes.

16

17 MS. PILCHER: Don. How about Tim?

18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You still there,  
20 Tim?

21

22 (No response)

23

24 I don't hear Tim. We'll go around the  
25 room. Jenny.

26

27 MS. PELKOKA: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And Robert.

30

31 MR. WALKER: Yes

32

33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tommy.

34

35 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So, Jenny's  
38 retained as Vice Chair. Secretary, Darrell was Vice or  
39 Darrell was Secretary position. We'll open the floor to  
40 nominations.

41

42 MS. PILCHER: It's not hard.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: I'll nominate Darrell to  
45 maintain that.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, Tim, did you  
48 have a voice -- a vote for Jenny? On the last vote?

49

50 MR. GERVAIS: Affirmative on Jenny.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. And so, Darrell's nominated any further nominations?

(No response)

Hearing no further nominations. Darrell is the only nominee. Do we have a voice vote for Tim. Go ahead, Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Say that again, Jack.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: There's only one nominee for Darrell. You have a voice vote for Darrell, then? Affirmative?

MR. GERVAIS: Yes, yes on Darrell.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay and, Don, we have a voice vote.

MR. HONEA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. And, Darrell, did you come back? So, Darrell's dropped out. So, voice vote for Darrell. Jenny.

MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tommy. Yes, for Tommy. Affirmative for Robert. Okay. Question.....

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. We're still carrying Pollock Simon as a member yet? Is he still active, or is he call in or?

UNIDENTIFIED: He called in.

MS. PILCHER: No, he actually -- he did not call in. Yeah, he -- communicating on the phone is always best for him. And he didn't feel that he would be able to fully participate on the phone, and he wasn't able to make it in person. So, he is currently the only member we are missing, though.

MR. WALKER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, the elections are complete, and you gave all of the meeting announcements, you had to? Go ahead, Nissa.

1

2 MS. PILCHER: Give me a sec to get things  
3 straight. Okay, so bear with me, folks. So, welcome,  
4 everyone. Good morning. Once again, welcome to the  
5 Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
6 meeting. Again, my name is Nissa Pilcher, and I am the  
7 Council Coordinator and the designated Federal officer  
8 for this meeting. I do have a few housekeeping  
9 announcements to make before we get started. This is a  
10 public meeting, and it is being recorded and will be  
11 transcribed for those attending our meeting in person.  
12 Please make sure you sign in at the front table each day  
13 of the meeting. I've seen I think we've everyone doing  
14 that. So, thank you very much. This Council is scheduled  
15 to meet for two days today and tomorrow. For those  
16 joining us digitally or online and missed at the very  
17 beginning, you can find the agenda and the meeting  
18 materials online on the Federal Subsistence Management  
19 Programs website. That address is  
20 [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence). And then under the Regions tab  
21 choose Western Interior and then choose the Meeting  
22 Materials tab or tile depending on how you're looking  
23 up the information. And again, for all participants on  
24 the phone and online, please remember to mute yourselves  
25 when you are not speaking. If you do not have a mute  
26 button on your phone, you can press star six and that  
27 will mute, as well as unmute your phone. If you would  
28 like to speak and you're using our Teams interface, you  
29 can press the raise hand button on your computer, but  
30 you can also press star five to raise your hand. Excuse  
31 me. Yes, press star five online to get our attention.  
32 You can also unmute yourself and get our attention that  
33 way as well.

34

35

36 So, for public comments throughout this  
37 meeting, there will be opportunities for public  
38 comments. Each morning, there will be an opportunity for  
39 public comments on non-agenda items related to  
40 subsistence. On the first day of the meeting this will  
41 come a bit later as we work through all of this stuff,  
42 but tomorrow morning it will be first thing. If you are  
43 here in the room and would like to testify either during  
44 on agenda items or non-agenda items, please fill out a  
45 blue card located in the back of -- well on the table  
46 as you walk in and make sure you hand it to either me  
47 or someone from OSM and we'll make sure it gets where  
48 it needs to go. Once again, when you do get up to  
49 testify, please remember to identify yourself for the  
50 record by stating your first and last name and any  
affiliation when it is your turn to comment. And also,

1 as a follow up to that, since as Jack did note the past  
2 transcribing folks were with us for so long, they got  
3 to know our voices, and we got a little lax about making  
4 sure that we introduced ourselves and used our mics. So,  
5 for Tanya's sake and the sake of everybody that's going  
6 to be working on these transcripts after, let's try to  
7 remember to introduce ourselves. I am horrible about it  
8 as well. So, let's try to do that as much as possible.  
9 So, if -- also you can also submit written comments. So,  
10 if you'd like to submit written comments instead of  
11 testifying you can turn those in either to me, hand them  
12 to me or online. You can email them to  
13 subsistence@ios.doi.gov. But also, please make sure to  
14 include your name and affiliation on those as well.

15  
16 So, I kind of just went through it. But  
17 we do have a new contractor. So, of course we have Tanya  
18 who just introduced herself on the record. And I already  
19 went through all of that because I thought I didn't  
20 include it in the first place, so I won't say that again.  
21 So, to finish out the announcements, just a reminder on  
22 conduct and ethics, a friendly reminder that during this  
23 meeting will be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order,  
24 and the meeting will be led by the Chair with help from  
25 the Coordinator. Please do not speak out of turn and  
26 wait to be called on by the Chair. Please don't use  
27 profanity or use name calling. Point of order can be  
28 called by anyone if misconduct happens. We are all here  
29 because we care about subsistence and although it is  
30 okay to be passionate, we want to foster an environment  
31 where everyone is respected, and we can work together.  
32 So, also, if any topic will be discussed during the  
33 meeting where Council members feel you may have a  
34 conflict of interest, please make a conflict of interest  
35 statement on the record and excuse yourself from the  
36 discussion and voting on that issue if it is an action  
37 item and that concludes that part of the Meeting  
38 Announcements and thank you. Thank you very much, Mr.  
39 Chair.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Nissa.  
42 And so, we're -- we have a -- can I -- I would like to  
43 get any public comments earlier than we -- before we  
44 adopt all these minutes, if we can. We've got people in  
45 the room that may want to say things and are on the --  
46 can we do that? Can we skip that order?

47  
48 MS. PILCHER: Well, the next one is to  
49 review and adopt the agenda. So, you could look that up.  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, let's  
2 adjust it there. So, I -- we're going to review and  
3 adopt the agenda. And I would like to move number ten  
4 right up here behind six. So, we did number six right  
5 away. I moved that up because I want to get everybody  
6 on the record, everybody in the room. I think that's  
7 important for people to know who's who here at this  
8 table, because we got people in the audience here. So,  
9 I'd like to move number ten up the tribal -- Public and  
10 tribal comments to a number right behind number six. And  
11 then excuse me, then Review and Adopt the agenda and  
12 continue on as with the normal procedure of this meeting.  
13 But the first part I, I wanted to slightly morph it so  
14 that we be inclusive with the public, here that we have  
15 in the room and so forth. So, is that okay with the  
16 Council to adjust that agenda item.....

17  
18 MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. Go ahead.

21  
22 MR. MOSES: Hey, this is Aaron Moses.  
23 Also, could you add Yukon Delta to the U.S. Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service reports under 14?

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, that's  
27 probably got dropped somehow. Yeah YKD. Good point,  
28 Aaron. Because we requested YKD to be involved in -- YK  
29 Delta, U.S. Fish and Wildlife has been very instrumental  
30 in keeping us apprised of certain aspects of Mulchatna  
31 Caribou and other issues that have -- that are associated  
32 to the lower portion of our region. So, thank you, Aaron.  
33 Go ahead, Nissa.

34  
35 MS. PILCHER: I also did have another  
36 update to the agenda under reports. Jordan and my  
37 apologies, I will murder your last name if I try to give  
38 it; Pruszenski, I believe, was going to give an update  
39 on Central Arctic Caribou. But that's down in reports  
40 as well.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And where would  
43 that go?

44  
45 MS. PILCHER: We have been putting ADF&G  
46 updates or reports after NGOs and before the Federal  
47 reports. So, between C and D. So, after the Yukon River  
48 Drainage Fisheries Association, but before the NOAA  
49 update and the NOAA update is informational only anyway.

50



1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So where is ADF&G  
2 here?

3  
4 MS. PILCHER: It currently is not on  
5 there at all because I did not receive any confirmation  
6 that they would be calling.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay well, let's  
9 stick ADF&G up here. More like between -- I would like  
10 to have them right behind Yukon River drainage.

11  
12 MS. PILCHER: Yep.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I want ADF&G here  
15 for fishery. I would also like to have ADF&G Game staff  
16 here, also.

17  
18 MS. PELKOLA: Could you give a number on  
19 that, Mr. Chair, please?

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It'd be number 14,  
22 C, let's stick them in right behind C. Because a lot of  
23 these issues are -- well, let's see here. This fishery  
24 stuff, you know Holly Carroll is here U.S. Fish and  
25 Wildlife. So, ADF&G should be -- let's redo this. Let's  
26 just put ADF&G right here with El, so that we can have  
27 AD&G Fisheries and Holly at the same time. And then we  
28 can talk with ADF&G Game staff at the same time. And  
29 then we'll move right into these agency reports. So, how  
30 would that be -- that sound good Nissa? Is that does  
31 that sound good to ADF&G? You're on the phone there.

32  
33 MS. JALLEN: Hi. Yeah, Jack, this is  
34 Deena Jallen with Fish and Game. I'm happy to give the  
35 fishery update with Holly. We coordinate on the updates  
36 for the fishery information. Unless there's anything  
37 else specific you want to ask about.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. I want, you  
40 know, stay on the same time frame. That'd be great. So,  
41 appreciate that, Deena. And any other changes to the  
42 agenda?

43  
44 (No response)

45  
46 So, Tim or Don, any changes to the  
47 agenda on the phone?

48  
49 MR. GERVAIS: This is Tim. No, I don't  
50 have a change.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, Don? And Darrell, did you come back? You're muted Don if you're trying to talk to us, I can't hear you. And so, that -- any further discussion? The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the amended agenda as discussed here. We need a motion to move this forward. Moved by Robert. Do we have a second?

MR. KRISKA: Second.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Tommy. Those in favor of adopting the amended agenda, as discussed, signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

And Tim, you have an affirmative on the amended agenda? Tim Gervais?

MR. GERVAIS: Yes, affirmative. I just struck out.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay and, Don, did you come back?

(No response)

So, Don has dropped also. And Darrell? So, the -- Nissa.

MS. PILCHER: Just for clarification, that is five of the eight members. So, that is quorum.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

MS. PILCHER: Don, if you are out there, star six to mute and unmute.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It depends on what phone he's using, it's actually better to use it on an iPhone. You can just mute and unmute on the face. You don't have to go through all.

MR. HONEA: (Indiscernible)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, there you are, Don. So, you're voting for adoption of the agenda. Did you hear the agenda changes, minor changes in the order, and who's going to be presenting?

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MR. HONEA: Yes, I did.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And you're good with that?

MR. HONEA: I'm good with that. Mr. Chair, this is Don. I'm going out on these things, and the only request I had was that. I mean, I didn't -- wasn't able to bring that up, but if we have action items, I would prefer that we took care of it sometimes this morning because I'm really booked for time on getting stuff done here and here in my village. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

MS. PILCHER: Yep. And this is Nissa. All the -- once we get through the opening portions of the agenda, we get right into all the action items done.

MR. HONEA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Can we -- for that request, this Council training, can we delay that after 11? After the action items?

MS. PILCHER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, what are we going to do, the revote? Redo the vote? Redo? Yeah. We were voting. We're trying to get all of our members to vote.

MS. PILCHER: So, we would.....

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, if you were to -- you know, when we -- if I could have heard that sooner, we could have -- so, we'll need to have a -- the motion to adopt the amended agenda. Robert, I need -- Robert I need to have you retract your motion because we're going to have to revote to reorder because Don wants to reorder something here.

MR. WALKER: Robert, I'd like to retract my motion, that I made a moment ago.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We have agreement with the second? Second with Tommy. Okay, so the remotion would be to move the action items further up to in front

1 of Council training 11. So, item 13 moves up to in front  
2 of Council training so, that Don can participate.

3

4 UNIDENTIFIED: I just want to clarify  
5 that both items 11 and 12 will be moved down because  
6 there are a couple together training and  
7 (indiscernible).

8

9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, yes, that'll  
10 drop back. So, that's clear for the record. Okay. So,  
11 and that's what you needed to have Don. And so  
12 that'll.....

13

14 MR. HONEA: Oh yeah.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: .....that, okay.  
17 Yeah that fixes that.

18

19 MR. HONEA: Oh yeah. Mr. Chair, I  
20 appreciate that. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you for  
23 bringing that up during this agenda discussion on  
24 adoption. So, Chair will entertain a motion to move the  
25 modified agenda. And then a new modification is to move  
26 13 up in front of Council training 11 and 12. So, motion  
27 to adopt that modified --

28

29 MR. WALKER: We'll start over again. Yes,  
30 I moved.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert's moving to  
33 adopt the amended agenda as stated for the record.  
34 Second?

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.  
39 Any further discussion on the adoption of.....

40

41 MR. HONEA: Don

42

43 MS. PILCHER: It's Don.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, Don. Okay.

46

47 MR. HONEA: Yes.

48

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And any further  
2 discussion? Those -- questions called, those in favor  
3 of adopting the amended agenda signify by saying aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert! Robert,  
8 you have a vote? Yes, Robert votes in favor. And Tim and  
9 -- I think that was Tim and Don.

10  
11 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, yes, we voted on both  
12 of us.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we got both Tim  
15 and Don on the phone. Adopting the agenda as modified.  
16 Okay, now we're good. So -- go ahead, Nissa.

17  
18 MS. PILCHER: I would like to -- it was  
19 brought to my attention that someone did join us. Eric,  
20 if you'd like to introduce yourself.

21  
22 MR. WERWA: Hi, Thank you. This is Eric  
23 Werwa. I'm deputy assistant secretary for policy and  
24 environmental management, with the Department of the  
25 Interior and Office of Policy, Management and Budget.  
26 Sorry for being late, I was in another meeting, but I  
27 appreciate the opportunity to be able to be here. I'm  
28 going to try to listen as much as I can through the rest  
29 of the meeting today and tomorrow, you know, really,  
30 this is a valuable opportunity for me to understand what  
31 is important to the Council and what we need to be  
32 working on. So, thank you very much for the chance to  
33 introduce myself and for having me here.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, Eric. Yeah,  
36 I was requesting that DOI presence be here. Crystal  
37 Leonetti is on the phone, but I would like DOI staff and  
38 DC to also be listening in to all the Regional Councils  
39 to understand the deliberations of the various regions,  
40 because they're so diverse, there's going to be lots of  
41 different issues that may or may not be the entirety of  
42 DOI's understanding. So, I appreciate you being on the  
43 call here, thank you. So, and so, we're going to move  
44 on. So, we moved up the Public and tribal comments on  
45 non-agenda items to now. And so, do we have any public  
46 members in the room here that would like to speak on any  
47 agenda item, non-agenda item, or even to speak to the  
48 Council on various issues? All right, go ahead. Come on  
49 up to the mic here. Gotta turn the mic on to speak. And  
50

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1 I appreciate that. And say your name for the record,  
2 please.

3

4 MS. STICKMAN: Okay.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Gotta turn it a  
7 little bit. Yeah, thank you.

8

9 MS. STICKMAN: Hi, I'm Colleen Stickman,  
10 and I'm from Nulato. I want to put a concern out there  
11 that we've all been experiencing this hunting season.  
12 It's been going on for years. There were three  
13 affiliations that told us village members how to make  
14 our complaints in way of non-local or outside hunters  
15 coming on to Native allotments. And I did report it,  
16 there's the tribal administrator, our Village  
17 Corporation Gana-A'Yoo, and also Fish and Wildlife  
18 trooper Trent here on Galena. They said to have maps,  
19 pictures and not to approach the outside hunters or  
20 locals. I followed all the steps that were given. I  
21 wanted to see where this is going to lead because there's  
22 been a problem for years. I want to see where it would  
23 go. Not one of the three affiliates returned any phone  
24 calls. The trooper that I asked that I saw him down on  
25 the bank, he said, I can't speak to you right now. He  
26 was citing other local members. So, I never had a call  
27 back. Nothing from either of the three. So, it was like  
28 a closed ear to the whole situation. But yes, these  
29 hunters, they blocked off our regular Native trails.  
30 They put their tents right there in the trail on these  
31 Native allotments and they didn't move. Finally, one  
32 day, about the fourth day with the first group, I told  
33 them you know, you guys are on our Native Allotment, and  
34 you shouldn't be here. I said, you're right in the trail  
35 of where the local hunters go to go do their moose  
36 hunting. Oh, okay, that was all the response I got. They  
37 left after their fourth day, only to come up here to  
38 Galena and tell the next group. Oh, this is where we saw  
39 and got all our moose. I didn't see any moose meat. I  
40 saw antlers about six-foot-tall standing there on the  
41 bank. But this is ongoing. It just -- so, I wanted to  
42 voice this concern about. Okay, so what really are we -  
43 - are we just putting ourselves out there into the public  
44 to be criticized, or is anything going to happen on the  
45 village side of things?

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And so, you  
48 submitted a complaint. You had photos of these people  
49 camped on the allotment.

50

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1 MS. STICKMAN: Boat numbers.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Boat numbers, the  
4 whole thing. And you got no response.....

5

6 MS. STICKMAN: Not from one.....

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: .....not from any  
9 enforcement entity. So, this needs to be moved to a  
10 higher level. This has to be moved to the -- this is --  
11 these allotments are associated to U.S. Fish and  
12 Wildlife Refuge lands? Are they public or what kind of  
13 land status are they?

14

15 MS. STICKMAN: They're Native  
16 allotments.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I mean, what's  
19 around them? Is it....

20

21 MS. STICKMAN: They're not public lands.  
22 I have no trespassing.....

23

24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Because if they go  
25 across that allotment with a four-Wheeler, if they're  
26 going in with a four-Wheeler on that trail and hunting  
27 moose off that trail but a few local people are hunting  
28 on. They would then be going on to Federal lands, and  
29 that's a Federal -- I'm trying to find out what the land  
30 status is around -- what is this? What's behind that  
31 trail?

32

33 MS. STICKMAN: The State lands are behind  
34 the Native allotments.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, so that's the  
37 -- that gets into the troopers and the troopers -- you  
38 know, needs to be -- are there other Doyon lands or any  
39 other Native corp lands?

40

41 MS. STICKMAN: Gana-A'Yoo,

42

43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Gana-A'Yoo.

44

45 MS. STICKMAN: But for the most part,  
46 they're all Native allotments in that slew. That's four  
47 miles above Nulato.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right, so, the  
50 Commissioner of Public Safety is in charge of the

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1 troopers. If you have this kind of documentation, the  
2 boat numbers and everything, they should be writing  
3 citations.

4

5 MS. STICKMAN: I gave the State troopers.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: They cite hunting  
8 guides on the North Slope, on North Slope Regional  
9 corporation lands for getting on the corp lands up there.  
10 It can't be selective. They can't, you know, hunters  
11 from Fairbanks or whatever, they can't be selective  
12 about who they're going to enforce trespass issues on.  
13 So, you need to -- this needs -- because it's State  
14 land. If it was Federal lands that could get a hold of  
15 BIA or Department of Interior or something like that,  
16 but if it's State lands, then that's the Commissioner's  
17 office, Commissioner of Public Safety. So, the trooper  
18 should be -- he's still got the numbers. He's -- if you  
19 had pictures -- I'm not afraid of these sport hunters.  
20 I whip out my phone, I walk right up, I take pictures  
21 of them, their car license plate number. Troopers love  
22 photos at close range like that. And they got something  
23 to work with.

24

25 MS. STICKMAN: Yeah, that's what I did.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And so, I -- if you  
28 got the pictures and stuff, I would send those to the  
29 Commissioner of Public Safety in Juneau and say, hey, I  
30 got a case here. You're not enforcing this case. We got  
31 people hunting on my allotment, and this is what has to  
32 happen. This has got to stop. But I, you know, this is  
33 a Federal Regional Advisory Council. We can make  
34 advisements to the Federal government on issues, and we  
35 can speak as a liaison to the State. But the state  
36 Commissioner's office has to -- they have the  
37 documentation. The case can still be pressed. It's not  
38 -- it can't -- it's not over. Maybe they are going to  
39 file the case. You got to get a hold of -- what is this,  
40 trooper? The troopers got plenty of time to talk now.  
41 What is he saying? Does he talk to you?

42

43 MS. STICKMAN: No, he just told me I have  
44 other things to do.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, he's got to  
47 talk to you now. He doesn't have anything to do right  
48 now. There's no season, so he better be talking. That's  
49 what I -- we can't do anything on the Federal side if  
50 it's State land behind there. But we can -- I can give



1 you advice. This is how I have to deal with stuff. I  
2 have to deal with this all the time. And so, that's what  
3 I would suggest is getting hold of this trooper. Tell  
4 him you still have the documentation. Tell them you're  
5 going to get a hold of the Commissioner's office down  
6 in Juneau, and you're going to -- you're pushing this  
7 case forward because this is -- they're actually  
8 requesting more people to trespass. Another group is  
9 going to show up. Once they start, they'll be all over  
10 these hunting forums down in Fairbanks. And they'll keep  
11 doing it forever if they let them keep getting away with  
12 it. So, that's what I would just say. That's all I can  
13 say. Go ahead, Robert.

14  
15 MR. WALKER: May I? Thank you. You know,  
16 you have to remember that Colleen is a member of the  
17 federally recognized tribes, too. So, where we stand,  
18 we have to enhance our program with them, too. So, we're  
19 not -- just because we're a RAC Board, we can't just  
20 deny them, but we have to work with them in their way  
21 of trying to make themselves better for subsistence  
22 food. Also, OSM should be here too to be talking about  
23 this also because they're the ones that work for us. We  
24 don't work for them. And I would emphasize a point here  
25 because they have a right and that's their place. And  
26 that was given with the state of Alaska and the Federal  
27 Government's agreement for Native allotments. So, where  
28 we stand, we have to stand with them, too. Thank you for  
29 that report, Colleen, I really appreciate that.

30  
31 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you.

32  
33 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Jack.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I -- but the  
36 allotments that's the problem. ANILCA -- and it's  
37 actually in ANILCA the Native and non-Native land of the  
38 public and non and Native lands as part of title eight.  
39 And the problem is that the Corps. did not press the  
40 issue of management on the of allotments and Native  
41 corporation lands under the Federal Subsistence Program.  
42 That didn't happen. It should have, It should have  
43 happened back in 1989, but it didn't happen. So, it's  
44 State -- under State management. So, the State  
45 regulations, if there's a Federal hunt on the Federal  
46 lands and there's a hunt, a State hunt on the State  
47 regulation, but this State regulation books, the  
48 allotments in the Native Corp lands are under this book,  
49 they're under the State regulations. That's a problem.  
50 So, the Office of Subsistence Management and the Federal

1 Subsistence Board process cannot control what happens  
2 on the on the State lands. They can only control what's  
3 happening on the Native Corp lands and the allotments  
4 are considered State properties. And they promote them  
5 as hunting areas, even though they're closed by Doyon,  
6 even though they're closed, trespass signs, those are  
7 private properties. They will -- those hunters would not  
8 get away with that, going down to Delta and shooting a  
9 bison on somebody's private property. That would not  
10 happen, but they can't be selective about prosecuting  
11 in Delta for bison and not prosecuting on Native corps  
12 lands. Those are private properties, and they have --  
13 you go down to the States and all of those ranchers, you  
14 have to ask if you want, you can go out there and hunt  
15 on those private property. Those are private properties.  
16 And so -- but we, as the Federal Subsistence Council,  
17 have no control of what happens on the Federal lands.  
18 We can give in the public forum, I can tell you what you  
19 can do, but we can't do anything because it's not Federal  
20 public. If it was Federal public lands around you, oh  
21 yeah, we could do something about that. But if you don't,  
22 if you got State lands behind you and you're under State  
23 management on your allotment to start with, you have to  
24 complain to the State Commissioner of Public Safety.  
25 That's who's in charge of this trooper. This trooper is  
26 supposed to do his job. And if he's not doing it, he  
27 uses his boss is going to make him do it. Somebody's  
28 gotta do it and call up the.....

29  
30 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. Go ahead,  
33 Don.

34  
35 MR. HONEA: Yeah, yeah. I'd like to  
36 comment [sic] this whole process. I mean, what you're  
37 talking about because I believe you hit the nail right  
38 on the head in saying that. I remember a few years back,  
39 I don't know if it was Ed here at Ruby Tribal or  
40 whatever, but I think the way to and I don't know what  
41 the forum is to try to get Native allotments that --  
42 you're exactly right. We're under the State and if there  
43 was a way, if there was a forum to change that, whether  
44 it's the RACs or whether it's Tribal Council or Advisory  
45 Boards or what is the process to make that -- make it  
46 where -- that is private property. I mean, where the --  
47 these lands, that Native allotments are recognized, and  
48 they should be set up. I realize this whole process,  
49 what you're saying, but you know, I mean, I guess what  
50

1 I'm looking for is a forum or some way to address this  
2 so, that we would be recognized. Thank you.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, Don the way  
5 this process would have, should have worked, should have  
6 done, Doyon and the Native corporation should have  
7 requested when the State fell out of compliance of a  
8 rural Subsistence priority in 1989. They should have  
9 requested that the Native corp lands be and the allotment  
10 lands under the BIA be administered by the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board process. That's what it should have  
12 happened, and they could still ask for it. It's not that  
13 they can't, but you'd have to get all of the regional  
14 corporations of Alaska to do that, and you'd have to get  
15 the BIA addressed this through the tribal organizations  
16 to address the -- through the BIA, to get the allotment  
17 lands to be put under the Federal Subsistence Board  
18 process. But that would get into a lot of legal problems.  
19 Now, at this point, 30 something years later, it's going  
20 to take a long time to do that. We need recourse now.  
21 What this Council can do is write a letter to the  
22 Department of Public Safety Commissioner complaining  
23 that there's not been enforcement of Native allotments  
24 in our -- within our region by trespassers that are  
25 coming and camping on Native allotments. We can complain  
26 to them. We can write a letter. We can do that. And the  
27 Chair will entertain a motion to write that letter to  
28 the Commissioner of Fish and Game. But it's a question  
29 of Commissioner of Public Safety, the troopers. We can  
30 support you with that. But this Council can't get  
31 anything done other than that. That's all we can do. And  
32 so, it's much.....

33  
34 MR. HONEA: Well Mr. Chair.....

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

37  
38 MR. HONEA: Oh yeah. Well, Mr. Chair, I  
39 think that's a great idea. It's the least we can do. And  
40 like you say, I mean, it's never too late to make an  
41 attempt to change that.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And so, this letter  
44 should -- so, it should be in support of testimony by  
45 Ms. Colleen Stickman's testimony of trespass on Native  
46 allotments that are within our region, and that we feel  
47 that the troopers are -- incumbent upon the troopers to  
48 enforce equitably across all private properties in  
49 Alaska, not just in the in the road connected areas, but  
50 in all accesses to private properties that are close to

1 hunting period, because they are private Native  
2 allotment lands, so that the Chair will entertain a  
3 motion to write that letter. But I would encourage you  
4 to contact your trooper if he's because he's working on  
5 it right now, you got the documentation. We don't have  
6 to go any further. If he says he's not going to do  
7 anything about it, you can get a hold of his boss, which  
8 is in the, I forget what region that is, in Fairbanks.  
9 Call up the colonel or their lieutenants or whatever  
10 they are there. If they don't want to do anything, get  
11 a yes or no answer on them. Go move up to the  
12 Commissioner's office. We have a different Commissioner  
13 of Public Safety who seems a little be a little more  
14 public oriented. And so, I would -- that's the steps.  
15 But this Council, as a Federal Subsistence Council, we  
16 can't do anything but other than write a letter of  
17 support. And so, I would entertain a motion to adopt a  
18 letter to be transmitted to the Department of Public  
19 Safety Commission.

20

21 MR. WALKER: Mr. Cairman I'd like to make  
22 a motion to approve a letter to the Department of Public  
23 Safety, Wildlife Division stating what we just got done  
24 talking and on Council member Stickman's concern.

25

26 MR. KRISKA: Second.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I would amend that  
29 to what Fish and Wildlife protection/Public Safety  
30 because it's actually a troopers -- it's a trespass  
31 issue. It's not even a Game violation. It's a trespass  
32 issue. It's a public safety issue. They have to prosecute  
33 any kind of trespass. If somebody breaks into your house,  
34 they're going to prosecute under a trespass. Somebody  
35 camps in your yard, that's a trespass. So, that's what  
36 this -- and so we have a second on that motion?

37

38 MS. PILCHER: Tommy did.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tommy?

41

42 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, for the record,  
43 Robert was the one that made the motion and Tommy  
44 seconded.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Any further  
47 discussion by the council? Jenny.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. Is there any way that  
50 we could also send a letter to the other RACs? Just....

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We can CC that to the other RACs.

MS. PELKOLA.....try to get it out to all the RACs somehow. That's. I'm sure it's going on the other RACs too.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh yeah, we can CC that to the other Regional Councils. The nine other Regional Councils. Tommy.

MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I have a big concern in that and it should be CC'ed [sic] to a lot of other departments. Because that, it didn't happen only where she's talking about it happened a lot of other places on the Koyukuk River. Some of the hunters go there and there's already people there, and that they own this land, you know. So, before things get a little nasty, I would probably -- it's a big concern because some guys are getting a little verbal about things, and I don't think I want to mess with them too much. So, for this Council, I think it's a great idea to write a letter to the folks that need to hear it.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And the CC's [sic] list should include Doyon and other Regional Councils or not regional, the other regions, the Native corp regions, to understand that we have a trespass issue that, not only on the Native allotment lands, but also on the corp lands. I know there are hunting guides hunting on Doyon lands in the Brooks Range. And it happens all the time. That's just the way it's going. I told the Aaron Schutt at a meeting last year. I said, you can fly on the Doyon land, you got your helicopter. I said, you can fly around and look at the sheep or kill every last illegal sheep on the Doyon lands, even though they're closed, they're publicly closed lands. But I also informed Aaron Schutt that there was a case by a trooper at Coldfoot that he caught hunting guides on the Doyon lands, and the Doyon relator wouldn't prosecute for the trespass. So, apparently the hunting guides pay off the -- he says we've had a lot of hunt -- we've had a lot of problems with our relator section. So, you have to as a Doyon member, you have to understand that there are people in the relator section that are allowing hunting guides to do this also, on the court plans. I'm just talking on the record here. I'm just talking about what actually is going on. So, we're going to.....

1 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

2  
3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

4  
5 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Mr. Chair. You  
6 know, we have this down in the Lower Yukon too and I  
7 talked to people from Unit 18 who are, you know, Calista  
8 or whatever in the local corporations. A lot of these  
9 people that do go hunt down there, they do get caught,  
10 but they go to court, and they pay a fine and that's it.  
11 None of the money goes to the corporation. And so, I  
12 mean, all these transporters and guides know this, that  
13 if they get caught, you know, it's like a \$2,000 fine.  
14 That's it. And the corporation don't see the money.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, this hunting  
17 regulation books, the State hunting regulation books  
18 tells them that they have to get permission to hunt on  
19 private properties. So, Fred wants to say something. Do  
20 you have any further comments?

21  
22 MS. STICKMANT: That's it, thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Colleen, thank you  
25 for bringing that issue up. Fred Huntington, go ahead.

26  
27 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We're still  
30 deliberating that motion.

31  
32 MR. HUNTINGTON: Just for the record, I'm  
33 Fred Huntington from Galena. And I'm on numerous Boards.  
34 I'm on the Yukon Middle Advisory Board. I'm also on the  
35 Gana-A'Yoo Board, School Board, numerous other Boards.  
36 However, I'm speaking for myself. And my proposal to you  
37 guys is to do a resolution. Kevin, the State issued  
38 hunting regulations towards Native corporation lands and  
39 Native allotments. This brings me to the issue of the  
40 bison herd down there near Holy Cross, south of Holy  
41 Cross. The majority of the bison are on Doyon lands, and  
42 I was at a meeting last winter where if there was enough  
43 bison, that 50% will go to outside hunters and 50% to  
44 local. So, what I'm getting at is the Board of Game or  
45 Fish and Game don't have authority to open or close  
46 hunting season on private property such as corporation  
47 lands. And so, what I'm saying is, if this group was to  
48 write or draft a resolution addressing this to the Board  
49 of Game, that will answer a lot of your trespass  
50 problems. I realize that here in Galena, the last 15

1 years, we've been addressing the same group out of  
2 Wasilla, hunting on Native corporation lands and  
3 allotments in Galena area. And basically, a couple of  
4 years ago, we recorded that they had 11 moose already  
5 the first week on the beach here out in Galena. And only  
6 one local subsistence hunter had a moose by then. And  
7 so, we know they've been out there, and they continue  
8 even this year. They've been out there and they --  
9 they're allowed below the high-water mark. But once you  
10 get past the high-water mark, where to get the moose in  
11 the woods or something. That's corporation lands or  
12 Native allotment lands. So, I guess the only thing that  
13 we could address is if this group or the tribal Councils  
14 were to draft a resolution saying that Fish and Game  
15 does not have the authority to manage Fish and Game on  
16 corporation or Native allotment lands. And that's all I  
17 got to say.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, the State  
20 regulation book, I'd have to look it all up here. State  
21 regulation book says that the hunters have to look at  
22 the land status. It says, you know, land ownership and  
23 public access information. And it goes all these various  
24 agencies and stuff. Private lands, State hunting  
25 regulations apply to private lands but do not guarantee  
26 access. Most of Alaska's lands is public ownership and  
27 managed by Federal or State. However, a significant  
28 portion of the State is an individual or corporate  
29 ownership. If you intend to hunt on private lands in  
30 Alaska, you make sure you have permission from the  
31 landowner, so they're not asking for permission. They  
32 know that they're on a Native allotment. And they're --  
33 basically the Board of Game is already saying that in  
34 the regulation book. So, we can write a resolution. It  
35 already says it right there. What the problem is the  
36 Federal or the Alaska State Troopers are not enforcing  
37 the closures, and that's what the problem is. So, we're  
38 going to write a letter to the Commissioner of Fishing  
39 -- of Public Safety. Your Middle Yukon Advisory  
40 Committee needs to do exactly the same thing. Right,  
41 that you're that the State regulations are stating that  
42 they have to get permission and there is no permission  
43 granted. And the troopers are not providing a  
44 enforcement of that -- of those - of -- they basically  
45 are trespassing because you have them closed. Each  
46 allotment should say flat out right at that trailhead,  
47 right on the beach, that this is a Native allotment.  
48 It's closed. That's what the -- that's all they need to  
49 do. But the troopers have got to stop allowing it. It's  
50 selective. They're not letting it happen in Delta on

1 those vast lands down there, agricultural lands. Those  
2 people only let certain hunters go on their private  
3 properties. They're selective. They're being selective.  
4 They're not letting people hunt on fields around  
5 Fairbanks. They're being all selective about who they're  
6 going to enforce. If somebody complains, they're right  
7 on it. But here they're just like, whatever. It's just  
8 Native allotments. It's just corp lands. It's -- no, the  
9 troopers are going to be -- it's equal justice. And this  
10 is a justice problem. And so, we're going to write to  
11 the Commissioner -- the motion is to write to the  
12 Commissioner of Public Safety and CC BIA and other  
13 agencies that are, you know, those allotments are  
14 predominantly still under BIA oversight. So, but the  
15 troopers are the ones that are the problem. They're being  
16 selective. And that's just got to stop.

17

18 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, rather than say  
19 the Fish and Game or Board of Game is not giving out  
20 permission to hunt on your Native lands.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: They already said  
23 that.

24

25 MR. HUNTINGTON: Then you should say that  
26 -- the resolution should say that the troopers need to  
27 start regulating on private lands you know. They don't  
28 -- if they don't have - see Gana-A'Yoo and Doyon and in  
29 this area, spend millions of dollars putting up signs  
30 on their lands where it says no hunting. If you're not  
31 a resident or not a shareholder, you're not allowed to  
32 hunt. But there's nobody out there. So, if you said you  
33 want the State troopers to enforce that, then that  
34 resolution should say that. And if it came from this  
35 group or the Tribal Council to shove it all the way  
36 through to the Board of Game and see where it goes from  
37 there.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The Board of Game  
40 has already addressed the issue. They have their out,  
41 also, I know what they're going to do. I deal with this  
42 Board of Game all the time. They're going to go, it's  
43 in the book. That's it. They're not going to pay any  
44 attention to that. I'm the Koyukuk River advisory Chair,  
45 I deal with this Board of Game all the time. They're  
46 going to say it's in the book. We already dealt with it.

47

48 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, it doesn't say  
49 that the troopers are not.....

50



1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It's the troopers,  
2 it's the Commissioner of Public Safety. It's the  
3 troopers. The Board is gonna [sic] -- the Board of Game  
4 is going to go the troopers aren't doing their job. We  
5 don't care.

6  
7 MR. HUTINGTON: Well, I guess if you  
8 can't read a resolution to that, you could address it  
9 to the Commissioner.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's what we're  
12 doing. We're we have a motion on the table to send this  
13 letter -- is the resolution letter. Same thing. It's  
14 going to lay out what the issue is, we've got testimony.  
15 You got -- you know, specific for our record right this  
16 minute, I'm going to ask you, do you know of specific  
17 individuals that have hunted on a Native allotment and  
18 corp lands this year? Have you seen that yourself? Do  
19 you know of that?

20  
21 MR. HUNTINGTON: Not this year. I've been  
22 out most of this hunting season, but in the years past,  
23 you go across the river and there's a big sign there,  
24 and you go a little further and it's still on the  
25 corporation lands. You see some guys packing out moose  
26 meat. You go up the road, you see somebody shooting  
27 moose that's from -- not from Galena, not local, but  
28 hauling out of most of their truck, you know.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we can't spend  
31 a lot of more time on this. We've got a lot of agenda  
32 to go, but this is a heated issue. And so, we have a  
33 motion to address that. We have Colleen's testimony  
34 here. That's what we're working off of. And we're going  
35 to move forward with this motion. And any other comments  
36 from the public here on that, on this specific issue.  
37 On this specific issue. So, thank you Fred. We need to  
38 move forward. So, we have a motion to write a --  
39 promulgate a letter to be written to the commissioner's  
40 office with a long CC'ed [sic] list. And one of them  
41 should be to the Board of Game Chair also, so that they  
42 understand we still -- there little one paragraph blurb  
43 is not addressing millions.....

44  
45 MR. WALKER: I would move with that  
46 motion Jack, to have the letter sent to the Commissioner  
47 and the other people.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, motion. So, we  
50 have that motion and we had a second to that.

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MR. KRISKA: Second.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And so that's reiterating that portion. Further comments by the Council? Do we have a question?

MR. WALKER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called those in favor of transmitting that letter to the State Commissioner of Public Safety and the Chair of the Board of Game, BIA, All the Native corporations and the Tribal Councils that are associated to the Western Interior Region -- of the Village Councils of this region will be on the CC list. And.....

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

MR. WALKER: Should we send a copy to the Outdoor Council, too?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We could. Can we do that? Yeah, we can. Let's send it to the Outdoor Council -- but that's just one entity. But the Chair, the Alaska Outdoor Council. They already know this, so. But we'll send it. We can transmit that letter of displeasure to them because of the selectiveness of this trespass. So, those in favor -- questions called those in favor of transmitting that letter, drafting and transmitting that letter signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We have four members present here. Don, Honea on the phone?

MR. VENT: This is Darrell, I say aye.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Say again?

MR. VENT: This is Darrell Vent I said aye.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, they're back again Darrell. Okay, do we have Don Honea?

MR. HONEA: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Don. Tim  
Gervais.

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MR. GERVIAS: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Say your -- state  
your name again. I missed that; I was.....

MR. MARTIN: Yeah, my name is Ross Martin

1                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Ross Martin. So,  
2 your requesting basically a priority needs for  
3 scientific research but from a local perspective.

4  
5                   MR. MARTIN: I hadn't thought to request  
6 a special priority.

7  
8                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Our various issues  
9 of interest to local people.

10  
11                   MR. MARTIN: I was primarily here just  
12 to introduce myself not to ask for any specific  
13 privileges, but just to yeah, share with you all what I  
14 plan to do and receive your feedback on it.

15  
16                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well -- there's all  
17 kinds of biological and environmental effects that are  
18 happening that aren't documented. You might be able to  
19 research all kinds of stuff, but there's no  
20 documentation of that. There -- with the understanding  
21 of what caribou eat is little understood, the perception  
22 that they eat nothing but lichen is absolutely  
23 erroneous. They eat cotton grass, sedge, they move  
24 through forbs; they move through willow leaves. They  
25 move through a lot of different foods. That's not  
26 thoroughly understood by management. There's fall lobes,  
27 the a lot of frozen debris lobes releasing all kinds of  
28 minerals into the water, changing pH all over the -- all  
29 the Brooks Range. And I live in the Brooks Range of  
30 Alaska. There's all kinds of environmental effects.  
31 There's rain on snow events that's decimating sheep  
32 populations and caribou populations. That's understood.  
33 There's harvest parameters are being exceeded for some,  
34 some populations. That's not understood. The perception  
35 is that the biological parameters of harvest of caribou  
36 are not thoroughly understood. They're not thoroughly  
37 analyzed as to the levels that can be sustainable. You  
38 can look at Mulchatna and you can look at Nelchina  
39 Caribou Herd that were decimated from hunting pressure,  
40 decimated. Look at the bull-cow ratios. You're a  
41 researcher, you look at -- those are documented. I got  
42 them in my phone right on my side here. Those are easily  
43 accessed. There's all kinds of biological things that  
44 are of interest that highly affect, you know, releasing  
45 massive amounts of billions of pink salmon and chum  
46 salmon into the marine crash in the North Pacific,  
47 decimating the food chain for wild stocks, especially.  
48 This year it even affected the hatchery release fish  
49 which at such abysmal levels. I got people sitting at  
50 this table that are starving for salmon that haven't

1 been able to fish in four years. Legal fishing has been  
2 precluded on the Yukon River and limited on the Kuskokwim  
3 River. I'm the Chairman of this Council for years, I've  
4 been on this Council, for 31 years. I see all kinds of  
5 things happening that need to be -- but there's  
6 biological information that's not available. You cannot  
7 research what caribou eat. It's by guess and by golly,  
8 they eat lichen all the time. It's like lichen is sugar.  
9 They don't just live on sugar; they live on sugar in the  
10 winter. They eat protein in the summer. They bulk, they  
11 produce calves. They bring those calves to maturity.  
12 Just like birds eat insects for protein. The birds don't  
13 eat -- they can't eat seeds and raise brood -- raise  
14 offspring. So, there's all kinds of information that you  
15 can research. Some of this stuff can, but there's all  
16 kinds of information about the pH's [sic] of rivers,  
17 what the effects of hatch release and bycatch of salmon,  
18 and what monitoring trophic levels in the ocean and not  
19 just statically releasing billions of fish every year,  
20 one way or another. There's all kinds of things are  
21 happening, and we have to sit by and take more and more  
22 and more restrictions. That's what's happening. We have  
23 to reduce our -- so, I'm there's a lot of different  
24 things that you can look at. And you can get this  
25 transcript. And there's priority needs for information.  
26 And I've been trying to get the Offices of Subsistence  
27 Management and the DOI now to come up with priority  
28 needs for wildlife. We have fisheries priority needs,  
29 but we need wildlife priority needs, big time. Because  
30 when I got biologists tell me ungulate caribou --  
31 ungulate meeting in Anchorage in 2023, that caribou  
32 don't even eat tussock sedge. So, are you crazy? It's  
33 one of the major foods of the -- cotton grass sedge is  
34 the major protein source for Caribou for the first one-  
35 month period. The five -- the six week -- just final  
36 gestation and lactation period. There's hardly  
37 understanding of what actually caribou eat. There's  
38 hardly -- there's a lot of information that's needed.  
39 And we need to have priority needs. So, you can go back  
40 to the scientific community and talk about that. Thank  
41 you very much.

42

43 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

44

45 MR. VENT: Hey Jack, is Darrell.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrell.

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I just, you know I'd  
50 like to give him a little information that might be kind

1 of helpful in helping the State with management. We look  
2 at the overall you know, scheme of how things work. And  
3 when you talk about fish, he has like 90 to 120 pounders,  
4 basically, you know, the strain of the fish. And you  
5 look at the moose, the big bulls, ones that got 80in  
6 plus horns on it, those are breeders. And you look at  
7 the caribou ones with the big paddles on there, but  
8 they're also the breeders but also the migration  
9 leaders. So, the fish have a big -- the big fish for  
10 migration also. And when we talk about all this, the  
11 State wants to have all these big fish, all these big  
12 caribou, all these big moose to utilize sport hunting  
13 purposes. And the way we look at it is they lead our --  
14 they're the ones that make the management happen, but  
15 the State doesn't see it that way. I think we need to  
16 clarify that in order for our subsistence use, our  
17 animals need to be looked at in a different light. We  
18 need to point the way for them to manage the system,  
19 because the State is not managing this for us. We're in  
20 dire need of trying to keep these big bulls or big fish.  
21 Otherwise, you lose the species. And that could be seen  
22 with the caribou herd that came down to Central Arctic.  
23 When they came down in the 70s, there was a long time  
24 before they passed through. Now we don't even get that  
25 herd no more. They killed it off at the pipeline area  
26 because they're late 70s, they start shooting all these  
27 big paddle horns and leaving them the carcasses out there  
28 on the you know, there was just millions, you know,  
29 millions of caribou. And they killed off all the big  
30 ones. They killed off the herd when they did that, the  
31 herd got diverted from there to the northern side and  
32 to the eastern side. So, now, you know, we're having a  
33 problem because we don't discuss -- biologists don't  
34 discuss, how come there's breeding bulls are, you know,  
35 are really key to the migration, to the survival. I  
36 don't see anything being done by biologists to  
37 understand why these are key points in there. They always  
38 look at the -- oh, you need to get rid of this cows, or  
39 you need to get rid of this you know, there's too much  
40 here or something, but they're not seeing the big point  
41 of the picture. And we as Natives living out in the  
42 villages, we're saying, hey, you know, there's a problem  
43 because they're doing this to the animals. We want that  
44 caribou to migrate down from the Northwest Arctic, but  
45 they're not able to because they're shooting the bulls  
46 out. And I told them that in that meeting. And then they  
47 went against it. And hunters went against what I said.  
48 So, you know, there's a lot of information that we need  
49 to be providing to these researchers to let them know,  
50

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1 hey, you guys got to do a study on this. So, that's  
2 something I had to say. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you,  
5 Darrell. I'll take that as part of your report. But  
6 yeah, those are pertinent to the discussion. Do we have  
7 any other public members or tribal members that want to  
8 make comments on non-agenda items? I don't see anybody  
9 else in the room. And anybody on -- yes, online. Right,  
10 Robert. Anybody on the public online that would like to  
11 speak on a non-agenda item. I don't hear anybody. So,  
12 should we take a ten-minute break, Nissa? Ten-minute  
13 break. It's, I got -- yes. And so, we're going to take  
14 a ten-minute break. We'll be coming back on. Let's just  
15 go to -- we got 11:05 here, I think. And so, we'll go  
16 to 11:15, 20 minutes -- 11:20 back on the record prompt.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (On record)

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We're going to come  
23 back to order, and I want to find out if Tim, Darrell  
24 and Don are on the phone. You're on the phone, Don. Go  
25 ahead.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Jack (distortion)

28

29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Who's on the line?  
30 Who's on the phone? Go ahead.

31

32 MR. GERVAIS: Jack. This is Tim, I'm  
33 online.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, Tim.  
36 Darrell, Don? We got Tim, and we have Jenny, Robert and  
37 Tommy and I here in the room. So, we're going to start  
38 the meeting again. So, we've covered the public  
39 comments. And so, we're going to Review and Adopt the  
40 agenda, or we've done that correction, we've done that.  
41 And number eight is Review and Approve Previous Minutes  
42 since the winter 2024 on page five of our meeting book.  
43 And so, have you reviewed these minutes. Did you have  
44 access to these documents, Tim?

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, yes, I do. Thanks to  
47 Nissa for getting them to me. Yeah. I have a revision  
48 to make on my comments from the March 2024 meeting.  
49 We're talking about or I was talking about -- with the

50

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1 Solicitor about the EEZ, Exclusive Economic Zone and the  
2 jurisdictions out there. The meeting says.....

3

4 (Simultaneous speech)

5

6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: What page number?

7

8 MR. GERVIAS: Page two.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim. Tim what? Tim?  
11 Tim, what page are you on?

12

13 MR. GERVIAS: Page two.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, there. Okay.  
16 Numbers -- yeah, page six. Tim Gervais, you're in your  
17 Council comments. Go ahead.

18

19 MR. GEEVIAS: Yeah. So, it says member  
20 Gervais noted that if these Federal waters were  
21 classified as public, it would benefit subsistence users  
22 a great deal, and he believes that this could be a matter  
23 of either how it is correctly interpreted or  
24 reclassification. My -- the main point I was trying to  
25 make is I wanted the Solicitor or Solicitor's office to  
26 to engage Department of Commerce, trying to deal with  
27 this main issue we have where chinook salmon are taken  
28 in a commercial fishery ongoing while we're having  
29 subsistence closures, while we're not meeting treaty  
30 obligations. And.....

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Did you drop out  
35 or did you just stop talking?

36

37 (No response)

38

39 I think Tim dropped off.

40

41 MS. PILCHER: We maybe also having some  
42 internet issues. I'm getting some poor-quality things  
43 on my end too, so it may be us.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It could be that  
46 the traffic on the -- I was concerned about this issue.  
47 That's why I wanted to have Starlink for this meeting.  
48 And I want OSM to be aware that I am going -- we may  
49 write a letter, or we want to verbally state for the  
50 record that we cannot trust these village internet



1 systems because they will crash with overuse during the  
2 daytime when people start watching movies and doing  
3 stuff on them. So, we need to have Starlink, which is a  
4 dead -- basically a dedicated line. And can your boss  
5 put one on an airplane to get it up here for tomorrow  
6 from Anchorage?

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MR. GERVIAS: Jack, I'm back.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim. You came back. I'm in the middle of talking about our internet dropping out here issue, which is probably going to get more chronic as the day goes on. So, I was.....

MR. GERVIAS: Yeah, no.....

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

MR. GERVIAS: The issue with my connection is I'm on my boat between Perryville and Chignik and there's too much wave action and it keeps it keeps dropping out. But anyways, to get back to the minute, what I wanted the minutes to reflect is that I disagree with the Solicitor's opinion or interpretation that the Solicitor's office does not have the jurisdiction to represent subsistence users or Alaska Natives with the Department of Commerce in regard to salmon, commercial salmon fishing in the EEZ or it's BSAI Trawl fishing. But they are legally allowed to retain or not retain but to buy catch salmon. So, I just wanted the minutes to show that I'm not in agreement with the Solicitor's opinion on this. The Solicitor doesn't have jurisdiction to engage Department of Commerce on that, one of the most significant issues of our subsistence economy.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, stated in one sentence what you would like it to read to be inserted.

MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Council member Gervais disagrees with the Solicitor's interpretation on jurisdictional issues, on whether subsistence users under ANILCA or Alaska Natives under ANCSA can make claims against harvesting of salmon in commercial fisheries, while subsistence resources and escapement goals are not being met.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, Nissa is  
2 - Nissa is amending this -- the minutes to reflect your  
3 statement there. Thank you Tim. Appreciate that  
4 clarification. Any other clarifications or insertions  
5 for the minutes of our meeting On March 7th, 2024, down  
6 in Anchorage? During the All-RAC meeting.

7  
8 (No response)

9  
10 I don't have clarifications myself.  
11 Jenny.

12  
13 MS. PELKOLA: No.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tommy.

16  
17 MR. KRISKA: No.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert, any  
20 comments on these minutes that are before us? Turn your  
21 mic on. Turn your mic on.

22  
23 MR. WALKER: Sorry, Mr. Chair. Only thing  
24 I would think about is our proposal that we put into the  
25 Department of Fish and Game about the regulations on  
26 what the seine -- would size would be anything if it  
27 came out of that?

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Nissa.

30  
31 MS. PILCHER: Hi Robert, thanks for that  
32 question. I will touch on it a little later -- well,  
33 like at the very end of the meeting, but an ACR agenda  
34 change request was submitted to the Board of Fish with  
35 that language in it that the Board of Fish will meet and  
36 discuss agenda change requests at their work session at  
37 the end of October. So, it's been submitted. It is  
38 online. So, we'll see what happens then.

39  
40 MR. WALKER: Okay, and also, Mr.  
41 Chairman, that when I do -- when I did discuss this with  
42 OSM here that -- about the church and religion and  
43 fisheries for the tribal people from Alaska, whether  
44 they are Russian Orthodox, Catholic, Presbyterian, etc.,  
45 whatever came out of that, and if they ever came out of  
46 that, they were going to go back and do an analysis on  
47 that. Did they ever do an analysis and come back to  
48 bring it to us or anything? Mr. Chair.

49  
50

1                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: OSM is going to  
2 discuss (distortion) comment on that. Go ahead, Brent.

3  
4                   MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,  
5 Chair -- Council member Walker, thank you for bringing  
6 that up again. I was the one that gave the presentation  
7 on customary and traditional use determinations. And  
8 remember your question on that and our interpretation  
9 of that is that it -- talking about religion and how  
10 religion might impact different behaviors. So, you know,  
11 as you said, eating fish on Friday, being a Catholic and  
12 I'm sorry if I'm saying it incorrectly, but being of  
13 Catholic practice and how that impacts, you know,  
14 (indiscernible) and everything, that's all taken into  
15 the cultural practice sections of analyses. And we  
16 definitely -- when we have data on that, on those types  
17 of practices that are unique or just and that are even  
18 common in a particular region, we definitely incorporate  
19 it and, and let that know how the local customs, local  
20 practices, be they a Native or a current religious  
21 practice, are how they influence people's lives in that  
22 area and influence subsistence. I don't know if that's  
23 totally answering your question. So, we might -- I might  
24 not be understanding what you're trying to communicate  
25 as well as I should. And we can talk about that later,  
26 if you like

27  
28                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert.

29  
30                   MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,  
31 I'd like to have that in writing, too, also, because I  
32 really think that now we are a different generation from  
33 what -- when they did start this at the time of  
34 purchasing the state of Alaska. I mean, when the Federal  
35 Government did emphasize that the rural people or the  
36 indigenous people had to have some kind of a training,  
37 or they put all the -- like different religions in  
38 various states of Alaska and the Russians brought the  
39 Russian Orthodox Church, and the United States of  
40 America brought up all the other Presbyterian, the  
41 Catholics came in and the Moravian Church. You know,  
42 there are so many different things that -- why is that  
43 -- we as indigenous people were baptized and raised in  
44 Catholic churches and etc. and then we were told what  
45 to do with the doctrine of the church. And is the Federal  
46 Government taking a different point on this, or is this  
47 just they're going to wash it over and leave it? Thank  
48 you.

49  
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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, it's -- I  
2 feel that the Customary and Traditional Uses are  
3 provided under the Federal subsistence statutes. And so,  
4 there's a provision to harvest salmon or fish under  
5 Federal regulations. And I think that, you know, in the  
6 in the analysis, it should be recognized that specific  
7 communities all the way through Galena and all the way  
8 through here, you know, the Catholic, you know, doctrine  
9 of using fish on Friday that should be recognized as a  
10 component of the use of -- that's part of the customary  
11 and traditional use. That's -- you want that recognized  
12 in an analysis.

13  
14 MR. WALKER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I would  
15 like to have that too, because when you read the Bible,  
16 fish was presented at the Sea of Galilee by Jesus. I  
17 mean, how many people did he feed with that too? And  
18 this is something that people often wonder is that --  
19 how could the State come and say, we're doing a seven-  
20 year moratorium when we can't do our own way of what we  
21 were taught to do as children, baptized and, you know,  
22 the Christian religion and everything was just pounded  
23 into our heads. Now it's a whole new world or how is  
24 this going to function with us now? I mean, thank you,  
25 Mr. Chair.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
28 Robert. Thanks for your response, Brent. Any further  
29 discussions or insertions? Darrell or Don on the phone?  
30 Are you there Darrell or Don?

31  
32 MS. PILCHER: Don -- but for the record,  
33 this is Nissa. Don, we do keep picking up some background  
34 noise on your phone, so if it gets too loud, we are  
35 having to mute it. So, if you -- if it seems like we  
36 can't hear you, it's because we can't. So, just unmute  
37 yourself again, please.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Does it show him  
40 there. So, I don't have any further points. Tim brought  
41 up points. So, we're not -- I think that ready for a  
42 motion to adopt the minutes as amended and the insertion  
43 of discussion. Do we have somebody Don or Darrell  
44 comment?

45  
46 MR. HONEA: Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah. I'm  
47 sorry about the background noise or something, but Nissa  
48 you keep muting me, but I'm back on. Thank you.

49  
50

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1 MS. PILCHER: Technically, it is not me,  
2 but.....

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: What kind of a  
5 phone are you using, Don?

6  
7 MR. HONEA: I'm just using a flip -- flip  
8 top whatever.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. You're.....

11  
12 MR. GERVAIS: The original, the original  
13 that's how far back I am.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I think OSM should  
16 send Don at least an iPhone 8 or something.

17  
18 MR. HONEA: It's the least they can do.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Dark ages. So,  
21 okay, so, the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the  
22 agenda from March 7th, All RAC meeting and Anchorage as  
23 amended and discussed. Any further discussion?

24  
25 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Motion? I think it  
28 was motion to adopt was -- did we have a motion?

29  
30 MS. PILCHER: I don't think so.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Do we have a  
33 motion? We need a motion to adopt. Somebody make a  
34 motion.

35  
36 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

37  
38 MR. KRISKA: I'll move.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Jenny.

41  
42 MR. KRISKA: Second.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tommy. We have a  
45 question. Anybody want to call a question?

46  
47 MR. WALKER: Question

48  
49 MR. GERVAIS: I'll call question.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Question called.  
All in favor? All right, those in favor of the adoption  
of the minutes from March 7th, 2024, in Anchorage, as  
amended and discussed signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Opposed.....

(Pause)

Opposed same sign. So, Don and Tim, when  
you want to talk, just state your name. Say Tim or Don  
so, that I know who I'm talking to. Because I'm not  
recognizing your voice on the phone that easily. So,  
just give me who you are and I'll recognize you. So,  
okay and it continue to move forward. Our next was the  
Winter Joint All Council meeting on page 12 of the  
meeting book. And so, that was a multi-day meeting, 5  
and 6, lots of presentations, lots of discussion. And I  
basically it was informational for all the Regional  
Councils. And it was an important meeting to understand  
the regional differentials and the common issues like  
in caribou and dall sheep. And so, some of the regions  
have similar issues and some do not. So, any comments  
or discussions? I have no comments or discussions on the  
minutes as presented for the joint meeting of all 10  
Regional Councils on March 5th and 6th. Any comments or  
discussions? The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt  
the minutes from the All RAC meeting March 5th and 6th,  
2024 as presented. So, moved by.....

MR. HONEA: This is Don, I make that  
motion.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Motion by Don.  
Motion to adopt. The Second? We have a second?

MR. WALKER: Second.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Robert.  
Any further discussion?

MS. PELKOLA: Question

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called  
by Jenny. Those in favor of adopting the minutes as  
presented for the All RAC meeting March 5 and 6, 2024.  
Signify by saying aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. GERVAIS: This is Tim, aye.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Are you there yet Darrell? Okay. So, affirmative. So, then it would be -- the next one would be the quailateral [sic] quadrilateral -- Quadrilateral Council meeting minutes regarding the Western Arctic Caribou. So, we certain Council members will attend that, and that would be on page 21 of our meeting book here, before us. And so, we -- that was an excellent forum. All four Regional Councils for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd were present to discuss the issue and come to consensus on submitting a final comment to the Federal Subsistence Board proposal. It would have been W2 -- W28, 24-29 and 2024, 28-29. WP 24, 28 and 29. So, those were the proposals before those tri -- quadrilaical -- quadrilateral meeting which I thought was an excellent forum. So, I was there -- does it actually state our Council's -- who is present. And yes, it does. It was Darrell, Jenny and Tim and myself were representing the WIRAC at that meeting. And that's here. Robert.

MR. WALKER: Yes. I was also at that meeting.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Oh, right here -- So, any further discussion on that one? Chair will entertain a motion to adopt. Go ahead, Robert.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just reading through this again about how the -- what was the -- my mind is going 40 miles an hour. Northwest Arctic when they did their -- when they did bring up that their caribou herd is being depleted as a food source for the tribal people -- there was one elder man who spoke up and he said when he was cooking moose meat, his brother came, who was 87 years old, and he said, I smell you cooking something different. And the guy said, yeah, moose meat. Moose meat? You know, they don't eat meat. They're caribou people. So, that's where we gotta remember that each RAC has a different source of food source so, we have to respect that. So, I would say, you know, like I don't know if we're gonna do anything about it, but we'll approve it, but we'll just make sure that we keep it in mind that when they do have something, we would always support it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: For clarification,  
2 for the record, I live in the northern portion of the  
3 region, and caribou is extensively used by the north. I  
4 use caribou all the time, Allakaket. And so, there's --  
5 depends on -- and that one point the Western Arctic Herd  
6 extended all the way into the Nulato Hills and all the  
7 way down to the mouth of the Yukon River. So, there was  
8 times when even some of the Lower Yukon and Middle Yukon  
9 villages were consistently harvesting caribou: Hughes,  
10 Huslia, Allakaket, Alatna, Wiseman, Coldfoot and of  
11 course Anaktuvuk Pass is inside of Unit 24A or 24B.  
12 They're actually in our in our region, but they're  
13 administered by the North Slope. So, but more than half  
14 of the fall harvest for the caribou from Anaktuvuk Pass  
15 are harvested in Unit 24B because they don't kill them  
16 until those cows have passed the village. You do not  
17 hunt lead cows. You do not hunt caribou until they pass  
18 by (indiscernible). And so, there's a significant  
19 harvest by Anaktuvuk people that are harvesting caribou,  
20 that are moving into our region or actually going into  
21 our region. And because of their custom and traditional  
22 practices, that allows caribou to pass through the Pass  
23 that actually end up at my yard over by my house, the  
24 Teshekpuk and Central Arctic Caribou Herd go all the way  
25 through the Pass and end up down in unit 24A, also in  
26 Allakaket. Because of those practices of protecting the  
27 lead caribou we actually get caribou -- many years will  
28 have caribou that have gone through Anaktuvuk Pass into  
29 the lower portion of the units. So, that's just  
30 supplementary to the discussion. So, because we're  
31 discussing the Western Arctic quadrilarical [sic]  
32 discussion of -- and I find no problems with these  
33 minutes. So, motion to adopt as.....

34  
35                   MR. WALKER: I move to adopt that is.

36  
37                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by anybody?  
38 Jenny? Jenny seconded. Any discussion by Council  
39 members?

40  
41                   (No response)

42  
43                   Darrell, are you there? Darrell actually  
44 represents us to the Western Arctic Caribou work group.  
45 He's on the Koyukuk River Advisory and is a  
46 representative for us there. He's also is acting as our  
47 representative as Pollock Simon can no longer attend  
48 those meetings. And I was the secondary to that Western  
49 Arctic Caribou work group. And Darrell was very just, -  
50 - very -- did an excellent job at that work group meeting



1 and in last year in December. So, no further discussion  
2 from anybody on the phone? In the room, we have a  
3 question?

4  
5 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called.  
8 All those in favor of adopting the minutes as presented  
9 from the March 7th All Council members -- Council meeting  
10 on the Western Arctic Caribou proposal signify by saying  
11 aye.

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim. Tim must have  
15 dropped. Don.

16  
17 MS. PILCHER: You might have to hit star  
18 six again, Don.

19  
20 (No response)

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim, Don or  
23 Darrell. So, we lost quorum, so we're going to have to  
24 hold that.

25  
26 UNIDENTIFIED: How many members are  
27 there?

28  
29 MS. PILCHER: So, for clarification,  
30 there's eight members on this Council. There's two  
31 vacant seats, so quorum is five and we have four in the  
32 room and three online. But what we could do is we could  
33 move on to Council reports and get as far with those as  
34 we can until you guys break for lunch. Don't forget,  
35 Jenny does need lunch.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

38  
39 MS. PILCHER: And then we can circle  
40 back.....

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Remind us to, if  
43 we get quorum again.....

44  
45 MS. PILCHER: Yeap, will do.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: .....to achieve  
48 that vote. So, okay.....

49  
50

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1 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim  
2 (indiscernible).

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, you came back.  
5 Okay, so we got an affirmative on that one. So, those -  
6 - the quadratic -- Quadrilateral Council meeting minutes  
7 are adopted as presented for March 7th, 2024. So, thank  
8 you, Tim. I bet your boat probably rolled at the wrong  
9 time. So, we're going to go into Council reports. And  
10 since I have -- Don was here, are you still there, Don?  
11 You wanted to move some of this stuff up. So, Don is not  
12 -- he got -- push star six, Don. If not, I'll take your  
13 report, Tim because you're kind of in and out. So, I  
14 would like to get your report. Are you still there?

15  
16 MR. GERVIAS: Yes, I'm here. Do you want  
17 me to start or is Don going?

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes. Yes, please  
20 do. I'd like to get your report.

21  
22 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: While we still have  
25 you.

26  
27 MR. GERVIAS: This is Tim Gervais, and  
28 my Council report is -- start off with an event that  
29 happened this week, in the Gulf of Alaska. The pollock  
30 fleet was fishing, and one boat had one drag with 1,200  
31 king, and another boat had another drag with 800 kings,  
32 and they extrapolated that catch rate out amongst  
33 the fleet. They exceeded their quota, and that Gulf of Alaska  
34 pollock fleet got shut down for their B-season, and they  
35 only caught 25% of their pollock quota. So, a couple of  
36 things that are of note of this event is with those --  
37 those are each single tows of 1,200 king and 800 king  
38 tow, you could see the harvesting power of the pollock  
39 trawler. And you can see how detrimental it can be to  
40 the chinook population. A lady, her name is Julie Bonney.  
41 She runs or works for this organization called the  
42 Groundfish Database, which kind of I guess their job is  
43 to track the bycatch and whatnot. And I listened to her  
44 statement on Alaska Public Radio, and she was -- it  
45 seemed like her main issue was the economic impact that  
46 this will cause the trawl fleet and the community of  
47 Kodiak, and not really -- she mentioned it a little bit,  
48 but she didn't really seem as affected by the actual  
49 biologic damage from wiping out that many kings in that  
50 short amount of time. So, I'm sure when they design both

1 the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island bycatch restrictions and  
2 the Gulf of Alaska bycatch restrictions, those  
3 restrictions were carefully crafted by the North Pacific  
4 Fishery Management Council to keep those trawl fisheries  
5 operating. And now they have an event where the trawl  
6 fisheries actually got closed. And I'm sure there's  
7 going to be a lot of pushback from the industry on being  
8 shut down over king salmon issues. So, we just need to  
9 track back that event and see how the pollock industry  
10 reacts to it and see how the managers react to it. One  
11 interesting thing that's supposed to come out of it,  
12 every one of those 2,000 king salmon are supposed to  
13 have genetic sampling. So, it will be interesting to see  
14 what their river or region of origin is. There's ongoing  
15 endangered species -- I guess a protocol where they're  
16 looking at listing it. I think we're going to cover it  
17 more in this meeting. I'm interested in why we have the  
18 Gulf of Alaska chinook getting looked at as an endangered  
19 species, but not Bering Sea chinook when I feel like the  
20 Bering Sea chinook numbers are in a bigger state of  
21 depletion than the Gulf of Alaska Chinook. But anyways,  
22 this is all issues that our Council should be tracking  
23 and keeping up with, that if they have endangered species  
24 listing on chinook, that will radically affect the way  
25 a lot of fishery stuff occurs throughout the State. This  
26 Council, we've talked a lot about hatchery releases on  
27 salmon and on side selected gear, and I just wanted to  
28 share a couple of events from this summer that are  
29 interesting. Regarding continual use of gillnet gear  
30 over years and years, Bristol Bay has been fishing  
31 gillnets for -- since the 1880s, so they have  
32 approximately 140 years of gillnetting there, and their  
33 average sockeye weight this summer for their commercial  
34 fleet was 4.2 pounds. When I first started fishing in  
35 Bristol Bay around 2000, 2001, the average size of a  
36 sockeye was 6 pounds. I used to -- it was just general  
37 practice that in the 2000, to always fish with five- and  
38 a eight-inch mesh gear. And now the guys are all.....

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I think you dropped  
41 out there, Tim. Yeah, he dropped again. So, we're going  
42 to -- I'm going to pick up with Jenny. And if Tim comes  
43 back, we'll stop and let him finish. But I want to  
44 continue with our Council reports. It takes -- sometimes  
45 takes them about five, ten minutes to get back on. So,  
46 go ahead, Jenny.

47  
48 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. Jenny Pelkola. I just  
49 wanted to report that I think the last time we met was  
50 in Anchorage so, okay. You know, I had a busy summer,

1 really busy with no fishing. We had some potlatch for  
2 our family members, and I had to get ready for a wedding,  
3 my granddaughter got married recently. So, I had to  
4 travel out of State for that, which turned out very  
5 well. And I'd like to talk about our fishing. I know we  
6 get fish from the tribes, our tribes, which is fine, but  
7 it's just not our type of fish. It's a different -- it's  
8 a dry and I'm still learning how to work on it because  
9 there's no grease to go with it. And a lot of the last  
10 batch of fish that I got, a lot of the tails were  
11 clipped, and I was trying to figure out what kind of  
12 fish that was and Robert said it was coho or something  
13 Oh, sockeye. So.....

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The tails were cut  
16 off?

17  
18 MS. PELKOLA: The tails were clipped. You  
19 know how the tail is, it fans out? Well one corner of  
20 the tail, a lot of them were clipped.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's usually  
23 dipnet fish. They have to clip the tails when they dipnet  
24 them at in the Kenai or Chitina. So, those are caught  
25 by some person that was dip-netting. If you see those  
26 tails cut off like that, they have to do that.

27  
28 MS. PILCHER: I believe, and I could  
29 (indiscernible) be incorrect -- this is Nissa, for the  
30 record - that, that also is a requirement in some other  
31 commercial fisheries, especially when it's a mixed  
32 fishery, when there's commercial catch going on with  
33 other catches, it's a way to signify, especially if it  
34 was only one lobe, because personally use fishing is  
35 generally both lobes of the tail. It's not in any region  
36 I've worked in, but I believe I have read that regulation  
37 in the past, that some commercial fish, you've got to  
38 trim lobes of the tail to mark it as commercially caught.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Both sides were  
41 cut? Just one, okay. So, yeah, that could have been  
42 commercial harvest. But in places where they have  
43 simultaneous subsistence harvests, so they have to cut.  
44 Usually that's designating a subsistence harvest though,  
45 any time they're clipping lobes like that. Because the  
46 commercial fish, you know, that's just so they don't mix  
47 them together. That's normally why they have that  
48 regulation.

49

1 MS. PILCHER: If I remember correctly,  
2 it was a southeast regulation, which is why I'm  
3 completely unfamiliar with it. But I don't know.

4  
5 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. Well anyway, the  
6 tails were clipped. And it's sad for me to not be out  
7 in my fish camp. And usually, I'm there most of the  
8 summer. But this year I was there for like a total of  
9 maybe a week, seven days. Due to other commitments and  
10 -- but mostly it's just fishing that I would like to be  
11 there for, and we just can't do it. And I get back to  
12 this fishing from the Council. I mean, the fish from the  
13 Council is nice, but I think what's happening is they're  
14 trying to satisfy us, you know, to keep us quiet by  
15 giving us fish. Not the Council's, but whoever's given  
16 all this fish, free fish away, which some people like,  
17 but a lot of us don't. Majority of us are not used to  
18 that kind of fish. So, some day I hope to get back at  
19 least one king, you know, to taste it. We didn't harvest  
20 our moose again this year as we're getting older, and  
21 we just didn't get any. We saw tracks, a lot of tracks,  
22 but no moose. So, we didn't get our moose this year  
23 again. And you mentioned a while ago, Jack, this Council,  
24 about 31 years old?

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I - 1980 -- 1993  
27 is when we started this Council, and our first meeting  
28 was when -- in McGrath.

29  
30 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. And at that time,  
31 they had ten different areas to go to for meetings. And  
32 now you have only Galena. And I know Robert brought this  
33 up many times and other Council members brought this up,  
34 but when you have it in your village, you don't get  
35 paid, you just -- you're free. I mean, you just do it  
36 for free, you know. Which is fine. But I would like to  
37 see -- try it again to, I guess I don't know who we have  
38 to write to, but somebody to try to get it for, not only  
39 for myself, but for other people who will be passing,  
40 who will be on this Council after I am. Because Galena  
41 -- as it goes right now, Galena is the only hub and it's  
42 sad that.....

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I'm going to stop  
45 you right there because Brent is going to answer that  
46 question. We wrote letters about this honorarium issue.  
47 Go ahead, Brent.

48  
49 MR. VIKCERS: Yes, Thank you. This is  
50 Brent Vickers from OSM. Thank you for bringing this up,

1 Council member Pelkola. It's a big issue. Everyone at  
2 OSM here, we care very much, and we have put Council  
3 member compensation in our budget request for the next  
4 years. That's in the request. It would have to be  
5 approved by Congress. It's in the request with the budget  
6 for other things. But one of the items that we did put  
7 in for with our move -- because of our move to the Office  
8 of Secretary, we feel now we have more power into making  
9 that request. And so, it is in the budget request for  
10 compensation for all Council members beyond just the per  
11 diem.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And I'll stop you  
14 there. And I'm going to -- got Eric. I forgot his last  
15 name with DOI, is on the phone. Are you still there,  
16 Eric?

17  
18 MR. WERWA: I am still here.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, so, this is  
21 an important issue. And have you reviewed the letters  
22 that were promulgated by several Regional Advisory  
23 Councils at the All Councils meetings last March  
24 regarding this problem? And so, did you review those  
25 letters, especially the Eastern Interior letter that was  
26 -- we basically stated that we're - have deference with  
27 the Federal Subsistence Board. We're not actually fully  
28 advisory, we're actually making decisions for the  
29 Federal Subsistence Management Program. So, did you  
30 review those letters?

31  
32 MR. WERWA: I have reviewed the letters,  
33 yes.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I would  
36 encourage you-- Council member Pelkola is referring to  
37 this honorarium issue and the need to -- we're getting  
38 fewer and fewer of -- there's lots of different  
39 organizations that pay honorariums and better per diems.  
40 And so, we're having a harder and harder time getting  
41 participation. But yet we have a statute Title 8, Alaska  
42 National Interest lands Conservation Act, Title 8  
43 mandate for Regional Councils. And the Councils have  
44 deference. And the Councils are making decisions for the  
45 Federal Subsistence Board. And the Federal Subsistence  
46 Board takes those recommendations very seriously and  
47 without proper participation of the Council members and  
48 actually encouragement to be on the Councils, we feel  
49 that strongly that these honorariums should be

1 considered by DOI. So, do you have any comment on that  
2 at this point?

3

4 MR. WERWA: I can just say we are  
5 considering that. I don't have any further information  
6 at this point.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I (distortion) but  
9 I wanted to state that for the record. So, thank you  
10 very much. I want to make sure that you were listening  
11 to this part of the discussion. So, appreciate that.  
12 I'll go back to Jenny now. Go ahead, continue Jenny.

13

14 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. I think, well, I  
15 guess we talked about it, and I hope they make that  
16 retro. Anyway, I enjoyed being on the Council. And I  
17 looked at the Council member.....

18

19 (Distortion)

20

21 MS. PELCHER: .....the council in on  
22 that. So, yeah. We do, we have two vacant seats. Not the  
23 -- I think there's three that are listed there.

24

25 MS. PELKOLA: Well, I was just looking  
26 at that because my -- look like my term -- three of us  
27 are not supposed to be in the meeting, right? Is that -  
28 - or when does our term end?

29

30 MS. PILCHER: I believe it's December of  
31 this year. So, you're still good.

32

33 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, okay. Anyway, I'm glad  
34 that we got Robert and Don back, but now I understand  
35 we got another vacant in the McGrath area. Gee, it's sad  
36 that, you know, we hardly can get people to serve on  
37 this Board anymore. And I'm getting older, so I'm  
38 thinking about retiring in a couple of years with no  
39 benefits. But anyway, I just want to thank the staff for  
40 being here and the rest of the people that came in.  
41 Thank you for enjoying our meeting with us and listening  
42 to us and bearing with us.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny.  
45 I will comment on Jenny's statement that, you know, she  
46 was concerned about the appointment process. And so,  
47 you're on the line there, Eric. This has been a really  
48 huge issue, especially in an election year, to make sure  
49 that the next appointments are made before it's lost in  
50 the shuffle with another administration. So, I'd

1 encourage DOI to help the Secretary of Interior make the  
2 appointments. The process -- the Federal Subsistence  
3 Board is -- there has been an agency review of each  
4 applicant. The Federal Subsistence Board has actually  
5 made recommendations on the applicants and all it's a  
6 matter of -- they've done their background checks. All  
7 that stuff has been done. All it has to happen is to  
8 rubber stamp those letters to make sure that those  
9 Council members are reappointed for this next round, and  
10 especially during an election year. Do you agree or are  
11 you aware?  
12

13 MR. WERWA: Yeah, this is Eric. Yes, we  
14 are well aware of that and are moving as expeditiously  
15 as we can. I know I have moved it along further through  
16 the approval process from my point. So, we are working  
17 to get that done on time or in advance of the -- when  
18 the terms expire so that there won't be any discontinuity  
19 or disruptions.  
20

21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I appreciate that,  
22 thank you very much. And that's probably one of the  
23 highlights of this transition is to have that inroad  
24 into accelerating this, because we've had meetings with  
25 minimum quorums. Or Jenny had like -- I don't even know  
26 if you had quorum. It had, like, four people or  
27 something. She had to Chair a meeting with no  
28 appointments. There were five appointments, they weren't  
29 made and so that was a -- that should not be happening.  
30 This program needs to have continuity. So, I appreciate  
31 your understanding that point. Thanks for being on the  
32 line with that one. So, that covered Jenny's thing. Did  
33 you ever come back online again Tim? Tim Gervias.  
34 Apparently dropped out. So, I want to continue with  
35 Council members' comments. So, I'll go to Tommy. Well,  
36 Tim is trying to call back in. Go ahead, Tommy.  
37

38 MR. KRISKA: Well. Good morning. This is  
39 Tommy Kriska. I just -- well, Robert, it's after 12.  
40

41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We're not bankers.  
42 I'd rather go to 12:30. And then we can go to.....  
43

44 MR. KRISKA: Okay, done. Anyway, there's  
45 a lot of things that's happened differently in this  
46 Interior of Alaska. The fishing, the moose hunting,  
47 global warming. Lot of things that we have to put up  
48 with. And it's not the same as 10 years ago, 20 years  
49 ago. A lot of changes and we have to adapt to it in  
50 different ways. But then there's the, you know, hunting



1 regulations, fishing regulations never change. It's only  
2 getting worse. Like Jenny said, I never, you know, we  
3 never had king salmon for a while. I really don't care  
4 for the fish that they're getting out here. It's -- to  
5 me I have, you know, I've been kind of straight for a  
6 long time and just going back to think about what they  
7 did to all the Natives down in the States, where gave  
8 them, you know, the buffalo, they depleted all their  
9 buffalo and then they gave them meat, they're rotten  
10 meat. And it's the same thing with this fish. And it  
11 seems like it's happening to me, and I don't like it,  
12 but there's -- I don't know, you know, it's hard to take  
13 something that's given to you, and they're okay with it.  
14 And I just hope my people don't get too used to these  
15 handouts because they're trading you for a real life --  
16 they're changing you. It's kind of a screwed-up deal,  
17 you know, you get used to getting this fish. They said,  
18 oh, yeah, they'll get used to giving you more fish and  
19 that's the trade for losing our king salmon. When you  
20 start receiving stuff, then they're going to say, oh,  
21 yeah, we're giving them fish, and we'll just continue  
22 giving them fish. And if you really look at it about the  
23 way the fishing industry and everybody else, the  
24 governments are behind it all, I know that. I'm not  
25 scared to say that because they are. The -- it all goes  
26 down to economy. And it's kind of a screwed-up deal  
27 because you know, they look at it, if you were sitting  
28 in the Government's house, you're looking back this way.  
29 You're looking at all the money that they need to run  
30 their show. But in another way, they got a -- they look  
31 at it where they have to feed all the people out there,  
32 all this fish and everything like that. So, we're not  
33 even thought of. We're not even pea in a cup, nothing.  
34 It's -- they don't even think about us. So, we can get  
35 up, red in our face and talk all the stuff, but they're  
36 still going to take it away and look at it in that  
37 manner. There's just a lot of things that are on the  
38 Koyukuk River this fall, I was kind of upset (distortion)  
39 and they think that, you know, they leave tables out  
40 there, they leave toboggans, they leave propane stoves.  
41 They leave them on the bank thinking people will come  
42 by and get them. But you know what? That's trash. They  
43 leave the gas jugs out there, they leave shovels,  
44 splitting mauls, all kinds of stuff in the woods. If you  
45 go to some of these places, there's boats, stoves.  
46 They're coming back, you know, and for a lot of us, we  
47 can't leave nothing out there in the field. But  
48 technically, we say stuff about it, nothing will be done.  
49 As well as the trespassing and all our lands. For what  
50 I seen this fall and a lot of the complaints to the

1 trooper that nothing was done. He never even so much as  
2 went over there and tell these guys to get off that land  
3 and they're, you know, without going over there and  
4 things like that, it's starting to stir up some people  
5 thinking about and doing something about it on their  
6 own, which is not good. It's going to happen. You keep  
7 on -- and then some of these people that were letting  
8 these guys know, hey, you're on a -- on our Native  
9 allotment and all they were, they were laughed at. And  
10 for me, I would go there myself. But I own a business  
11 myself, so I choose to stay out of it. But it kind of  
12 rubbed me in the wrong way. And not only me, but there's  
13 a lot of smart young guys that will do something about  
14 it. And so, I think that, you know, writing that letter  
15 is going to be a good thing. But then there's people  
16 that are out there supposed to be policing and watching  
17 and making sure people follow the rules, I guess. But  
18 it's not out there for only Natives. I don't see any  
19 other races being stopped or anything like that. It's  
20 all Natives, all the over in Kayuh they choose to go  
21 over there, hit every Native. A lot of people were  
22 charged with this and that, so I don't know. It's a one-  
23 sided deal, and I don't like it. There's a lot of  
24 craziness going on out there. And I think that Gana-  
25 A'Yoo and Doyon and all these people, they should have  
26 people patrolling out there on their lands rather than  
27 giving these folks these little signs to bring out there.  
28 You know, technically, they're not doing their job as  
29 well. They should be out there policing these lands.  
30 They'll make a difference even if they don't know about  
31 it. Know it they have a, I don't know, all kinds of VPSO  
32 boats in Fairbanks that's sitting there. You know, they  
33 should make use of them. Anyway, I could go on and on  
34 and talk. But Robert, he gave me a reminder to make sure  
35 that I don't talk so long, and -- but anyways, I really  
36 do have a lot of concerns about things that are happening  
37 to my people and I don't like it. So, I'll continue  
38 serving on this Board and any other place I can get. I  
39 work with a lot of other different Boards, but you know,  
40 it's kind of a bad deal that we're treated this way. I  
41 think hopefully that are things in the future will be  
42 better, but I have a hard time talking when I have a lot  
43 of different agencies listening in and finding new ways  
44 to figure us out and what to do next. Because all I've  
45 seen all my life, ever since I've been going to meetings  
46 since 1990, was we get reports, I mean, you know, they're  
47 here to do their reports and stuff. And then the thing  
48 is about them, you found this book, you find this book,  
49 you find this book, you find this book, you find this  
50 book. All these guys are sitting here at our meetings,

1 more and getting higher and higher on the regulations  
2 the way it is, and I don't -- I never see us helping any  
3 way. So, this is all Government stuff, nothing for us.  
4 So, I kind of, you know, advise to you that you look at  
5 things in a better way rather than using us to figure  
6 better ways for you to make money in every way fishing,  
7 even though it's all gone, a lot of it is gone. You  
8 think of us because we're going to be coming. We're not  
9 going to go anywhere. We're starting to have a lot of  
10 people in these colleges and everything like that. And  
11 we'll be coming back around, and I hope you don't get  
12 caught in the middle of it. So, that's my report, and  
13 you know, try to help us rather than go against us. Use  
14 us for money making deals. Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Appreciate all  
17 those comments, Tommy. I heard both of you stating what  
18 you're eating is sockeye salmon. Those are of a firm  
19 flesh. They don't ascend that far into the rivers.  
20 Typically, they're much drier fish. What I said 20 years  
21 ago, over 20 years ago in Galena, when we had two North  
22 Pacific Fishery Management Council members at our  
23 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, I told the  
24 North Pacific -- I was just a regular, just an ordinary  
25 Council member at that time -- I told the North Pacific  
26 Council members that they needed to stop throwing that  
27 -- those kings and those fish overboard and process those  
28 and share those back to the communities that are  
29 affected. We were already starting to show declines in  
30 the year 2000. So, I told them they needed to process  
31 that fish. Well, now they do it. Oh, we're processing  
32 the fish that goes to the SeaShare program. Well, who  
33 gets it? Seattle. That's where your king salmon are  
34 going. And this -- we should write a letter to the North  
35 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the Department  
36 of Interior should be speaking up, Eric, you're  
37 listening, I feel that the Department of Interior needs  
38 to speak up for these people who are having their fish  
39 robbed on the ocean and processed and shipped down to  
40 Seattle to -- for their benefit where the fleet comes  
41 from.

42  
43 And so, I feel that -- I told those North  
44 Pacific Fisheries Management Council members the  
45 response was, well, that'll cost a lot of money to  
46 process that fish and ship it all back to -- I said yeah,  
47 that disincentivizes catching bycatch of chinook salmon  
48 on the on the Bering Sea in the North Pacific. It reduces  
49 the incentive by making them return it to the river of  
50 origin by apportionment. And so, they don't like to do

1 genetic studies on them that much. You know, we don't  
2 want to like, know where they actually come from. Well,  
3 they come from Asia or somewhere there. We've lost  
4 practically 90 something percent of our salmon runs on  
5 the Yukon River. We need to have those fish. If they're  
6 going to bycatch them, they need to be returned to the  
7 river of origin. And so, the people here can at least  
8 have decent fish that they were raised on. So, you wanted  
9 to comment, Tommy.

10  
11 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I have one more. I go  
12 to a lot of different meetings. So, in the North Pacific,  
13 met with some people that were from the North Pacific  
14 industries wanted that controlled nine trawlers, and  
15 they're one of their folks, I was, I don't know, just  
16 on the side asking them some questions. I said, well,  
17 why you guys don't process the salmon and give it back  
18 like you're saying? And he said, no, no, no, everything  
19 that they were fishing for is 3 or 4 dollars, but the  
20 king salmon is worth 8 or 9 dollars to them. So, every  
21 salmon they catch, they sell it. They're selling it. So,  
22 I don't know it's just like Okay. So, I'll never see  
23 another salmon in my day I guess I don't know.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, they claim  
26 that the majority of the bycatch is, is juvenile fish,  
27 meaning that they're not spawning fish. That doesn't  
28 mean that they're not 10-to-25-pound fish. They might  
29 be growing to 50-pound fish. They're just trying to  
30 deflect. They're just trying to deflect what they're  
31 actually catching. They're actually catching feeding  
32 kings and they live to be six years old before they  
33 ascend the river. Those are going to be feeding kings  
34 that are actually in the 30-pound range, but they're  
35 still feeding. They're not actually -- they're not  
36 returning to spawn yet. The reality is that SeaShare  
37 should be sharing that fish with the Yukon and Kuskokwim  
38 rivers in our region. I've said it 20 years ago, I'm  
39 saying it right this minute. We need to write a letter.  
40 The Chair will entertain a motion to write a letter to  
41 the North Pacific Fishery. They admitted -- aren't they  
42 -- aren't they administering that SeaShare thing?  
43 SeaShare program? NOAA. Write the letter to NOAA, let  
44 it go -- and North Pacific joint that the SeaShare  
45 program needs to start sharing that bycatch of chinook  
46 salmon back to the rivers of origin. We demand it. And  
47 I would like the Secretary of Interior's office to assist  
48 us in demanding that return of the fish because we're  
49 losing -- people here don't even have the food that  
50 Jenny -- and why is that? People say that's my comfort

1 food. That's my comfort food. The king salmon, that's  
2 my -- why do they say that? Because the king salmon is  
3 one of the fattest fishes in the -- in any anadromous  
4 fish. And why are they fat? And why is there so much  
5 comfort? Because they're rich in vitamin D, which  
6 vitamin D increases serotonin. So, in reality, that is  
7 your comfort food because serotonin is increased with  
8 the with the intake of vitamin D, without the salmon  
9 resources on the Yukon River, we're losing people's  
10 overall sense of well-being is being impacted. It's a  
11 major part and let the record reflect that. That this -  
12 - that the return of sockeye salmon in exchange for  
13 chinook salmon that are being sent to Seattle has got  
14 to stop. I mean, sockeye is okay and better than nothing,  
15 but there's king salmon that are going back to Seattle  
16 and lots of it. Not a little bit. They'll brag about it.  
17 Go on their website, you can read all about it. So, I  
18 feel that the Chair will entertain a motion to write a  
19 letter to NOAA and the North Pacific Fisheries  
20 Management Council stating, for the record, that they  
21 need to start returning, that SeaShare -- the majority  
22 of that SeaShare back to the Alaskan rivers that were  
23 impacted by the bycatch for Alaskan stocks. So, somebody  
24 like to make a motion?

25

MR. GERVIAS: So, moved. This is Tim.

26

MR. WALKER: We should also send a letter  
28 to the Department of Agriculture also, who is also  
29 fishing and doing most of this tossing of chinook salmon  
30 overboard too also. They should have given a letter and  
31 should be letter Department of Interior. Also, stating  
32 why are they taking our Yukon fish from the tribal people  
33 and catching the bycatch or not bycatch, but the pollock  
34 fisheries to feed to the schools out in the United  
35 States? This is something that -- what we brought up and  
36 talked about, how can we fight the Federal Government  
37 on this? I mean, we have no way, because even if we do  
38 a government-government relationship, we're going to  
39 lose. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.  
42 So, yeah, there needs to be a list, this CC list.  
43 Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture,  
44 Department of Interior, NOAA and the North Pacific  
45 Fisheries Management Council, all have to get on the  
46 same sheet of music. That's the sheet of music that  
47 Seashare has got to stop sharing all of the fish that's  
48 bycatch basically out of reach, out of the state of  
49 Alaska's waters to another -- completely other cities  
50

1 that have nothing to do with this bycatch issue at all.  
2 And that should not have happened for the last 20 years.  
3 It's getting -- it's making me more and more annoyed  
4 when I got elders that are -- can't have the food that  
5 they're used to eating. I'm unhappy with the lack of  
6 return. I'm unhappy with how this SeaShare program has  
7 been -- being administered and I need that -- I feel  
8 that we needed a motion to send that letter in regard  
9 to this SeaShare, that needs to be highlighted, and if  
10 they don't pick it up, we need to send it to the news  
11 media. This is a newsworthy issue. Because people in  
12 this region, our region are starving for fat salmon,  
13 period. That's just all that's going on here. So, do we  
14 have anybody going to make that motion?

15

16 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make a motion.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Motion by Jenny. Do  
19 we have a second?

20

21 MR. GERVIAS: I'll second it, this is  
22 Tim.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tommy, Tommy  
25 seconded that. And you have any -- now Council. Council  
26 discussion. Any further additions or comments to the  
27 additions to the letter?

28

29 (No response)

30

31 Hearing none. Do we have a question?

32

33 MR. WALKER: Yes, I'm.....

34

35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Discussion. Go  
36 ahead.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Oh, sorry Mr. Chair. Thank  
39 you. But, you know, we also talked about this, too. And,  
40 you know, Area M always comes up all the time, too. So,  
41 a letter should be sent to the State and the Governor  
42 and a Board of Fish also, on this, because the Board of  
43 Fish Commissioner put a seven-year moratorium on the  
44 chinook salmon on the YK region, Yukon/Kuskokwim Arctic.  
45 So, I mean, these fall into sequence when we're talking  
46 about too. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me. I  
49 thought I'd touched it. I do feel that the -- it'd be  
50 TCC, and various tribal entities are providing this

1 sockeye salmon. That's all they have. I do feel that  
2 they should be aware that the SeaShare program should  
3 actually be providing them with the bycatch chinook and  
4 to be disseminate to the villages. So, the CC should be  
5 to the TCC, ABCP the -- those overall umbrella groups,  
6 tribal groups that are ministering this salmon  
7 dissemination to the various villages. So, that should  
8 be part of the CC list. And you're exactly right, the  
9 Commissioner's office needs to be aware of the effects  
10 of -- because they're supporting of the bycatch of the  
11 industry and vote against practically everything to  
12 address this bycatch problem and hatchery release  
13 problem. So, I -- any further discussion? You have any  
14 comments, Tim?

15

16 MR. GERVIAS: No, I'm ready to vote in  
17 the affirmative.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, and while  
20 you're there, Tim, let me inform you. You dropped out,  
21 so I had to move forward with other Council reports.  
22 Otherwise, we'd lose too much time. I'll take up the  
23 rest of your report after lunch here. So, those in favor  
24 of the -- do we have a -- a question is called?

25

26 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called,  
29 those in favor of adopting that motion to transmit a  
30 letter to the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
31 Council, NOAA, Department of Commerce, Department of  
32 Agriculture, Department of Interior, Commissioner of  
33 Fish and Game's office and Doyon or AB - TCC, ABCP and  
34 other Native groups to understand that the SeaShare  
35 bycatch that's actually retained -- prohibited species  
36 retention should be returned to the rivers of origin on  
37 the Yukon and Kuskokwim River. That's the letter to be  
38 promulgated and transmitted. Those in favor of that  
39 letter signify by saying aye.

40

41 Aye. Jenny, Tommy, Robert? In favor of  
42 the -- Robert, Tim?

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: Aye.

45

46 And anybody else? Did Don come back? Or.  
47 Darrell? Okay. So, that's completed Tommy's. And so,  
48 we're going to break for lunch. It's just right around  
49 12:30. We'll come back at 1:30-ish.

50

1 MR. GERVIAS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

4

5 MR. GERVIAS: Jack? May I have five  
6 minutes to finish my report? Because I'm in a calm place  
7 right now and a good time to get it transmitted.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. If you're in  
10 a good spot. Okay, five more minutes. We'll -- I did  
11 want to complete yours, So, go right ahead, Tim.

12

13 MR. GERVIAS: Okay, so I was talking  
14 about low average way to sockeye salmon and Bristol Bay.  
15 Then in Russia, one of their main hatchery pink  
16 production areas, The Sakhalin Island off the southeast  
17 coast of Siberia. They're producing a lot of pink salmon  
18 for domestic food security, but also to create export  
19 product for hard currency. And they're -- this year their  
20 pink salmon average weight was two and a half pounds.  
21 And that is a -- normal pink salmon should weigh 4  
22 pounds. So, it just keeps coming up this issue of there's  
23 not enough available food supply in the North Pacific  
24 to -- all the salmon are -- seem to be having problem  
25 with too much hatchery release. So, we need to keep  
26 trying to work that issue. And try to get the hatchery  
27 releases from Canada -- Canada, Washington, Alaska,  
28 Russia and Japan all reduced so we cannot have too many  
29 fish out eating the available food supply for the wild  
30 salmon. I'm still opposed to this Bureau of Indian  
31 Affairs takeover or move of the Federal Subsistence  
32 program. I've thought about it some this summer, and I  
33 feel like the BIA lacks expertise. It will stall out a  
34 lot of effort that we have going on with the fish.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim. Tim, can I  
37 stop you there? It's not actually gone under the BIA.  
38 They've changed that now. It's directly under the  
39 Department of Interior office. And what -- Eric, could  
40 you point, specifically State what you're -- basically  
41 office of.....

42

43 MR. WERWA: Yeah, so, it's within the  
44 Office of the Secretary. There's Office of Policy,  
45 Management and Budget, which does a lot of management  
46 activities, but also, we have some program offices like  
47 under myself, including now OSM also the Office of Native  
48 Hawaiian Relations. So, we are right within the Office  
49 of the Secretary as well to provide a, you know, close  
50 connection there.



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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, I wanted that clarified for Tim because the original proposal was to be under a branch of the BIA. So, continue with your discussion, Tim, with that new information.

MR. GERVIAS: All right. I just -- the final comment on that is I feel like Fish and Wildlife Service is the most appropriate agency for the Office of Subsistence Management to be located, to have the experience and expertise and the personnel to understand the issues. And I think it's disruptive to change the overseeing agency. The next issue, I was talking to management biologists down here in the summer about genetics on king salmon. And if you remember, in -- around 2014, under the Parnell administration, they had the chinook salmon initiative was supposed to be a three-year study where they were going to do genetic testing from Kodiak, Chignik, Area M, and maybe some other places to see where the -- these king salmon that were caught in these fisheries was coming from. And that biologist told me that that program, even though it was supposed to be a three-year program, it only ran for one year, and he didn't know why it was stopped. So, I would appreciate if somebody with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to explain why that that program, which was an important part of the State's response to low chinook returns and the Western rivers, why it only ran one year, and where we could find a summary of that genetic information. Because I feel at this point with issues in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea in the Western rivers, that all of us together, meaning ADF&G, Office of Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, all the tribes, all the subsistence users, we all need to work together and get a good understanding of who's king salmon are swimming at what areas, and what time of year and who's catching them, so we can all stop hypothesizing about what the problem is and understanding actually who's catching who's king salmon and what their abundance is.

Okay, the next item is just this past Saturday, applications ended for disaster funding for 2020 and 2021 Yukon River Salmon Disaster. And I wanted to state that while though the payout money that will be received from NOAA through Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission will provide some relief, I think we need to be communicating and talking to different agencies and managers that the money does not actually replace the value of having a functioning king and chum

1 salmon fishery on the Koyukuk, on the Yukon, on the  
2 Kuskokwim River. The subsistence process is more than  
3 just fish numbers. It involves the catching of the fish,  
4 the processing of the fish, the activity of doing that,  
5 the self-worth derived from catching that fish, and  
6 then, as continually discussed, the -- just the  
7 nutritional value that people -- people are expected to  
8 survive and thrive in this climate, this latitude,  
9 unless they're having a good amount of fish that they  
10 put up in the summer, and they need to make a three or  
11 the other micronutrients to maintain their health and  
12 stay out of depression. And just it's only sources --  
13 you're not getting any vitamin D from the sun in the  
14 winter. You need that -- that nutrition needs to be  
15 there. So, I want -- there's people maybe Washington or  
16 just the general U.S. population that would think, okay,  
17 well, Alaska or Yukon Kuskokwim Rivers had a disaster,  
18 they got paid out, it's all good. It's not good. We need  
19 to keep working policies and communicating to try to  
20 restore our runs.

21  
22 Okay the next item is -- the last item  
23 I believe, the Board of Fish is having a work session  
24 on October 29th and 30th in Anchorage. I am trying to  
25 be available to go there and I can go there just as a  
26 private citizen, but I would like the members of our  
27 Council to consider giving me authorization to speak on  
28 behalf of the WIRAC in -- specifically in regard to the  
29 agenda change request we have in for the length and net  
30 dimensions reduction in the Area M. That ACR is in the  
31 works, thank you Nissa, for getting that submitted in  
32 August. And I would appreciate it if the WIRAC would  
33 consider authorizing me to speak on their behalf at this  
34 Board of Fish work session at the end of October. And  
35 that's my report. Also, I would like to apologize for  
36 being away from the meeting. I've had a lot of bad  
37 weather this fall, and I couldn't get my work done. Last  
38 week I realized it's detrimental to be communicating  
39 over the phone and keep dropping out. So, I appreciate  
40 everybody's patience with me being a call-in member to  
41 this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I appreciate your  
44 attendance, even on the phone, and any Council members'  
45 attendance. We need quorum, and we need to have all this  
46 valuable input by all of the Council members because we  
47 have a huge region. So, I fully support your  
48 representation -- our authorization to represent the  
49 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to the  
50 Federal Subsistence Board before the State Board of Fish

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1 regarding the ECR, does that have a number, Nissa? Well,  
2 the ACR.

3

4 MS. PILCHER: I want to say 13, but I  
5 will verify. I do believe this would take a full vote  
6 by the Council.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes. So, I do feel  
9 that the Council's -- it's beneficial to the Council to  
10 authorize Tim to speak before the State Board of Fish  
11 at the Anchorage meeting in late October. The Chair will  
12 entertain a motion to designate Tim to be our  
13 representative.

14

15 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Move by Jenny.

18

19 MR. KRISKA: Second.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Tommy.  
22 Discussion on Tim's authorization.

23

24 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Question. Those in  
27 favor signify by saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim, I need your  
32 vote. Tim, are you still there?

33

34 MS. PILCHER: I think he came back.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: He left?

37

38 MS. PILCHER: I think it dropped or he  
39 dropped.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, do we  
42 have Darrell or anybody? Do you see them?

43

44 MS. PILCHER: I see Don online, but it  
45 does show that you're muted.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim.

48

49 MR. GERVIAS: Jack, I'm back on.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. I need your  
2 vote to authorize you to go to Anchorage as a  
3 representative on the ACR.

4  
5 MR. GERVIAS: Yes.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And, Don, are you  
8 there? Unmute, Don.

9  
10 MS. PILCHER: Star six, Don.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, apparently,  
13 he's laid the phone down or something. So, we have the  
14 vote, we have the five. So, okay we're good. So, now  
15 we're going to break for lunch and let's see what time  
16 we got. We got 12:45 and so, we'll come back at 1:45 or  
17 1-hour lunch break. And I want to start immediately at  
18 1:45 because we have a lot of agenda before us. And we  
19 have quite a bit of presentations. So, thank you very  
20 much. We'll see you in one hour.

21  
22 (Off record)

23  
24 (On record)

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, this is Jack,  
27 and we're going to be coming back to order. I want to  
28 know who's on the phone. Are you on the phone, Don or  
29 Tim or Darrell?

30  
31 (No response)

32  
33 So, we do have Robert, Tommy and Jenny  
34 and myself here. But we need one more Council member to  
35 meet quorum. So, I'm not sure what's -- Don Honea was  
36 supposed to give his report coming up next or Darrell.

37  
38 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim, I'm  
39 online.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, Tim, good.  
42 So, we're all -- we got five quorum. So, we're going to  
43 bring this meeting back to order. It's 1:47. And so,  
44 when Darrell or are you there, Don or Darrell?

45  
46 MR. HONEA: Yeah, could you hear me?  
47 Could you hear me?

48  
49  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I got you now, Don,  
2 yes. So, you're up next, and so, we'll take your Council  
3 member report if you'd like to give it now.

4  
5 MR. HONEA: Yes, I'd like to do it now  
6 while I'm switching phones here and stuff. I'm not good  
7 at this kind of stuff, but hey, I like the conversation  
8 this morning, and I think that letter that -- I think  
9 that I'm glad that maybe TCC is on there. Diloolala, I  
10 hope she's still on that, because I think that we have  
11 to kind of work on this collectively between -- I know  
12 I don't think Doyon is a, any kind of Wildlife and Parks  
13 kind of thing as TCC does. So, I appreciate the people  
14 that spoke up with this and what's going on, and it's  
15 long overdue, and, you know, maybe it's a little bit too  
16 late. It's a little -- but it's at least something you  
17 can do. And I thank the Nowitna, I like the Federal  
18 offer -- I like the Federal offices there for doing a  
19 comprehensive population estimate or whatever they call  
20 it, it has done, I believe I've heard the number for 8  
21 or 11 years. So, I think Jeremy and I think Bob and  
22 Marie and Boomer and Bob and Doug -- Dougen and the, I  
23 don't know, all of them there, but I believe the Check  
24 Station is still open. It's a real (indiscernible) to  
25 us. Speaking of -- I'm really kind of confused about the  
26 fishing, I mean a preliminary, projected numbers we were  
27 given maybe in March or February or something, was to  
28 be about half a million or 500 to 600,000 summer chum.  
29 And it's amazing that it never came about, and you know,  
30 I mean, when we listened to the, you know, somebody did  
31 you know, so much for like 80% bycatch. Well, that means  
32 squat when we're sitting here on where the Yukon is and  
33 not being able to fit. So, and speaking about the fish  
34 that Jenny mentioned and that we're getting from TCC,  
35 it's a better quality fish than we had in the past so,  
36 it's getting better, but like Tom and all of us are  
37 saying, you know, it's not something that we should be  
38 getting accustomed. I don't like that idea myself. So,  
39 that there -- I'm hoping, I made, you know, years and  
40 years, we, you know, we gave up the king runs. And sure,  
41 we always mentioned, hey, we got to fall chum in the  
42 summer, summer chum in the fall chum, and a lot of them  
43 were just excellent for the eating fish and the strips  
44 that we make, but I'm just really concerned about, you  
45 know us not even having that advantage anymore. And by  
46 the way, I thought Kevin from McGrath was still on the  
47 Board, I mean, it seems like he just got on Board with  
48 us a few years ago, and I don't know if he's still on  
49 there, but I think always a concern of mine is not all  
50 of the Aniak and McGrath and, you know, going all the

1 way down to Georgetown (distortion) or Stony or Red Devil  
2 or something, their concerns -- we don't know what their  
3 concerns are, so.....

4

5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Don.

6

7 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, I don't think  
10 you heard that Kevin Whitworth resigned because he had  
11 some family issues and he just he had to put more time  
12 into his family. He got a new baby and whatnot so, Kevin  
13 Whitworth resigned, and we have no one on the Kuskokwim  
14 now, and so I agree with you. We have -- we do need  
15 membership from the Kuskokwim River lower portion of our  
16 region on the Kuskokwim because we have basically a whole  
17 blind spot there of -- without any participation from  
18 our Council members at this time.

19

20 (Simultaneous speech)

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I just want to let  
23 you know what happened to Kevin, because you're talking  
24 about Kevin. So, that's what happened with him.

25

26 MR. HONEA: Right, okay, okay. I  
27 appreciate that, I did not know that had happened,  
28 probably because I wasn't on the Board until maybe later,  
29 but yeah, that definitely leaves a big void in McGrath  
30 and in, you know, I don't know exactly their fishing  
31 concerns on the Kusko [sic]. We were getting that  
32 specifically from Kevin and maybe Karl, and so that  
33 leaves, leaves a pretty big void there, in that thing  
34 there, and anyway so I guess that pretty much sums all.  
35 We had a -- I think our moose population take here was  
36 average, if not above, and I -- right now I talk people  
37 that are seeing, seeing some pretty good bulls on the  
38 Novi, a lot was taken after the 15th of September. It  
39 was really quiet here, pretty slow and so, a lot of  
40 (distortion) was taken on the roads. So, I don't think  
41 we're hurting in any way other than that, but it's just  
42 interesting to find out you know -- to take on the  
43 Koyukuk and I guess we'll find out find out from the  
44 Nowitna the Wildlife Refuge later on. So, that pretty  
45 much completes what I had in mind. But, yeah, I still  
46 think the idea of the -- recognizing Native allotments  
47 as private thing was taken up a few years back, maybe  
48 it got on the back burner or something, but I think it's  
49 going to have to be a, like I said, a concerted effort

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1 from the RACs and from the -- your Native organization.  
2 So, that concludes my report.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, Don.  
5 Appreciate all your comments. Does any Council members  
6 have questions for Don?

7

8 (No response)

9

10 No. And, Darrell, did you come back  
11 online? We're looking for Darrell. So, he's not online.  
12 And so, I will give my Chair report in the interim. So,  
13 I -- since the last meeting, I participated in the Board  
14 of Game, I'm on the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee.  
15 We -- I couldn't attend that meeting, but we have  
16 Michelle Quillan, she's from Hughes and she's a young  
17 lady, done a biology degree and very active about Fish  
18 and Wildlife -- man wanting to learn so, I'm -- she  
19 attended to the Board and Game and gave comments for the  
20 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee. I listened to that  
21 meeting, and I'm really concerned that the Board paid  
22 virtually no attention, and they -- she put up a  
23 PowerPoint in the Board Chair, said they'd never seen  
24 an Advisory Committee put up a PowerPoint, but when the  
25 -- they started deliberating proposals that she just  
26 commented on, she made her comments right before  
27 deliberations, and they basically didn't pay any  
28 attention to the Advisory Committee comments, none at  
29 all. They didn't even reference them, they would ask the  
30 -- she, she commented on specifics of proposals and  
31 they basically paid no attention to the Advisory  
32 Committee comments other than affirmative or oppose. And  
33 so, I'm concerned about that, you know, Regional  
34 Councils have deference, Regional Councils are --  
35 interact with the Board and they actually listen they -  
36 - you know, the Federal Subsistence Board listens to the  
37 Regional Advisory Council and the Regional Councils  
38 listen to the Advisory Committees, like Advisory  
39 Committees are part of the 805 process, but the Board  
40 of Game and the Board of Fish have now become complacent  
41 about the statutory requirements of eight -- I mean, is  
42 it 86 Advisory Committees, Nissa?

43

44 MS. PILCHER: The website says 84. But I  
45 do believe that hasn't been updated.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, there's around  
48 80-something Advisory Committees, and there's -- it's a  
49 part of the statutory Board of game and Board of Fish  
50 process, they basically are ignoring comments and

1 pertinent, pertinent information that should be  
2 considered in the deliberation process, regarding all  
3 these animals and all these fishes. And so, I'm concerned  
4 about that part, and so I'm stating that on the record  
5 for the Council members that didn't attend the Board of  
6 Game or the Board of Fish meetings, you know, there's -  
7 - Board of Fish did this pretty much the same thing with  
8 extensive public comments, basically ignoring what the  
9 public feels about and how the Game should be managed.  
10 There -- those members are appointed to basically listen  
11 to the public. That's part of their statutory  
12 requirement, and the Advisory Committees are part of  
13 that. So, I participated in that. I then participated  
14 in the April 3 through 6, I think it was, Federal  
15 Subsistence Board meeting. There were various Federal  
16 proposals regarding caribou, sheep, etc. And so, they -  
17 - a reduction in harvest for sheep inside the Gates of  
18 the Arctic National Park, continuing the closure for  
19 Unit 24A and 26B, west of the Sagavanirktok.

20  
21                   Those proposals -- the Federal  
22 Subsistence Board adopted the whatever, the Western Tier  
23 Council can -- you know, reducing the harvest inside of  
24 the park from three sheep to one sheep inside the gates  
25 of the Arctic National Park. Basically, the conservation  
26 positions and then, the positions taken on the Western  
27 Arctic Caribou Herds management, which basically is  
28 pretty much following the State Board process -- State  
29 Board of Game process. So, the Federal Subsistence Board  
30 has more -- is a more attentive to the public, they  
31 listen to the public. The listen to public members spoke  
32 way longer than anybody would ever be allowed to speak  
33 at a, at a State Board of Game or Board of Fish meeting.  
34 And so, they seem to be very amicable to the public  
35 process. So, I went to the Gates of the Arctic  
36 Subsistence Resource Commission meeting, which I'm the  
37 Vice Chair of that. And we discussed various aspects of  
38 caribou migrations and public members. We had a lot of  
39 public members come and participate with the Gates of  
40 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. That's a  
41 very active community, they have Native allotments that  
42 they access through the Gates of the Arctic Park and the  
43 Subsistence Resource Commissions also feed into this  
44 program, so, we'll have comments from the National Park  
45 Service also. And so, the park lands have resident zones  
46 for Gates of the Arctic, there's resident zoned  
47 communities, and Wiseman where I live, is one of the  
48 resident zoned communities that has customary and  
49 traditional use inside the park. It's not a -- the parks  
50 aren't open to all of the people that have customary and



1 traditional use in that unit, only the communities like  
2 Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Evansville, Shungnak, Kobuk  
3 and Ambler, Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut at the Arctic  
4 Ocean Coast. So, it'll be people who customary and  
5 traditionally used the park, and so those would be the  
6 users. And then there's the Denali Resource Commission,  
7 and they also have -- we have members that are in within  
8 our region, like in the upper Kuskokwim River and  
9 Nikolai, and those communities would also be within our  
10 region, and then we also have Lake Clark -- portions of  
11 Lake Clark, National Monument are also in our region,  
12 and we have customary and traditional use overlaps in  
13 those also. So, there's -- that's why, you know, I want  
14 this Council to be aware of why I go to various meetings  
15 about different things.

16  
17 So, I was on a conference call on May  
18 11th, correction, May 13th on the DOI transferred. So,  
19 there's the OSM transfer to the Department of Interior,  
20 and so, we clarified that with Eric, for the record for  
21 Tim. So, the Council was -- is just becoming -- coming  
22 up to speed on what that's actually -- how this is going  
23 to change, it's not going to be under U.S. Fish and  
24 Wildlife anymore. It'll be under the Department of  
25 Interior, and when we had our fall meeting in Fairbanks  
26 last, last fall, Kevin Whitworth, you know, I was  
27 reluctant to be under the Department of Interior. But  
28 Kevin Whitworth informed us at that meeting that he had  
29 worked with various tribal entities to move it from OSM  
30 from under U.S. Fish and Wildlife to the Department of  
31 Interior. But my main concern about that is, it's too  
32 close to the burning -- burn barrel and you get a change  
33 of administration and something bad could happen. You  
34 know, you get a completely different President and  
35 Secretary of Interior that things could change  
36 dramatically, and so people who would be more amicable  
37 to the Federal Subsistence process here, it could change  
38 completely. So, I'm a little bit concerned about that,  
39 but that's just the way this has gone and it's there,  
40 that was -- that's where we're at right now. But the  
41 Council has to be aware that there's -- that that's  
42 what's happening. So, I also participated in an August  
43 Priority Information Needs for fisheries, and so there  
44 was discussion with different Regional Councils about  
45 priority needs. So, I also been in conference with --  
46 for as the Chair working -- talking to the, the Bureau  
47 of Land management, Central Yukon Management. Manager  
48 would be Jeff Beyersdorf about this. There was an  
49 elimination of 28 million something acres from public  
50 land order withdrawals and -- by Secretary of Interior,

1 but the Public Land Order 51-50, which encompasses from  
2 the Yukon River bridge all the way to Slope Mountain on  
3 the on the Arctic Slope. It's from the Yukon River  
4 bridge, it's basically the Dalton Highway Corridor  
5 Management area, Oil and Gas Transportation Utility  
6 Corridor, which is 2.1 million acres. And so, this  
7 Council is registered opposition to lifting the PLO51-  
8 50, which would then give it directly over to the State,  
9 who would completely lose Federal subsistence priority  
10 for, not just where I live, I'm one of the people who  
11 lives in that corridor area but Stevens Village,  
12 Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville, Bettles, Coldfoot,  
13 Wiseman, Nuiqsut and there are people -- now they got  
14 these snow roads. There are people that are driving from,  
15 from Utqiagvik, you know, Barrow and coming -- Anaktuvuk  
16 Pass they're coming out to the Road, they would lose  
17 their subsistence, and there are people from Nuiqsut  
18 that are actually drive down to Fairbanks on the spine  
19 roads and the ice roads and they drive and they -- and  
20 I see where they kill caribou, I have people from  
21 Allakaket they have hardly any moose harvest. And so,  
22 I've Tribal Chief Pollock or Simon Junior came, he asked  
23 me, can we hunt over there? I said, yes, you have  
24 customary and traditional use. You can drive on the Road,  
25 you can harvest caribou with a firearm because you have  
26 customary and traditional use. And so, they needed  
27 potlatch made and they came from Allakaket. They had  
28 vehicles in Fairbanks so, they got -- they went to from  
29 Allakaket to Fairbanks got drove up there, they got six  
30 caribou for their potlatches -- this spring potlatches,  
31 they would lose that opportunity, which is not a little  
32 deal, that's a big deal. And so, I've -- this Council  
33 has opposed lifting the 51-50. And we'll have Jeff  
34 Beyersdorf with BLM and Erin Julianus later on in this  
35 agenda to discuss that one. But I wanted this Council  
36 to be aware that I've been in discussion with BLM since  
37 April and against -- again this -- in September at my  
38 house about these impacts. My position is and I will  
39 state it for the record here, that the state of Alaska  
40 is over selected by 125% or 128% or way over selected.  
41 There only -- there's 5.2 million acres to be conveyed  
42 to the state of Alaska. My position is they've selected  
43 lands, just give them their lands. Just convey the lands,  
44 don't lift the public land orders. Those were priority  
45 lands. The state of Alaska had the ability to select  
46 those Oil and Gas Transportation Utility Corridor lands,  
47 back in 19 -- before 1971, they had, from 1959 to 1971  
48 to select those lands. They knew the pipeline was going  
49 there, they knew they could select those lands, but they  
50 didn't do it. So, just give the State the lands that

1 they've already selected and do not lift the 51-50  
2 because it will impact multiple communities ability to  
3 harvest on Federal subsistence priority, because there  
4 is virtually no subsistence priority north of that line,  
5 there were literally thousands and thousands of caribou  
6 hunters that were going north of the Brooks Range because  
7 of an increase in in caribou. The Board of Game pass  
8 proposal that changed the regulation to -- from one bull  
9 caribou for non-residents and you know, in the fall hunt  
10 to two bull caribou for non-residents. So, I seen a  
11 phenomenal increase in non-resident participation for,  
12 you know, for the Central Arctic Caribou Herd which was  
13 last census that 34,500 last census that I've seen and  
14 -- which is just barely above the minimum threshold for,  
15 for that herd's use and they went from four bull caribou  
16 for residents to five caribou including cows, bulls,  
17 calves, the whole works. Caribou only have one calf per  
18 year after the age of 3 or 4. That is a phenomenal  
19 opportunity that was completely uncalled for. We opposed  
20 the proposal at the Advisory Committee level. We didn't  
21 want to see harvest of cows before October 1. They're  
22 still in lactation all the way through the end of  
23 September, first part of October. They opened caribou  
24 on July 1 with three-week-old neonates and full on  
25 lactation, there were baby caribou that they killed the  
26 mom they got -- they have to club the calf and the head  
27 because it won't leave the cow and they were killed. In  
28 the fall migration, in August there were two pushes of  
29 caribou, Central Arctic tried to push across the Road  
30 and around August 8 there was a huge amount of harvest  
31 then, they killed a lot of cows, cause cows lead  
32 migration, bulls are way back in the back of those  
33 strings. So, they killed lots and lots of cows. And  
34 there were calves wandering -- single calves wandering  
35 on the tundra, all fall. Then there was another push  
36 around the August 24, and they killed a lot of -- and  
37 because they drove the caribou back, they killed them  
38 hard -- so hard on the lead of the migration. The caribou  
39 have not come near the Road since the end of August.  
40 They basically drove the caribou to the -- back to the  
41 east, and they were pretty much refusing to come back  
42 for that. They got a bad taste in their mouth and I --  
43 we discussed that with the Board of Game, cows lead  
44 migration, oh they don't, yeah, we've never got a collar  
45 on a lead cow. That's the problem, the biologists never  
46 actually collar lead cows. They just randomly collar cow  
47 caribou well, they might not be leaders. There's type A  
48 personalities, they have an interdigital gland between  
49 their hooves, and they lay down a central that most  
50 caribou will follow and Anaktuvuk Pass, they do not kill

1 caribou in Anaktuvuk Pass and a fall migration. When  
2 they're coming south, they let the lead cows pass passed  
3 the village. They will not kill any caribou until the  
4 lead cows have passed through, and it's real stressful  
5 when they do show up because young people don't really  
6 understand all that. So, the elders have to restrain the  
7 population of hunters until they pass through. Then they  
8 let them kill caribou after that. You can kill caribou,  
9 once they cross through and kill caribou all day long,  
10 they won't stop. They'll keep coming following those  
11 lead cows that went through. So, now it's deflected the  
12 caribou way, subsistence opportunity for me has gone to  
13 none. I can't find a cow here. I can't find any kind of  
14 a caribou; I'm not killing cows. I can't find any cow  
15 caribou at all in the Dalton Highway Corridor in the  
16 fall migration, there are none. I wanted a bull caribou  
17 because there -- they call them piniag, they're really  
18 fat, five year old care bull caribou are fully mature  
19 and they have the thickest fat. Younger bulls have  
20 fatter, shallower fat reserves, there are no young  
21 bulls, there are no caribou, but there are no piniag at  
22 all. And so, we don't have caribou. So, it's a -- that's  
23 gonna affect Anaktuvuk Pass because Central was crossing  
24 since 2016 when they closed cow caribou harvest. The  
25 Board of Game closed cow caribou harvest in 26B the  
26 caribou have not been learning to recross the Dalton  
27 Highway through, through this July 1 of 2024, so that's  
28 going to affect Anaktuvuk ability to harvest caribou  
29 this fall. It's harvest -- it's affecting my harvest,  
30 and it's going to affect harvest that could be seen all  
31 the way down to Allakaket and Bettles. So, the moose  
32 population went way down, our moose population is under  
33 a lottery draw permit. There were lots and lots of  
34 hunters. The sheep closure helped, the sheep population  
35 is very low and had better lamb recruitments this year,  
36 but it's really super low. There is a biologist, Erin  
37 Julianus, who was on the phone and she drove the Road  
38 back in early June, she could not find one sheep from  
39 the Road and I could -- I have not -- I can personally  
40 state for the record, I did not see one dall sheep from  
41 the Road. I live in sheep country; I know where they  
42 live. I look at all kinds of mountains, I look at mineral  
43 licks, I can't find one sheep from the Road. They were  
44 there in the spring, they'll come out to the edge of the  
45 valley while -- there are sheep, but there are so few.  
46 There's a very, very -- where there used to be 60 to 80  
47 sheep in the upper Atigun River, just over Atigun Pass.  
48 There's only -- there were only seven ewes and, and  
49 yearlings and two lambs this fall. So, there's very few  
50 sheep. There are sheep, people, like I see the sheep!

1 It's like, yeah, they're not very many. So, that closure  
2 was really important to retain some of the rams because  
3 there are so few cohorts, there are very few rams  
4 available, and hunters are -- hunters will kill three-  
5 quarter curl sheep. This happens a lot.  
6

7 And the Board of Game was presented in  
8 2022 what the sublegal take was, and one of the examples  
9 the Department presented was a three-quarter curl ram  
10 was part of the harvest. So, that's chronically happens  
11 a lot. Those are unreported, and there are moose that  
12 happen -- happens all the time, bull moose don't have  
13 three brow tines they got two, they get shot, they --  
14 hunters walk up to them, walk away from them. Now,  
15 unreported harvest for sublegal take is like minuscule.  
16 The Department of Public Safety, troopers know that  
17 there's lots of moose that are killed that are never  
18 reported. That happens with dall sheep a lot. So, our  
19 hare population is low, we have wolves around. The wolf  
20 numbers of -- have retracted with the numbers of prey  
21 base. There's only 10% of the dall sheep population left.  
22 The moose population will decline in 2018-19, 19-20  
23 significantly. And we have missing cohorts, so we just  
24 see very few younger moose entering the population. This  
25 is the first year where I've seen significant calf  
26 numbers, moose calf numbers. So, we do have some moose  
27 calves being born, but we've had deep snow years with  
28 rain on snows and our moose numbers are starting to come  
29 back a little bit, but the lottery draw permit restrains  
30 the public. So, that would be my Chair report of all of  
31 the various meetings I've gone to and what our  
32 populations are doing in the upper, upper portion of the  
33 region. Many questions. And so, I need to have Darrell's  
34 report, or did you ever come back, Darrell?

35  
36 MS. PILCHER: I don't see him.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Darrell's not  
39 there. So, we're now gonna move further into this agenda.  
40 And so, we're going to go from -- we wanted to move into  
41 action.

42  
43 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, just right here.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, action  
46 items. So, Don wanted to be.....

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert? Oh, yeah.

49  
50 (Distortion)

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2  
3  
4  
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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, thought I, I thought I had your report.

MS. PILCHER: I'm sorry Robert I.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, you're making so many comments for some reason. Okay, Robert, my mistake.

MS. PILCHER: I just heard Darrell too.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert's -- Darrell is on the phone.

MR. WALKER: Go ahead, Darrell.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Darrell, let me ask you, are you going to be here? Are you going to listen to Robert's report? Excuse me, I missed Robert. And can you give a report Darrell, immediately after Robert's?

(Pause)

You're there, Darrell?

MR. VENT: My phone holds up. Yep, I'm here, I'm here.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, so Robert is gonna give his report. Somehow, I missed that one. Go ahead, Robert.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Brent. Thank you, thank you for reminding me. I didn't want to interrupt with all this. I'm from Anvik, the Lower Yukon 21E, which is known in the Tanana Chiefs Conference as the Lower Yukon Subregion and working with the GASH Board also. So, one of the things that we are working on right now, and I would hope OSM would.....

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Let me clarify that for the record, this could be transcribed, GASH Board. Our court recorder doesn't know what that is, that means -- stands for Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross

1 because, no, it's because she's new. She's not going to  
2 know what this means. So, go ahead Robert, continue.

3  
4 MR. WALKER: Thank you for that  
5 correction, Jack. I'm from unit 21E, Grayling, Anvik,  
6 Shageluk, Holy Cross, also known in the Tanana Chiefs  
7 Lower Yukon Subregion. Right now, we are working on a  
8 controlled use area for 21A on the Federal land. We're  
9 working with Tanana Chiefs so this is something that  
10 hopefully we could get to work where the OSM would  
11 support us, Office of Subsistence Management and also  
12 West Interior RAC. So, we're in the process of doing  
13 that. We got our resolution done and turned that over.  
14 And I -- as I speak, I believe Geoff Beyersdorf is also  
15 -- BLM is in the process of helping us do this, get this  
16 done. So, we could have it done properly by the next  
17 meeting hopefully or we could have it done by probably  
18 the fall meeting of the -- of next year. This is  
19 something that I didn't know TCC was going to help us  
20 on this, but we were kind of surprised and thankful for  
21 that. Also, you know, I was -- we were looking at the  
22 bears in 21E that we really don't want to shoot them for  
23 nothing, for whatever. But the State says we can kill  
24 two and sell the hides. But the process that a lot of  
25 local people looked at was, I don't know, it'd be worth  
26 it for them. And so, we do know we have excess bears  
27 again due to the Anvik River low fish count. The  
28 Andreafsky River also, and Chignik River. So, the bears  
29 do come down to the village, and low line into the flats  
30 in 21E and hunt moose.

31  
32 Recently we have looked at Tok area,  
33 Glennallen, where there was a report written that the  
34 grizzly bear, male bear will take a moose every 11 days  
35 to feed, and he or the bear doesn't eat it all, and it  
36 leaves it to the wolves or whoever comes behind him. So,  
37 this is interesting what goes on in our area. But we  
38 have sustained a moose population because we don't have  
39 a high outside hunt that comes into our area from  
40 Fairbanks or Anchorage, which is really nice for us  
41 because we could maintain a herd of moose that we have.  
42 Also, in this controlled use area, there was a Federal  
43 Management cabin there. I can't remember the name of the  
44 cabin, but there was a biologist lady there that wrote  
45 -- I read about 20 years ago when I was on the RAC Board.  
46 She Stated in her report that a cow moose walked from -  
47 - all the way from 21E down to 21A down to a place called  
48 Bonasila Dome, and had her calf there, and she would  
49 bring her yearling -- other yearlings with her and go  
50 summer -- in the summer and spend their summer there in

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1 21. Then fall time after the river would freeze, they  
2 would walk back up to 21A. So, this is interesting that  
3 moose stew migrate down through 21A from 20 --, from 21A  
4 down to 21E and if you look behind Anvik and you're  
5 going to -- towards Saint Mary's, you can see the moose  
6 trails that are curves right through -- all through the  
7 tundra on everything, because we know we don't have  
8 caribou down, that far down.

9  
10 And so, these are moose trails that, our  
11 moose are migrating through 21E from 21A, so the control  
12 use area would cut down on aircraft, not boats, but you  
13 know, planes coming in from Anchorage, Unalakleet,  
14 Galena, etc. and this place is really being hammered  
15 hard. We had the HC Board Chairman approach me on this  
16 on what we can do about it, I said I would bring it up  
17 at our RAC meeting and we would talk about it, and we  
18 did go to TCC so, they are helping us. And Jeff  
19 Beyersdorf, who is the biologist for BLM, has also gave  
20 us some pointers on how to do this. This is nothing to  
21 incriminate anybody, but just to protect the moose that  
22 has to migrate through our area that we would be there  
23 for the next 20 years. And the summer chum, fall chum  
24 and the chinook salmon, we had a couple openings which  
25 we were grateful. A lot of people didn't get a lot, but  
26 they got some and they jarred them. Some people did dry  
27 them half dry, which, you know, they put in the freezer  
28 and boil during the wintertime. And TCC sent us a whole  
29 bunch of sockeye salmon that, you know, we really don't  
30 know how to handle that, because we never had fish that  
31 were so dry. And our tribal cooks that tried to jar it,  
32 you know, they tried every which way. They put wesson  
33 oil, olive oil, water, and they're so dry that they  
34 can't -- I don't know how -- I don't know if it's for  
35 human consumption, but us humans we can't really eat  
36 that. I don't know why, it's just like, it's just  
37 unbelievable. But people have dried it, and they're not  
38 used to drying that fish because they dry so quick, that  
39 -- not like our chinook -- even the summer chum, fall  
40 chum take at least ten days, but they usually leave them  
41 in the smokehouse, the sockeye salmon one day, and  
42 they're hard as a bone because they have no grease, no  
43 water, no nothing in them, and Jenny's right about that.  
44 So, whatever we get, we kind of like see how about it  
45 and kind of give it to whoever wants it, whatever. But  
46 it -- it's a good thought in their way of doing things,  
47 but it's not a, you know, to whoever is going to consume  
48 it. And I can even tell you a story. When I cooked it  
49 one time, I fried it up and I didn't care for it, so I  
50 gave it to my dog, he's a chocolate lab and I put it in



1 his plate, and he went over there to his plate, and he  
2 took it up in his mouth and spat it out and looked at  
3 me like, okay, what kind of cruel joke is this? You  
4 know, okay, Moose I said, you don't get to eat no fish.  
5 So, I put it out there for the camp robbers and I broke  
6 it all up, put it in a paper plate. The camp robbers  
7 came and picked it up, spat it out, looked at it sideways  
8 and left.

9

10 Not only us were spoiled with our fish,  
11 the animals are too. They're used to this. They're used  
12 to our -- this lifestyle we have. So, all in all, what  
13 we do is, you know, when I testified for the Board of  
14 Fish on proposal 140 last year, last February, I got so  
15 many phone calls, I got interviews from radio stations  
16 from -- speaking about the animals, how the animals  
17 suffer from this, not only the humans. And also, I  
18 brought this church thing up about religion, and Jimmy  
19 Hurley from -- he's a big advocate down in Bristol Bay,  
20 him and his wife jarred me some king salmon from down  
21 there and sent it to me, I was amazed. And every so  
22 often people would come up and shake my hand, I don't  
23 know who they are, they say, thank you for doing this,  
24 doing that. So, how hard you work is something that I  
25 don't look at it as any kind of a favor. I don't kind  
26 of look at any kind of recognition. I do it for food for  
27 tribal people, that's all I do. I don't do money, people  
28 can do money and be on time. So, this is how I work, I  
29 mean, I'm not working for myself, because if I work for  
30 myself, then we wouldn't have a lot of stuff, maybe,  
31 maybe not, I don't know, but yeah, to be thankful like  
32 this for doing something. And this is why I got back on  
33 the RAC Board, was food. And it really irritated me, I  
34 went to a bison meeting with Luke and to talk to the  
35 Board of Game people that were there were so aggressive  
36 against the tribal people, I can't believe it. And I  
37 asked him, why are you so aggressive against tribal  
38 people using bison for food? Well, that's a priority one  
39 for the state of Alaska to sell a tag, to get and hunt  
40 bison. And I said, if it's on corporation Land, we'll  
41 shoot on corporation Land because all we'll do is pay a  
42 small fine. You know, a lot of people are taken back by  
43 that, because it is true, it is true, all they do is pay  
44 a small fine and that -- with the State and that's it.  
45 So, and one of the people says, well, why don't you take  
46 all your bison off our corporation Land and whatever's  
47 left will keep. Well, that didn't go over good either.  
48 Because it's theirs, it belongs to them. And another  
49 thing too, they brought up the State, and the Federal  
50 Government did call me on this, a lady, I can't remember

1 her name, she said that the bison herd that we have now  
2 is as of this time not extinct animal, but it is  
3 protected by a Federal Law that tribal people cannot  
4 hunt bison as a subsistence issue because it is an  
5 endangered species.

6  
7 And I said, well, why does the State  
8 have a control over it? They can sell tags to hunt on  
9 it. That's something I really OSM to come out and come  
10 out and tell me why, because why are they extinct or  
11 endangered species, and we cannot use them for food.  
12 That is something that you should check into, Brent,  
13 because I find it very offensive, because that would be  
14 our fallback food if we were ever going to have a hard  
15 time with moose and caribou. So, and I don't wanna [sic]  
16 go on too long, you know, but I think that how we're  
17 going to go from here is going to be a question. It's  
18 going to be a hard, hard, hard road with more and more  
19 people coming in. I know the State and the Federal  
20 Government have an agreement that, you know, you can get  
21 a permit to hunt on Federal land which state, you know,  
22 state things to do that. But the Federal Government is  
23 not really protecting us, they're just kind of like  
24 they're sitting like, well, you know, we are turning the  
25 land over to the State, and this is what's gonna happen.  
26 Eventually, all the Federal land will be over in State  
27 hands. And so, I'm going to leave it at there. But, you  
28 know, I would just Brent, you know, maybe I opened a can  
29 of worms, I don't know. So, Mr. Chairman, members of the  
30 Board, staff, thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.  
33 I apologize for skipping over you. I, for some reason,  
34 you're making so many comments, in my mind I thought  
35 that was your report. I know, I meant to get your report.  
36 So, this bison issue, are you gonna -- I can address  
37 that, or you can.

38  
39 MR. VICKERS: You're probably more  
40 knowledgeable. So, I -- Brent Vickers, OSM. I was gonna  
41 [sic] say the little bit I knew, but I welcome anyone  
42 who probably knows more. So, I defer to Chair Reakoff.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I've  
45 participated in the Innoko Bison telephonically this  
46 Western Interior Regional Advisor -- oh, go ahead.

47  
48 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair, there's also a  
49 herd down by Holy Cross.

1                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, it's the same  
2 release. Well, they kind of move around a lot, and so  
3 they're the same release. The Shageluk release is turned  
4 into like groupings, but they're pretty much the same  
5 population. So, the -- years ago, Randy Rogers came to  
6 a meeting we had down in Holy Cross, and her name was  
7 this lady, and they were promoting this bison release  
8 down there around that. They wanted to put them in the,  
9 in the, in the Yukon Flats, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
10 precluded that because they were -- they didn't consider  
11 them as indigenous. They wanted to put them in the Minto  
12 Flats. But they didn't want them there because of  
13 impedance to oil and gas, and they came to the Western  
14 Interior Council meeting and said -- and we talked about  
15 it in this Council endorsed they -- we asked them what  
16 needs to be done. They needed to change the Endangered  
17 Species Act from threat -- endangered threatened species  
18 to a 14J designation, which makes them an experimental  
19 population. So, we wrote a letter, and everybody forgot  
20 that part, but this Council wrote to the Regional  
21 Director of Region Seven, and we advocated for the  
22 change. This -- from basically unrecognized, they're not  
23 an indigenous species to a 14J experimental population.  
24 We wanted them back because the paleontological work  
25 showed that they had been resident in this region, and  
26 we wanted that release. And so that's -- that moved  
27 things forward, things moved forward with the 14J  
28 designation, and now the population has been released.

29  
30                   It's staggered with some of the most  
31 brutal weather in the Interior of Alaska in the last 130  
32 years has been after that release of the bison on the  
33 Innoko. It killed massive amounts of dall sheep in the  
34 in the Alaska Range, and yet the Innoko wood bison  
35 survived, God, they lost members, but they actually  
36 survived amazing against the kind of weather that they  
37 had to endure. So, that -- the bison are still there,  
38 and so, they're going to be recovering. The last bison  
39 meeting last fall, in October, November, whenever that  
40 bison -- I think it was November, there got way into  
41 allocation. They wanted to go immediately into  
42 allocation, we weren't even supposed to be talking about  
43 allocation until we hit 250 bison. Now suddenly the --  
44 a lot of the members on the, you know, like Safari Club  
45 and stuff, they put a lot of money into it. They start  
46 -- wanted to start reducing the number of animals before  
47 they started to harvest. They promised basically, the  
48 long process of the release was the bison workgroup was  
49 going to allow, and when they hit a certain amounts,  
50 they were gonna allow four permits for local

1 registration permits hunts, basically, they were  
2 promising the, the Regional Council and the village  
3 Councils that they were going to have some  
4 participation. They were gonna have basically half of  
5 the participation, and then they were gonna have four  
6 drop permits for the general, and well, immediately they  
7 started -- there was individuals wanting to talk about  
8 Governor permit tags for, for this -- the limited draw,  
9 well, residents of Alaska have a priority use and nobody  
10 even talked about non-resident participation. So, that  
11 -- this allocation thing got really out in the forefront.  
12 The bison group majority wanted to start submitting  
13 proposals at some point when they hit -- it's not a very  
14 many, it's like 100 and something bison. And they wanna  
15 [sic] start the border process into an allocation  
16 process. I feel that this Council should be very involved  
17 in that allocation process that those bison, half of  
18 their life is spent on the Native corp lands. They live  
19 on the corp lands, they were promoted as going to be  
20 part of the fauna of the Innoko country, and that people  
21 were acceptance [sic] and allowing them to live on their,  
22 on their corporation lands they were going to have some.  
23 But then they started talking about registration permits  
24 being available online, and it was gonna be for all  
25 Alaskan residents, it's like, hold it. And like issuing  
26 permits right before the hunt, like in summer when you  
27 have even local, there's all kinds of sport fishing  
28 guides, there's all kinds of stuff going on in the  
29 summertime that -- there was not enough discussion about  
30 that allocation process. And so, I feel that this  
31 Council, when the Board comes up with call for proposals  
32 for this allocation and I feel that they're gonna do  
33 that imminently before their next regional meeting,  
34 Nissa is gonna find out when that's going to happen.  
35 This Council has to be thinking about this bison  
36 allocation issue long before that call for proposal. So,  
37 I've been thinking about it quite a bit since I listened  
38 in, I was on the call, I saw, I was watching Robert  
39 advocating. (Indiscernible) Yeah, Luke Rogers, Randy  
40 Rogers son, him and Bob's -- or Tom Seaton. They  
41 basically are in charge of the bison project there, and  
42 basically bison in Alaska. So, this bison issue, I told  
43 Robert, I says [sic] when Robert wanted me to say  
44 something in the bison meeting, I said, we'll talk about  
45 it at the Regional Council. That's why I'm talking about  
46 it right now, Robert, because I told you we were going  
47 to talk about it. We're talking about it right now. I  
48 want this Council to be aware of -- after Robert's report  
49 about the bison, that we need to start thinking about  
50 this allocation issue. When registration permits are

1 going to be -- basically out for -- I feel that  
2 registration permits should be available to the people  
3 in Grayling, Shageluk, Holy Cross and Anvik in the --  
4 on the period that the permanent fund is available,  
5 that's January 1 through March 31. So, you don't have,  
6 like, summer people at a -- have a hunting guide and I  
7 wanna [sic] get a bison, have run down and cut people  
8 off in a line in the summertime at the -- where they're  
9 gonna issue the permits. So, I feel that that, that  
10 should be one of the stipulations.

11  
12                   There's gotta be ways that the -- and  
13 they've done this before at lots of different  
14 registration permits. These -- they've issued the  
15 permits with more of a local preference, the Board has  
16 a -- the Board of Game has, has a record of doing that.  
17 So, this Council needs to be thinking about this whole  
18 allocation issue. Because if not, if the allocation is  
19 basically allocated to all urban use and draw permits  
20 and Governor permits, then it's incumbent upon Doyon in  
21 the corporations to close their lands to any harvest,  
22 they agreed for (distortion) to harvest on the corp  
23 lands. But now it's like (distortion) up, it's like uh-  
24 uh, you're not backing up, I listened to you make  
25 promises, and there was a lot of promises being made to  
26 get that release, and we -- this Council needs to pull  
27 the feet -- their feet to the fire on that issue. That's  
28 what I want to talk to you about in this meeting, Robert.  
29 I didn't want to do that at that bison meeting, not with  
30 Safari Club heads there. They're gonna get all hot,  
31 bothered, and they're gonna start shooting off their  
32 mouth. I wanted this to -- this has to be a public  
33 process. That was not the place to be making those  
34 allocation decisions at that meeting last fall. They're  
35 not even there yet, we don't have a harvestable surplus  
36 on that -- on those Innoko wood bison yet. Robert.

37  
38                   MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,  
39 you know, if I remember right, Luke Rodgers was the  
40 facilitator for this, between the Board of Game. Allen,  
41 Ted, these two guys -- I don't know if you're familiar  
42 with them. I don't know their last names, but we did  
43 negotiate them at the first time we met that we could -  
44 - out of Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk, Holy Cross could get  
45 one bison bull or a young bull for a Customary in  
46 traditional use, ceremonial, whatever. That was what  
47 they agreed on. The second meeting, they came to us and  
48 said, okay, we have a different -- we're gonna go by a  
49 point system and how is our village gonna be in a point  
50 system, because you can't -- because the State gonna own

1 that hunt, now. They took the hunt over because OSM said  
2 these animals are not huntable for customary and  
3 traditional use, and I asked why, and they said because  
4 they are an endangered species, and I asked the lady, I  
5 have her name on my other phone, I asked her, why can't  
6 we have it as a customary traditional use? Because it  
7 is an endangered species.

8  
9 I said, well, why the State is gonna put  
10 out permits to hunt them on our Corporate Land, and she  
11 just laughed at me like I was a -- I asked the question,  
12 and I don't like to be laughed at, and because I'm not  
13 stupid, Im -- my people are not stupid, all our tribal  
14 people are not stupid. And that was, really irritated  
15 me. And I just took a very hard stand, and I said, look,  
16 I'm not fighting for profit. I'm not fighting for  
17 anything else than food, that's what I told her, and I  
18 said, we'll even give the head up, the bison hide, the  
19 -- or we can have somebody come in from the big game  
20 outfit and shoot bison, we just want to meet and that  
21 wouldn't go yet. And so, I just kind of find it really  
22 hard to believe, why it is, because it's money? That's  
23 what it is? The bottom line? You're selling a permit for  
24 \$10,000, and we don't have it entitled to process the  
25 meat for human consumption. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Brent.

28  
29 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, thank you. I  
30 understand your concerns, Council member Walker, and I'm  
31 I hear you. I don't know much about it, what little I  
32 do know is that because these herds are experimental,  
33 it's sort of like they're under the Federal eyes, and  
34 this is outside of -- we OSM can't do anything about  
35 this, this is whoever designates endangered species.  
36 Under their eyes, it's still an endangered species. It's  
37 just that this experimental herd is kind of like the  
38 property of the State, and the State can do what they  
39 want as far as -- they're allowed to do harvesting for  
40 management control for that population. That, the -- but  
41 it's just like, basically it's their property to manage  
42 for research purposes. And the feds -- from the Federal  
43 standpoint, it's still an endangered species. And so,  
44 we have no capacity to allow harvest of that species.  
45 It's completely under State control until -- if, unless  
46 the population grows enough that the Federal juris [sic]  
47 or whoever designates these things is able to lift that  
48 control of it. Until that happens, it's just totally  
49 State managed, and we -- OSM can only allow for harvest  
50

1 once whoever has that Federal recognition removes it,  
2 and there's nothing really we can do.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That was the  
5 discussion, that was the response, was that it was under  
6 the Endangered Species Act, and they can't have a  
7 customary and traditional use until that's rescinded.  
8 But the population in Canada, the Wood Bison Park and  
9 the Canada -- Canadian bison population is expanding to  
10 where they're considering delisting them. So, then they  
11 could actually go through an analysis. And so that's  
12 that, you know, at this time they -- but there's -- I  
13 think the whole discussion at that wood bison meeting  
14 was completely out of line. We do -- we had an agreement  
15 that there needed to be 250 wood bison on the Innoko  
16 before we even thought about killing any of these  
17 animals, there was no -- all of a sudden they're starting  
18 to talk Governor permits and the Safari Club will issue  
19 those. Here's what's going to happen, this Governor  
20 permit thing is a snake in the grass. The governor  
21 permit, they're gonna -- they wanted one of the draw  
22 permits to be a Governor permit, they're going to auction  
23 that thing off for \$500,000 or some phenomenal amount  
24 of money. Safari club is going to keep 30%, and the  
25 state of Alaska will keep 70% of that, of that revenue.  
26 Then they're going to get 3 dollars for every 1 dollar  
27 that they got for the auction price that they're gonna  
28 get, that could be a million dollar bison to the state  
29 of Alaska, as a State resident, state of Alaska has a  
30 priority use of resources for the residents of Alaska.  
31 They have no business auctioning any permits off as for  
32 non-resident participation, when we have virtually no  
33 wood bison harvest at this time ever. So, this thing is  
34 going completely sideways when they're not even -- they  
35 don't even have the 250 wood bison for a sustainable  
36 population. We wanna [sic] start killing the biggest  
37 bulls out of that herd right now? Uh-uh. They put money  
38 into it, tough luck, we're gonna wait. No one should be  
39 harvesting wood bison until they get a sustainable  
40 population, that herds not sustained yet. It's  
41 staggering, it's going to start recovering if we get  
42 easy witnesses. But we're a long-ways from harvest and  
43 starting to talk about Governor permits and basically  
44 pulling back under local obligations to get them  
45 released on the Native corp lands. That was completely  
46 uncalled for, that was -- that should not have been  
47 happening at the last wood bison meeting for the Innoko  
48 population. I -- that's my position, I just stated for  
49 the record, nobody knows how these governor permits  
50 work. I don't care if it's 14C right behind Anchorage.

1 There's the biggest sheep in the -- in Alaska right now  
2 is in the Ekutan Drainage. (Indiscernible) they'll give  
3 Safari Club a permit, and they'll auction that permit  
4 and they'll sell it, they'll auction it off. They'll  
5 keep 30 percent, the State keeps 70, and the State's  
6 making 3 dollars for every 1 dollar on the auction price.  
7 So, that's a very expensive (distortion) that's --  
8 they're taking resources away from Alaskans. If you're  
9 a hotshot lawyer, you drag them into State court and sue  
10 them before the State Supreme Court, because they're  
11 violating the subsistence priority for Alaskan residents  
12 by doing that. That's what they're actually doing. I'm  
13 not an idiot, I know what they're doing. So, the bottom  
14 line is this population, this Council advocated for that  
15 population of wood bison. We advocated for the local  
16 participation. This Council has advocated for that  
17 population, and I take great offense when they want to  
18 sell off governor permits right out of the chute, when  
19 we haven't even got to the numbers we agreed on. The  
20 last meeting before we agreed on 250, that's the way it  
21 was supposed to go. I'm not real super happy with the  
22 way this is going, and I'm gonna state it on this record,  
23 because I might not be here in 20 years when they're  
24 gonna start delisting. So, she's gonna transcribe all  
25 that, she's making bucks, just let me keep talking. So,  
26 that was my position on this wood bison thing, we can't  
27 spend all day on it, but I told you I was going to talk  
28 about this at this meeting, and we're talking about it.

29  
30 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Buy  
31 you know this answer a lot of questions, too, that I can  
32 bring that home and say that, you know what is really  
33 going on because nobody ever tells us what's going on.  
34 And the whole thing, when we went to the meeting at with  
35 the bison committee, they didn't say that Luke and Al,  
36 I mean, Al and Ted didn't say a word about it, all they  
37 said was, okay, we might think about it, about giving  
38 you a customary tradition from the State, and I said,  
39 if you did, that would be the first one ever that I ever  
40 knew about. Because we have it for moose, we have it for  
41 caribou, but we don't have it for bison. Thank you, Mr.  
42 Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: All right, that  
45 covered Robert's report. Darrell. Are you still there,  
46 Darrell?

47  
48 (No response)

49  
50 You still there, Darrell?



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MR. VENT: Yeah, I was trying to find I -- had the wrong.....

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, can you get closer to your mic, Darrell you're really weak.

MR. VENT: Oh, yeah, hold on a minute. I'm just getting away from the (indiscernible). Can you hear me now?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I can hear you a lot better, go ahead.

MR. VENT: Okay, you want -- you need my report.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. you're still weak, you got to get closer to your mic.

MR. VENT: Okay, you needed my report, you said. Okay. Let me start with I've been to a few meetings and we've been, you know, struggling with our subsistence use, you know, and everybody know that we're losing a lot of our animals, fish because the management regime that's happening right now, it's a -- lot of it is going toward money. It's not going toward our people's uses, subsistence food, as we all know that, you know, when they say that we're supposed to be a priority. And they have shown us that, you know, this is not a priority to them. They have fought against us when it comes to our fishing rights, we put in resolutions. They fought against us when it came to our caribou rights, and they have fought against us with our moose. For instance, you know, we're on a Refuge. But they wanted a way to get in there so, they started sending people out with planes and saying, oh yeah, if we put it into a controlled use area, there'll be no fly zone. Well, that was just a ploy just so they can get their hands on, you know, all that big moose that was in our area. Now they control use areas moving down into the -- around the Nulato area. And that's another ploy that's just so they can get into that moose. They'll have a lot of hunters go in there, and that -- all that happens when they put in that control use area.

So, you know, they asked me questions about that control use, I told them, no, I don't think it's a good idea. It's all -- it's only a way for State way to have a tool to get into your area. If you're on

1 a Refuge, they shouldn't be able to allow to hunt in  
2 those areas, but they wanna [sic] access it, and they'll  
3 find ways to access it with the amount of hunting  
4 pressure they put on people. Airplanes will be flying  
5 around and they'll be landing back in the lakes, and  
6 people will start seeing them and they'll start  
7 reporting it. So, when they report it, the State takes  
8 action on it. What if we put in control use area, it's  
9 a no-fly zone then. But that's not really what happens.  
10 You know, kind of thinking back about all the years of  
11 what happened when we opened up that control use area.  
12 A lot of boaters that went in there because they're all  
13 subsistence users. When we talk subsistence users the  
14 whole State. So, yeah, it's not an easy process. I'm  
15 just concerned that, you know, the way the hunting seems  
16 to be going, we lost our caribou, we lost our fish, now  
17 we're working on our moose, you know, what are we going  
18 to be eating pretty soon? The wolves will start looking  
19 pretty doggone good if we keep losing all our food there.  
20 You know, we have to survive, and they're making it hard  
21 for us to survive out there.

22  
23 We got to realize that, you know, our  
24 people out there are going to be really hurting. It's  
25 not easy for us to make a living out there. You know,  
26 that's what I'm worried about you know, I can go out and  
27 work. But, you know, some of them are not able to do  
28 anything like that, to help their families out there.  
29 They live in these villages while the State has people  
30 that are probably millionaires, and they're going out  
31 with their big boats and they're subsistence users.  
32 There's no described way to put our priority where our  
33 people -- which was supposed to happen when they said  
34 subsistence was a priority. The Federal Government was  
35 thinking about, you know, how these people out here live,  
36 they depended on that resources. We have to go back and  
37 try to define to them what would be a good way to have  
38 subsistence. And it's going to take a lot of work,  
39 because the State really jumbled that up with all their  
40 legal -- it's been too -- it's been quite a bit you  
41 know, of a problem. They have camps out in our areas  
42 that are just trashed up. There's a lot of trash all  
43 over where they camp, and there's no cleanup process for  
44 that. And that just reminds me, you know, they could go  
45 mining, they don't have to clean up the areas where they  
46 go either, because there's no regulations on a lot of  
47 this stuff that they issue.

48  
49 So, we're still, you know, trying to  
50 work our way into how could we take care of these

1 problems without it becoming more of a problem and  
2 affecting our people in the villages. Not as much as the  
3 ones in the city, but the ones in the village and that's  
4 where it concerns me. We brought on this -- this onto  
5 ourselves by agreeing with this State management system.  
6 Now we've got to figure out a way to how to get our  
7 people to survive on it, because it's not working the  
8 way it is right now. We lost the fish, we lost caribou,  
9 now we're working on our moose. You know, this is when  
10 I was in the village, I was in the potlatch and people  
11 were, you know, looking at all the food out there, and  
12 I was looking out there and I spoke about this before  
13 that, you know, a big percentage of that food is from  
14 stores now. There's not a lot of that Native food no  
15 more. We can't have that prized, you know, animal out  
16 there because, you know, it's gone. I'm from the caribou  
17 clan, and we can't have no caribou, we can't have the  
18 rich fish that we had before. So, I'm just worried you  
19 know what's going to happen. It's something I spoke  
20 about, when I spoke about the breeding -- the breeders.  
21 When you take that big breeders away, you lose the whole  
22 resource right there.

23

24 MR. VENT: Hello?

25

26

27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Can you hear me,  
28 Darrell?

29

30 MR. VENT: Yep.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You're saying that  
33 the Koyukuk control use area is not working because  
34 there's airplanes flying around and dropping hunters  
35 off, are they hunting inside the controlled use area,  
36 or are they flying out just outside the border, spotting  
37 moose in there, dropping floaters off to float down in  
38 there or what are you actually saying? I'm not -- I'm  
39 missing some part there.

40

41 MR. VENT: Well, you're missing -- what  
42 the key part is -- this is, you know, there's all these  
43 areas. If we had ways to control it, it would have been  
44 on the Federal side. But when you put a controlled use  
45 area, you can't really regulate what they're doing in  
46 there because they can drop those transporters off, and  
47 there's abundance of transporters. When they kill a  
48 moose, they don't really take care of that animal. They  
49 don't have to -- it's not -- they don't have to follow  
50 State regulation, or if they do, it's not the way that

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1 we want it. We see that moose they're sitting there for  
2 six days, and we wanted that meat six days ago, and they  
3 give it to us when it's in rotting State. That's not  
4 what we want. There's not really a lot of regulations  
5 on transporting, you know, it's just like mining, you  
6 know, there's -- it's -- there's no regulations that  
7 really help us. So, you know, we're kind of putting  
8 ourselves in a hurt state here with our, our food source  
9 management. So, that's -- I have more, but, you know,  
10 it'll take me some time to really process out what, you  
11 know, I think what really causes the problems is that,  
12 you know, the big strain on the, you know, like the  
13 caribou, they had the big bulls that migrate with along  
14 with the female leaders. They're the ones that pushed  
15 the whole migration, they went all the way down the  
16 State. Now you, now you notice they can't even go half  
17 that ways [sic], they're getting shot out too much.  
18 That's because we saw that -- what happened with the  
19 fish, they can't even migrate up into Canada no more  
20 because they shot out the big leaders. I mean, they  
21 killed off, they fished out the big leaders, not shot  
22 out. But, you know, if you know, you know, what I'm  
23 saying, if you could see or picture what I'm saying,  
24 then you might understand that you know, we're putting  
25 ourself in a hurt -- in hurt area here because of money.  
26 They want that horn, they wanted that big fish for  
27 commercial. A lot of that had to do with, you know, the  
28 State management system. We have to look back at that  
29 and try to fix that, correct that, get our you know,  
30 people to realize that, hey, we gotta let a certain  
31 amount go, we can't just kill everything off. So, that's,  
32 you know, that's all I got to say for now, thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, has Huslia  
35 posted the requesting made from people that are checking  
36 through Ellis Check Station, you know that you should  
37 bring it up to Huslia sooner than later. You know not -  
38 - don't leave it in the field for like six days. Just  
39 try and bring it up, if you don't want to get rid of it,  
40 bring it up to Huslia right away. If you done stuff like  
41 that, work with Glenn Stout on that one?

42  
43 MR. VENT: Well, I don't know if this was  
44 Glenn Stout because these transporters, they don't come  
45 from that area. They can come from just about anywhere.  
46 They fly in, get dropped off, raft onto tributaries and  
47 then, you know, they catch a moose like we see them with  
48 cut off, and there's moose sitting on the bar on the  
49 rack. We wanted that moose, but they wouldn't let us  
50 take it. So, yeah, it's been a really bad process there.

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1 So, yeah, hopefully we can find some way to get them to  
2 understand what we want there because our people, you  
3 know, they wouldn't mind the meet, you know, it's pretty  
4 hard to come by over there.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, I know  
7 there's like -- there were like over 150 trucks with  
8 trailers sitting at the Yukon River bridge, and all of  
9 those hunters were pretty much -- lots of them were  
10 going down to the Koyukuk. I just came down on Monday,  
11 there was one truck left. The moose season closed, all  
12 those hunters brought the boats back up. They want to  
13 run up light. So, they're getting rid of that meat around  
14 and somewheres [sic] they're either throwing it over  
15 board or they're bringing it into -- if they kill it  
16 below Huslia, they're going to bring it down to Koyukuk  
17 and up, you know, to the check station through Ellis  
18 Check Station. But I don't know what's happening to the  
19 meat after that. They really need to start checking those  
20 vehicles up at the bridge, because there's a lot of  
21 vehicles, there's a lot of boats, 150 boats is a lot of  
22 boats to run all the way back up. That's, about 350  
23 miles by river or something like that up to the bridge.  
24 So, they don't wanna [sic] buck that current with -- you  
25 see, like six of antlers on a boat. It can't be buck and  
26 current that far. So, I think that there's a need for  
27 TCC to work with the Department of Fish and Game and  
28 work with the communities on informing hunters, you  
29 know, who wants to take meat, you know, well taken care  
30 of meat should be brought out immediately or within a  
31 day or so after you chill it down and bring it down. But  
32 there's gotta be ways to address this issue, and there's  
33 -- and I'm kind of suspect there's -- if that's not that  
34 much meat being given away in the local villages that  
35 they're dumping the meat where they -- once they go  
36 through Ellis Check Station, might be dumping the meat.  
37 So, there's some other issues that are going on, but  
38 enforcement is stretched so thin they don't even have  
39 enough troopers to handle what we got going on the Haul  
40 Road. They can't sit there and wait for those guys to  
41 come out with the (distortion) vehicles either, where  
42 (distortion) rookie (distortion) deal with, you know,  
43 rookie troopers can deal with stuff at Coldfoot or at  
44 the Yukon River bridge, you don't have to be a rocket  
45 scientist to sit there and wait for these guys to show  
46 up, and they're gonna [sic] come to you, you don't have  
47 to go in the field to find them. So, there's some methods  
48 that the enforcement has to use to -- that are economical  
49 to check this meat recovery problem. So, but the  
50 controlled use area, you know, boat use, aircraft use,

1 is not allowed. And transporters, they should be working  
2 with local communities.

3  
4 So, but I -- because there's quite a bit  
5 of -- there's extensive State controlled lands, you know  
6 all the corp lands around Huslia, that's all State  
7 controlled lands. You have to have State and State  
8 seasons and the -- around Huslia, all that -- you look  
9 on the State game regulations, all that white is State  
10 controlled land. So, Huslia is sitting right in an island  
11 of massive amounts of State controlled lands. You have  
12 to have State hunting, hunting (distortion) for around  
13 on your, on your corp lands. Either your need  
14 (distortion) thousand and one, something like that, that  
15 was where we could -- you know they have two lots of  
16 hunters and we got that antler cutting requirement,  
17 that's to reduce the number of hunters that are coming  
18 just as subsistence, but, you know, killing moose just  
19 for the antlers, the draw permit, all of that was part  
20 of that planning process. It's the dissemination of meat  
21 that you're talking about that needs to be worked out.  
22 And so, that has to be done with -- if you're saying  
23 it's transporters, the transporters have to -- TCC or -  
24 - has to, you know, the corp ownership should actually  
25 be working with the transporters about a better way to  
26 get the meat to people in a more timely manner so that  
27 it doesn't get in a spoiled condition. So, thank you for  
28 your report, Darrell. I appreciate your perspective on  
29 that. And any further comments, do you have any further  
30 comments?

31  
32 MR. VENT: No, you know, I'm pretty busy,  
33 I've been busy working. So, I, you know, I haven't had  
34 hardly any time to really process what I've been, you  
35 know, working on before so, it kind of changed my thought  
36 process a little bit because, you know, work. I had to  
37 -- I got to earn a living so, you know, I can't always,  
38 you know, represent. Sometimes I really, you know, it's  
39 in my -- I got a desire to do it, but it's just right  
40 now I have to think about my family so, I've been kind  
41 of busy.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, I appreciate  
44 that. Everybody's got to make their living. It's another  
45 reason why it's cost prohibitive for Council members to  
46 attend meetings, because you lose work. You know, I lost  
47 lots of work at different times and even subsistence  
48 opportunities sometimes to go to meetings, but that's  
49 just what has to happen, but it can be really hard on  
50 some people. So, that was our last Council member report.

1 So, we're gonna [sic] be moving into, let's see where  
2 are we at here. So, we're gonna start out with action  
3 items 13. Are you going -- so, Don wanted to start with  
4 action item -- it's starting with 13A fisheries  
5 proposals and closure review. And so that would be under  
6 25 on our meeting book. Are you still here, Don? This  
7 is where you wanted to be for, for the action items. Are  
8 you still there, Don Honea?

9

10 (No response)

11

12 Here's -- okay. How many Council members  
13 do we still have on the phone?

14

15 MS. PILCHER: Tim dropped off, we've got  
16 Darrell.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You still there,  
19 Darrell?

20

21 MR. VENT: Yes, I'm still here.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, Tim fell out,  
24 and Don is not on. So, we need -- we have to have five  
25 members to do any action -- these are action items. So,  
26 Cory, you're going to give us presentation? Okay, go  
27 right ahead.

28

29 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, members of the  
30 Council, my name is Cory Graham and I'm a fisheries  
31 biologist with OSM. So, I'm going to start by presenting  
32 fisheries proposal FP25-16 which can be found on page  
33 26 of your Council book. This proposal was submitted by  
34 your Council and requests the Board modify regulations  
35 in the Bonanza Creek drainage and a portion of the Kanuti  
36 River drainage to allow rod and reel gear only and an  
37 Arctic grayling harvest and possession limit of ten per  
38 day. Your Council submitted this proposal to establish  
39 a Federal subsistence priority, maintain healthy  
40 populations of fish and align Federal regulations in the  
41 area. So, I'll briefly discuss some important regulatory  
42 history. So, these drainages were closed under Federal  
43 subsistence regulations for a long time since the  
44 beginning of the Federal program. The closures were  
45 reviewed during the last Fisheries regulatory cycle, and  
46 the Board, following your recommendation and the  
47 recommendation of multiple Councils, removed the closure  
48 to non-salmon fish only. So, now the harvest of non-  
49 salmon fish is allowed under Federal regulations.  
50 Federal Subsistence harvest is unrestricted for all

1 legal gear types other than rod and reel, and for rod  
2 and reel Federal limits match State sport fish limits.  
3 These drainages are located along the Dalton Highway,  
4 just south of Wiseman and Coldfoot. And what fish are  
5 in these drainages, these systems have grayling, burbot,  
6 whitefish, longnose sucker, and northern pike. We don't  
7 have any population estimates in these areas, but the  
8 analysis summarizes a local and traditional knowledge  
9 for these species in the Koyukuk River drainage.

10  
11 The one population estimate we have is  
12 for grayling in a 3.3-mile section of Bonanza Creek in  
13 1996, and there were an estimated 349 fish per mile in  
14 the study area. So, who can fish here? Well, all  
15 residents of the Yukon northern area can harvest non-  
16 salmon fish in these drainages. But again, the closest  
17 rural communities are Wiseman and Coldfoot. And that's  
18 where we would expect most of the effort to come from.

19  
20 So, what are the effects of these --  
21 this of this proposal? So, if this proposal is adopted  
22 only rod and reel could be used to harvest fish in the  
23 Bonanza Creek and Kanuti River drainages under Federal  
24 regulations. Federal harvest limits will match State  
25 sportfish limits, except for grayling, which will have  
26 a harvest and possession limit of ten per day. This is  
27 larger than the State sportfish limit of five grayling  
28 per day. This proposal will align Federal regulations  
29 in the area, increase harvest opportunity for grayling  
30 by federally-qualified subsistence users and provide a  
31 subsistence priority as mandated by ANILCA. However,  
32 this proposal will misalign Federal and State limits for  
33 grayling, which may increase user confusion, regulatory  
34 complexity, and enforcement concerns. So, the OSM  
35 preliminary conclusion is support -- is to support  
36 proposal FP25-16. And again, adopting this proposal will  
37 benefit federally-qualified subsistence users and help  
38 maintain healthy populations of fish in the Bonanza  
39 Creek and Kanuti River drainages, that ends my  
40 presentation, stand by for any questions you may have,  
41 thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Cory.  
44 This is a Council generated proposal, basically it --  
45 the closure review was lifted for non-salmon fish, the  
46 grayling populations because it's got a lot of sport  
47 harvests, it's you know the 10 per person, per day is a  
48 good limit for local people. And so, we -- they basically  
49 are not present when they move out of the drainage by  
50 now, they're gone. They move completely away so,



1 basically this is a summer fishery for local people is  
2 what that actually is. So, we're gonna be moving into  
3 the analysis presentation procedures of proposals. So,  
4 we have any tribals -- tribes or ANCSA corporation  
5 comments. Have we received any written comments? Anybody  
6 on the phone from tribes want to comment on that?

7

8 (No comment)

9

10 Hearing none. ADF&G comments and so,  
11 Lisa Stuby is on the phone or was on the phone, so on  
12 the a (simultaneous speech) ADF&G comments, go ahead,  
13 Lisa.

14

15 MS. STUBY: Good afternoon, everyone.  
16 Lisa Stuby, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Yukon  
17 River Division of Sport Fish biologist, and if the  
18 Federal Subsistence Board wishes to pass this, the  
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game would recommend  
20 having the bag limit amended to align the Federal  
21 regulations for Bonanza Creek and that five-mile -- that  
22 portion of the Kanuti River with the current division  
23 of Sport Fish regulations for a harvest of five fish per  
24 day to ensure sustainability. We do not have reliable  
25 information on Arctic grayling and Bonanza Creek. When  
26 this population was assessed in 1996, the precision is  
27 very poor, was very, very poor and potential biases could  
28 not be addressed. Also, I know part of the reason to  
29 align this with the Jim River is to align this with the  
30 Jim River, however, the Jim River, you know, based upon  
31 the studies that occurred during 1995 and 1997, Jim River  
32 and then, of course, 1996, and there's 130 fish per  
33 mile, by the way, for Bonanza Creek in 1996. The Jim  
34 River did tend to have a higher population of Arctic  
35 grayling. ADF&G endeavors to keep exploitation rates to  
36 no more than 10 percent of the population, particularly  
37 in streams that are not monitored, such as Bonanza and  
38 Kanuti creeks.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,  
41 Lisa. I appreciate those comments and the correction  
42 about the density, but the -- oh. Go ahead, Cory.

43

44 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Lisa,  
45 do you have the fish per kilometer?

46

47 MS. STUBY: Yes, yes, you know, I went  
48 through -- his name is Jim Fish. His report from back  
49 in 1995 to 1997, and there was a bit of a typo between  
50 the abstract, the population and I pretty much -- and

1 actually I had the draft staff analysis given to me, and  
2 I did make a comment on that, but it looks like it wasn't  
3 incorporated. So, yeah, from Jim Fish's -- so, anyway,  
4 from Jim Fish's report, he pretty much got his kilometers  
5 mixed up with his miles so, it is 135 fish per mile.

6  
7 MR. GRAHAM: Can I ask for further  
8 clarification so, from the data that we have, it says  
9 that the population estimate was 100 and -- or 1,152  
10 fish.

11  
12 MS. STUBY: Yeah, yeah, although it --  
13 I've got the report right here in my hands, if you look  
14 through it the co-efficient of the CI, 95 percent so,  
15 it kind of varied between 209 and 1,581. So, pretty much  
16 yeah, the precision was fairly poor.

17  
18 MR. GRAHAM: Okay, cause based on like  
19 the comments that we received, I thought the fish per  
20 kilometer was more than the fish per mile, and it didn't  
21 really make sense in kind of with the area that we have,  
22 if it's a 3.3-mile section.....

23  
24 MS. STUBY: Yeah, it was a typo that  
25 well, what can I say? This report was published in  
26 December 1997. It was given, it was -- yeah -- so, he  
27 pretty much got -- he reported 217 fish per kilometer,  
28 or 349 fish per mile, he pretty much got his kilometers  
29 mixed up with his miles so, it is 135 fish per mile. I  
30 kind of discovered this when I was reading through the  
31 draft OSM analysis for Federal Proposal 25-16, and I  
32 went, oh! That's a mistake.

33  
34 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you for the  
35 clarification, it's just because, yeah, if it's 200 and  
36 plus fish per, per kilometer and only 130 fish per mile,  
37 I think miles are bigger than kilometers.

38  
39 MS. STUBY: Right, right yeah, that was  
40 yeah, and he did give it in the Fishery data series  
41 report. But yeah, Jim must have -- he must have mixed  
42 up miles and kilometers. So, 217 fish per kilometer is  
43 135 fish per mile. He got it correct in the abstract,  
44 but, yeah on -- in the report, yeah he -- yeah. It's  
45 unfortunate because numbers like that you know, you  
46 know, become taken as truth in the future. So, yeah,  
47 just providing a clarification for that.

48  
49  
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, clarification  
2 is a kilometer is 0.6 of a mile, and your, and there  
3 were how many fish per, per kilometer.

4  
5 MS.STUBY: He reported 217 Arctic  
6 grayling per kilometer, which would be 135 fish per mile.  
7 But the report.....

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: A mile is  
10 bigger. So, a mile would be.....

11  
12 MS. STUBY: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm  
13 sorry. He reported 217 Arctic grayling per kilometer,  
14 which would be 135 fish per mile.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: No it's actually  
17 the -- it's back -- t's the other way, so.....

18  
19 MS. STUBY: 217 per kilometer, 135 per  
20 mile.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: No, the mile is  
23 bigger. So, it's actually in the other.....

24  
25 MS. STUBY: It should be less.

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: No, no, it's more.  
28 There's more fish per -- there would be more fish per  
29 every -- stating in miles versus kilometers. It's.....

30  
31 (Pause)

32  
33 Graylings. So, the calculation would be  
34 -- it's 17.....

35  
36 MR. STUBY: Yeah, I'm just like, doing a  
37 ten-kilometer foot race is really 6.25 miles so, it  
38 should be less per mile. I actually have a thing up here  
39 kilometers to miles so, yeah. And the problem was when  
40 he, when Jim went ahead and did this, he got his miles  
41 and kilometers mixed up. So, I'm on this formula  
42 kilometers to miles. So, 217 miles is 349km. And he just  
43 got the two mixed up.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: But that's neither  
46 here nor there. There's kind of a lot of Grayling there.  
47 My question for you is Sport Fish division, what is your  
48 incidental harvest mortality for catch and release,  
49 harvest of Arctic grayling in the Jim River or the Arctic  
50 populations?

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MS. STUBY: Okay, hang on a quick second. Let me go ahead and bring that up. The Jim River through the Statewide harvest survey -- hold on a second here. Let me bring up my management report.

(Pause)

Okay. Through the statewide harvest survey. The Bonanza Creek -- I mean all -- really most Bonanza, Prospect, Fish, Kanuti, all but the Jim are put under Dalton Highway streams and that are accessed from the Dalton Highway. And the sport harvest and I'll give averages. The average sport harvest from 2012 to 2021 was 162, and in 2000 -- between 2017 and 2021 was 94. And then for the Jim River it was with the ten-year average 115, and then the five-year average 40 respectively.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: How are those numbers derived? I mean, because I've never seen anybody ever there watching anybody ever fish.

MS. STUBY: They're derived through a mail out survey. For folks who own a sport fishing license and it's actually being updated now because it's been a mail out survey for years, but now it's going to be updated. So, yeah, people receive a mail out survey and then report the numbers of fish that they harvested.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That data set can't, cannot possibly even be close to true, because there are literally thousands of hunters driving the Road, and lots of them are fishing and stopping by. And I've never received a sport fishing survey, and I've held a State license since I was 16 years of age. My question was, what is the incidental harvest mortality? Not harvest. You have a catch and release mortality factor. And so, when we did it, we had Fred Anderson do it on the Kobuk River. There was a 3% mortality factor for catch and release of sheefish in the Kobuk River back in the 90s. So, you have a -- what is your general mortality factor for -- they call it incidental harvest mortality, but you're not actually harvest, catch and release mortality factor. What is your rule of thumb for mortality factor? For catch and release.

MS. STUBY: I mean, we have done studies on species, certain species. I know we have done some Arctic graylings catch and release mortality studies.

1 I'd have to look it up. As far as from this particular  
2 Fishery, I don't have that. I have -- I'm looking at  
3 catch because when the statewide harvest Survey, people  
4 report harvest and they also report catch, which is  
5 harvest plus catch and release. And again, the ten- and  
6 five-year average is 200 from the Dalton Highway streams  
7 is 249 and 171.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: What I'm stating is  
10 that most of the mortalities would not actually be  
11 registered as a harvest ever. Because most of the fishers  
12 [sic] that I see are catching fish and letting them go,  
13 catching fish and letting them go. And I've seen people  
14 drag them onto the beach and they're flopping all over  
15 the place and grab a hold of it and then rip the hook  
16 out of its mouth and throw it back in the river. That  
17 has a high mortality factor, doing that kind of handling.  
18 These are not -- they're not these are just people that  
19 are relatively new to Alaska driving up the -- you know,  
20 they're driving to the Brooks Range. They stop and they  
21 catch and release fish at the Jim River and all of those  
22 drainages in question here. So, my position is the  
23 mortality factor for sport fishing, catch and release  
24 is phenomenally larger than the subsistence harvest.  
25 We're talking about a few people that were going to  
26 actually be subsistence users under this proposal. That  
27 would be taking up to ten graylings, killing them. I'm  
28 telling you that you may have fishermen that are catching  
29 30, 40 grayling and hurting, probably at least way more  
30 than their bag limit, every day. Every day, I mean, like  
31 lots of -- continuously there's -- I will state for the  
32 record, this last summer I talked to all the various  
33 people who fish, and you know that go down there fishing.  
34 There cannot be even more than 40 grayling taken this  
35 last summer in the drainages in question, for  
36 subsistence use. So, we're not talking about huge  
37 numbers here. Just because it's disparate with the State  
38 does not mean that it's a bad thing. It's like -- there  
39 is a subsistence priority on Federal public waters,  
40 Lisa. And you're -- you don't have a good grasp -- as  
41 far as I'm concerned, you as a Sport Fish Manager, you  
42 don't have enough data to even realize what kind of  
43 hunter or fisher-induced mortalities are actually  
44 happening with catch and release. You have a large  
45 entities [sic] throughout the entire summer. Grayling  
46 become present for spawning in late in May, late May.  
47 They become very prominent to harvest after into June  
48 and July all the way through mid-August. And so, that's  
49 --there's a -- there are literally 15 to 20,000 people  
50 that drive the Dalton Highway and significant numbers

1 are catching. And lots of people come to my house, and  
2 they go like I was down there catching grayling at the  
3 Jim River because I never seen one before. They're from  
4 the down in the State somewhere and they're catching all  
5 these fish. I asked them, do they keep them? No, they  
6 just throw them back. But they don't know anything about  
7 catch and release. They don't have anywhere to cook it.  
8 So, I think the State, instead of opposing the  
9 subsistence proposal you really should work more on  
10 taking up current assessment of what those populations  
11 are and what these -- like I stated for you last summer,  
12 these thawing events and these release of certain  
13 waters, these mineralized waters, what is that doing to  
14 the to the fishery resource? What is the trophic levels  
15 of those populations with reduction of salmon and so  
16 forth? There are bigger fish to fry, so to speak, in  
17 this whole question of about grayling mortalities and  
18 subsistence is going to be a, a minor, absolutely a  
19 minor. This proposal is passed you here, it would be an  
20 insignificant mortality compared to the catch and  
21 release mortalities. So, I think that there's -- some  
22 real investigation needs to be done about, you know, is  
23 there enough trophic level for overwintering coho and  
24 chinook salmon and the Jim River drainages or the salmon  
25 populations have declined? And what is this catch and  
26 release? You got to get a better grasp on catch and  
27 release on high impact areas like the Jim River drainage.  
28 It's like a -- become a premier, there's articles written  
29 about it. There's people floating down the river from  
30 the Jim River three bridge to the -- all the way down  
31 to old Prospect Camp by Pump Station 5. There's a lot  
32 of stuff going on, and you really should go back, go up  
33 there and take a look at all that. So, we'll register  
34 your comments about opposition to the State, to being  
35 despair, to the State regulations. Thank you very much.  
36 So, Federal agencies, that's Bureau of Land Management  
37 is in -- Aaron, I guess your Wildlife, Julianus or BLM  
38 as -- are you -- o you have a position on this proposal?

39

40 MS. JULIANUS: Nope. We didn't take a  
41 position on this proposal.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

44

45 MS. JULIANUS: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And so, tribes  
48 again. Why do we have tribes again? Under agency  
49 comments. We asked for those previously, up here.

50

1 MS. PILCHER: Oh, it's entities.

2  
3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, tribal  
4 entities. Are there tribal entities? TCC, I guess. That  
5 would be a tribal entity. Regional Councils, mo other  
6 Regional Councils have addressed this issue? Cory.

7  
8 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,  
9 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta RAC met, and they supported  
10 this. Council noted the importance of non-salmon fish  
11 harvest during times of salmon conservation. Grayling  
12 populations are healthy and can support harvests,  
13 support for subsistence harvest of fish that prey upon  
14 juvenile salmon and the additional harvest opportunity  
15 for Grayling for federally qualified subsistence users,  
16 so they supported it. North Slope RAC deferred to home  
17 region.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
20 those. Appreciate those Council comments or Council  
21 positions. Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Koyukuk  
22 River Advisory Committee did not address this proposal;  
23 I'm the Chair of that. The Gates of the Arctic  
24 Subsistence Resource Commission did not address this  
25 proposal; I'm on that one. Summary of written comments.  
26 Did we receive any written comments? Public testimony,  
27 is there anybody on the phone that would like to speak  
28 to this proposal FP25-16? Regional Council  
29 recommendation and motions. So, the Chair will entertain  
30 a motion to adopt WP25-16. Motion and second for  
31 discussion. We have a motion? Motion by Robert. Second  
32 by Jenny. Discussion. I'll discuss the proposal that's  
33 in the -- in my -- in the area that I live in. I discussed  
34 many of the aspects of what this proposal will have  
35 virtually no effect on the populations and -- of  
36 grayling. People have used grayling a little bit more  
37 now because we don't have access to the Yukon River  
38 fisheries. We've basically been precluded from the 5C  
39 bridge permit area. We've used -- I was going down there  
40 catching chum and so forth and pikes and stuff, and so,  
41 we have to shift more to local -- even more locally. So,  
42 I don't feel that this proposal will have a detrimental  
43 effect for the subsistence, for the fishery itself, and  
44 it will be beneficial for subsistence uses. Any other  
45 comments from the Council? Questions called. Those in  
46 favor of the proposal signify by saying aye. Robert,  
47 Jenny, Tommy and myself. Darrell, are you there still?

48  
49 MR. VENT: Yes, I'm here. Aye.

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, Darrell. Tim  
2 Gervais.

3  
4 MR. GERVIAS: Aye.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
7 And Don, are you online?

8  
9 (No response)

10  
11 So, we have six members bote affirmative  
12 for proposal WFP25-16. And so, the next proposal is --  
13 let's see here.

14  
15 MS. PILCHER: When Jack's looking for  
16 that I'm going to let everybody know. Apparently, the  
17 water is out in the building. I was told earlier today  
18 it was out, but only for a brief period. Apparently, it  
19 is out again. So, there appears to be no water for hand  
20 washing. So, I did put some hand sanitizer on the back  
21 table. And my apologies to everyone in the room.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, proposal FP25-  
24 15. Brent is going to give us a presentation on that.  
25 That'd be on page 44 of our meeting book.

26  
27 MR. VICKERS: All right. Good afternoon,  
28 Mr. Chair, Council members. My name is Brent Vickers.  
29 I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management. Analysis  
30 of proposal FP25-15 begins on page 44, did you say it  
31 was?

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes.

34  
35 MR. VICKERS: Okay, 44 of your meeting  
36 books. Proposal FP25-15 was submitted by the Yukon-Delta  
37 National Wildlife Refuge and requests that the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board reduce the required distance between  
39 set gillnets in the Kuskokwim River tributaries from  
40 150ft to 75ft. The Refuge states that the current Federal  
41 set gillnet regulation is more restrictive than the  
42 current state regulation that was adopted by the Alaska  
43 Board of Fisheries in 2019. Adoption of this proposal  
44 will reduce the user confusion and enforcement concerns.  
45 Again, the proposal is to change that distance from 75  
46 -- 150ft to 75ft for set gillnets. This regulation  
47 affects people, subsistence fishing with set nets for  
48 salmon and tributaries of Kuskokwim River from Eek  
49 Island near the mouth of -- up to the mouth of Aniak  
50 from June to the middle of August. This is when the area



1 is closed to the harvest of salmon, except by local  
2 subsistence users. For the Western Interior region, this  
3 includes approximately the first 30 miles of the Aniak  
4 River, and the first 100 yards of all other mainstream  
5 tributaries up to Aniak. Obviously, this also includes  
6 several other rivers downstream from Aniak in the Yukon-  
7 Kuskokwim Delta region. In 2020, the Western Interior  
8 Alaska and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Councils opposed  
9 an identical proposal. Had this meeting again in August  
10 21st, 2024, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council again  
11 opposed the proposal. The OSM preliminary conclusion is  
12 to support the proposal. We are, however, interested in  
13 hearing from the Council members on why this change in  
14 regulations might be good or bad in your area of the  
15 Kuskokwim River drainage. Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
18 Brent. And so, tribes and ANCSA corporations. Is Orville  
19 going to give us these consultation? Is Orville on the  
20 phone?

21  
22 MS. PILCHER: He was this morning, and I  
23 did just ping him, and I haven't gotten anything.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, so I think  
26 that would be where Orville would -- does those  
27 consultations. And so, we don't have that before us right  
28 now. If Orville comes back up. That's where I was  
29 confused. That's right, Orville was supposed to be doing  
30 the ANCSA of corporations and tribe's consultations.

31  
32 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair, if you don't  
33 mind, I thought and I confirmed with Cory that the tribes  
34 in ANCSA did not have any comments on this proposal, for  
35 any of the proposals.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, we're good  
38 then.

39  
40 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And then go ahead,  
43 Nissa.

44  
45 MS. PILCHER: Just for further  
46 clarification too, there will be another round of tribal  
47 consultations. Thank you. After the RACs cycle meeting.  
48 So, it's not that they didn't come forth, and -- there'll  
49 be another opportunity for them to speak as well.

50

1                   CHAIRPERSON    REAKOFF:    So,    Alaska  
2   Department of Fish and Game, do we have ADF&G on the  
3   call to discuss WP25-15, the distance limitations and  
4   the Kuskokwim drainage from proposals to reduce to 75  
5   from -- feet to from 150ft separation. Do you have any  
6   State comments?

7  
8                   MS. DECKER: This is Sam Decker with the  
9   Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Can you hear me?

10  
11                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I can hear you now,  
12   Sam. Go right ahead.

13  
14                   MS. DECKER: Okay, great. I'm just here  
15   to answer any questions that you guys might have. This  
16   is based on a State regulation that was requested by the  
17   organized village of Kwethluk to address a need in their  
18   tributary, you know, that passes right in front of the  
19   village. The Board discussed it and took public input  
20   and changed it just a little bit to make it the 75-foot  
21   spacing. So, if you have any other questions, I'm happy  
22   to answer them.

23  
24                   CHAIRPERSON    REAKOFF:    Okay.    Any  
25   questions from the State on that? It's a -- it is a  
26   State regulation and the State Board. But it's in a  
27   limited portion of the Kuskokwim River near Kwethluk.  
28   Or did it go throughout the.....

29  
30                   MS. DECKER: Yeah, that's how it was  
31   originally proposed to the Board of Fish in 2019, but  
32   the Board of Fish enacted it in all of the tributaries  
33   of the Kuskokwim River.

34  
35                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I see.

36  
37                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, the Federal  
38   proposal is just to bring Federal regulations in line  
39   with State regulations so that there's less potential  
40   for confusion when the management of the Kusko switches  
41   between the State and the Federal governments and back  
42   and forth again.

43  
44                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Understood.

45  
46                   MS. DECKER: So, we're just looking for  
47   -- yeah, we're just looking for or I think the Federal  
48   process is looking for input on, you know, whether your  
49   Regional Advisory Committee supports that proposal.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, I understand  
2 now. That clarifies that slightly for me. Thank you very  
3 much. Appreciate that. So, Federal agencies, Aaron  
4 Moses. This is a -- I think it was the Wildlife Refuges  
5 proposal. Are you there Aaron? Yukon Delta. Is he still  
6 there, can you see that?

7  
8 MR. MOSES: Hello, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, there you  
11 are, Aaron.

12  
13 MR. MOSES: Sorry, I was on mute.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, agency  
16 comments go right ahead.

17  
18 MR. MOSES: Yeah. The reason that we did  
19 this was, like Sam said, to align it with the State.  
20 This was more of a law enforcement issue for us. And so,  
21 that's why we resubmitted. Law enforcement came to us  
22 asking us to propose this proposal because it was getting  
23 confusing for them.

24  
25  
26  
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. But you  
28 attended the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council  
29 meeting, personally?

30  
31 MR. MOSES: Correct.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes, and why were  
34 the Council -- Why did the YK Delta Council oppose the  
35 proposal? I need somebody that had firsthand knowledge  
36 of what actually occurred there.

37  
38 MR. MOSES: Oh, yes. They opposed it  
39 because they thought 75ft was too close. I can't say for  
40 sure, but if anybody else from OSM was there a lot of  
41 it was from the village --the villages from near Bethel,  
42 they thought that 75ft was just too close for their  
43 liking.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, did they  
46 discuss modifying the proposal for the Kwethluk area?

47  
48 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, this is Brooke.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Brooke, go right  
2 ahead.

3  
4 MS. MCDAVID: Hi Jack. Yeah, I also  
5 coordinate for YK Delta. And the Council did not choose  
6 to do any modifications. They liked the spacing farther  
7 apart. They think it reduces combat fishing and also  
8 just creates a more fair fishing conditions where the  
9 person down river isn't intercepting all the fish for  
10 the person that might be right above them. That was the  
11 gist of their comments.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right, I  
14 understand that. I -- that's what I was looking for, was  
15 their deliberation process and with the -- in  
16 conjunction with the Federal comments and the  
17 enforcement problem, it could be clarified once Federal  
18 management is pulled back to State regulations that  
19 could be published -- is that published widely, Erin,  
20 when that happens?

21  
22 MR. MOSES: This year -- yes, this year  
23 it was in the temporary special action that we had. We  
24 do acknowledge all the or we -- in the first one, we do  
25 put up all the regulations that are happening once we  
26 have Federal control.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right, so, okay,  
29 that kind of covers that. Tribal entities, Native  
30 tribal, AVCP, that would be AVCP, apparently not. We  
31 know what the Regional Council did, other regional  
32 Council, YK Delta, opposed the proposal. Did the Fish  
33 and Game Advisory Committee, Sam, address this issue?

34  
35 MS. DECKER: Hi, Jack, this is Sam. The  
36 AC meetings have not yet been had. They'll be scheduled,  
37 I think we're looking at later this month in October.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.  
40 And as our Subsistence Resource Commissions would not  
41 address this and I -- summary of written public comments.  
42 Have we gotten any written comments? Not at all. Any  
43 public testimony, anybody on the phone want to discuss  
44 this one? Regional Council recommendation and motion  
45 number seven is the Council Chair will entertain a motion  
46 to adopt proposal WP25-15 with discussion. And I have  
47 discussion points I would like to make for this proposal.  
48 So, we have -- do we have a motion? Motion by Robert. I  
49 have a second? Second by Jenny.

50

000117

1 (Distortion)

2

3 Getting that echo off of that.

4

5 (Distortion)

6

7 Okay. We're getting a little bit of an  
8 echo back there. A little feedback problem, no problem.  
9 That's technology stuff happens. So, the -- there's a  
10 motion on the floor. The discussion is I'm prone to  
11 decide with the YK Delta Regional Advisory Council  
12 because I used to be a set. I've set net and we have set  
13 net restrictions even in -- on the Yukon River distances  
14 between gear types and being really close, 75ft is really  
15 super close. That's like that's not even across this  
16 room, hardly. And that's -- you're basically -- if that  
17 if the configuration of the land is, the beach is  
18 changing, you're going to have somebody's going to catch  
19 all the fish and other people can't. So, I'm -- I  
20 actually don't really -- I feel that, that the 150ft  
21 separation -- we have 200ft on the Yukon and a  
22 separation, so I feel that 75 maybe if you're Kwethluk  
23 where you got like a drainage coming in and it's like  
24 really, really, you know, that can -- you got the kind  
25 of configuration of the bathymetric. The bottom is  
26 actually conducive to bringing fish on a diagonal angle  
27 into the gear. But I don't think that -- this is a broad  
28 brush. And the Board of Fish just went broad brush. And  
29 this needs a little finer brush for the overall drainage.  
30 So, I opposed the proposal citing with the YK Delta  
31 Regional Advisory Council. That would be my discussion  
32 on that. Any further discussion? No? No other  
33 discussion?

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, this is Tim.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I would have to  
40 agree. I can't imagine having a net 75 foot in front of  
41 another set net. That just seems ridiculous, to have  
42 gear that close together. So, I'll vote against this  
43 proposal.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Most marine water  
46 set nets are 300ft. And like in the Bristol Bay  
47 fisheries, even in river fisheries they reduce to 150  
48 in river fisheries in the Bristol Bay and that's what  
49 the subsistence fisheries are and most districts. So,  
50 75 I don't -- I've not heard of 75 would be I think it

1 would be detrimental to subsistence to have that  
2 distance in regulation. So, I again oppose the proposal.  
3 I'm talking quite a bit for the record. So, thank you.  
4 Robert.

5  
6 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
7 gentleman that was speaking, when you want to move this  
8 from to this distance between that's -- is that just one  
9 family or is that a commercial fishing or is that 2 or  
10 3 families who is running one net? My name is Robert  
11 Walker. Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Aaron, are you  
14 going to answer that question? Aaron Moses.

15  
16 MS. BECK: Sorry, he was on the phone.  
17 He's coming back to his office. If you can please repeat  
18 the question.

19  
20 MS. PILCHER: That was Laurie Beck, for  
21 the record.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The question is,  
24 Robert Walker asked, is this one family you know, these  
25 distances for 1 or 2 fisher [sic] persons. But the  
26 reality this is a subsistence proposal under Federal  
27 regulation, and when the in-season managers is only  
28 allowing Federal Subsistence priority for people who  
29 have customary and traditional use there in the Yukon  
30 Delta for salmon fishing, they -- this would be how the  
31 Federal Fishery is going to be prosecuted. So, most of  
32 the harvest is going to occur for salmon during those -  
33 -at this time when the runs are so bad that this is when  
34 -- this is how the fishery is going to occur with 75  
35 foot spacing. And so, you're going to have, like  
36 everybody in Bethel who have like hundreds and hundreds  
37 of people all trying to set gear right next to each  
38 other, and some people are going to get cut off. And so,  
39 the YK Delta Council felt that the spacing was too tight  
40 and it would be not -- it would be detrimental to  
41 subsistence, and I feel the same way. I feel that 75ft  
42 apart is too close together and there's -- they need to  
43 be spaced out more to have more equitable harvest for  
44 subsistence users in general. Does that clarify that for  
45 you, Robert?

46  
47 MR. WALKER: Yeah, I just.....

48  
49 MR. VICKERS: Go ahead. Sorry.

1 MR. WALKER: Go ahead, Brent.

2  
3 MR. VICKERS: Oh, I just wanted to add  
4 when the -- from my understanding and I don't want to  
5 put words in the Aaron's mouth, he might differ from  
6 what I -- my understanding, but the when the families  
7 or the village of Kwethluk put this was a State proposal  
8 back in 2019 and this current Federal proposal was  
9 brought by the Refuge. And from what Aaron said, it was  
10 law enforcement that basically asked for it to make it  
11 easier for them to enforce regulations between State and  
12 Federal so, they just want to make it the same. This  
13 wasn't put forth by families, it was law enforcement.  
14 That was my understanding, just to clarify.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: But the way this  
17 fishery has been prosecuted on the on the Kuskokwim  
18 River, you can correct me Sam if I'm wrong, that the in-  
19 season manager has basically been implementing openings  
20 for setnet and limited drift, but it's -- the majority  
21 of the fishing is occurring during that in-season  
22 management. Once it's relaxed, once the Federal Manager  
23 has stepped back, it reverts to state regulation. The  
24 number of fishermen, fishers [sic] is going to be vastly  
25 reduced. So, the competition under state regulation,  
26 yeah, that's 75ft. But there's not going to be that many  
27 fishermen fishing anymore. Is that correct, Sam?

28  
29 MS. DECKER: Jack, this is Sam. Yes,  
30 that's correct. The Federal Government did last year,  
31 Spencer Reardon is the Refuge Manager, and they put forth  
32 a temporary Federal special action which gave them up  
33 to 90 days to prosecute the fishery on the Kuskokwim  
34 River. So, they started June 1, and they had conservation  
35 concerns about the coho run as well. So, they were  
36 prepared to operate the Federal water management all the  
37 way through the end of August. And indeed, about halfway  
38 through August, they were pleased by the coho run that  
39 was coming in. And they, you know, they lifted the FSA  
40 early due to the in-season observation of the coho run.  
41 Does that answer your question?

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That answers my  
44 question and.....

45  
46 MS. DECKER: Yeah.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: .....and you  
49 observed when you opened it, did you see a lot of gear  
50 close together, 75ft apart under State regulation, or

1 did they just basically maintain that same spacing of  
2 150?

3

4 MS. DECKER: We didn't do any evaluation  
5 of the run during the Federal season. That would have  
6 been done by the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish  
7 Commission. They were helping the Federal Manager by  
8 providing flights putting -- I believe it was Justin  
9 Leon is their fish biologist, and he was taking flights  
10 over the openers when they had them and doing a count  
11 of nets or boats, depending on whether it was a setnet  
12 opportunity or a drift net opportunity.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

15

16 MS. DECKER: If there's someone from the  
17 Fish Commission there. They might be able to give more  
18 information about how they calculated that.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, it -- but I  
21 think it's fairly clear in our discussion, for the  
22 record, before the Federal Subsistence Board that I  
23 intend to vote opposing the proposal FP25-15 because of  
24 ease of enforcement, I feel that the Refuge can -- when  
25 they really relinquish management this year, It happened  
26 on August, mid-August that they can state for the public  
27 what the current State regulations are and go from there.  
28 But I feel that this is proposal for the main part of  
29 the season would be detrimental to subsistence users and  
30 for the for the lower river. And I agree with Yukon  
31 Delta wildlife correction, Yukon Delta Regional Advisory  
32 Council. So, are we going to call for question? Anybody  
33 going to call question? Questions called. Those in favor  
34 of proposal WP25-15. I intend to oppose the proposal.  
35 Signify by saying aye.

36

37 (No response)

38

39 Opposed, same sign.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 MR. HONEA: Hi this is.....

44

45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Darrell. This is  
46 who?

47

48 MS. PILCHER: Tim.

49

50



1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim and Jenny. No.  
2 So, the Western Interior Council opposed the proposal,  
3 so we're moving on in our -- so, next proposal is FP 25-  
4 17. And this would be a Delta River rod and reel limits  
5 matching State which is on page 54. This proposal is out  
6 of region, and I don't know that the Council even wants  
7 to hear this proposal. I intend to defer this -- I would  
8 like this deferred to the region, but I want the Council  
9 to make a -- take a position on how -- would you even  
10 want to hear this proposal about rod and reel fishing  
11 and in Eastern Interior Regional. Council members, no  
12 interest?

13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: This is Tim. I would rather  
15 defer out of region.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, so that's  
18 what I feel we should do. But I wanted to get the  
19 Council's comments. So, the Chair will entertain a  
20 motion to defer proposal FP25-17 rod and reel fishing  
21 on the Delta River to the Eastern Interior Regional  
22 Advisory Council for the region. Do we have a motion?

23  
24 MS. PELKOLA: So, move.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Motion by Jenny and  
27 second. I'll second. You will be the second, Tim, and  
28 no discussion is needed. So, we have those in favor of  
29 the proposal of -- in favor of the motion to defer  
30 signify by saying aye. Aye.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, so defer  
35 proposal W -- correction FP25-17. The next one is again  
36 a Delta River proposal. The Council has taken up --  
37 basically we can defer that also. Motion to defer fishers  
38 closure review 25-05. That's EIRACs region to the  
39 Council should -- I feel, should defer. Do we have a  
40 motion to defer FCR25-05?

41  
42 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny. We  
45 have a second?

46  
47 MR. KRISKA: Second.

48  
49  
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Tommy.  
2 Those in favor of deferral of FCR 2505 signify by saying  
3 aye. Aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.  
6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay and your --  
8 did you vote Robert? Robert, did you vote?

9  
10 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Tommy? Okay.  
13 So, the Council is opposed -- deferred FCR 25-05 to  
14 region Eastern Interior, Nome Creek, Arctic grayling.  
15 And that would be again Eastern Interior FCR25-02. Nome  
16 Creek grayling, which is also Eastern Interior. The  
17 motion to defer. We need a motion to defer.

18  
19 (Distortion)

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's you  
22 Darrell?

23  
24 MR. GERVIAS: It's Tim. I said  
25 (distortion).

26  
27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim, you're kind of  
28 breaking up, the mic there. So, motion to defer from  
29 Tim. I have a second?

30  
31 MR. KRISKA: Second.  
32

33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Tommy.  
34 Those in favor of deferral for FCR25-02. Nome grayling  
35 signify by saying aye. Aye.

36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.  
38

39  
40 MR. GERVIAS: Aye, this is Tim.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Are you still there  
43 Darrell?

44  
45 MR. VENT: Aye.  
46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, deferrals for  
48 those statewide proposals. There are no statewide  
49 fisheries proposals submitted during this cycle. And now  
50 we're down to -- those were the action items. And so --

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MS. PILCHER: We keep the rest of these (indiscernible).

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, all supplemental?

MS. PILCHER: Yes (indiscernible).

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Oh, I see, so, Fisheries Resource Management Monitoring Programs PINs Development. Cory and Liz. So, is Liz here?

MR. GRAHAM: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And so, one with the Yukon. So, go ahead, Cory.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, members of the Council again, this is Corey Graham, fisheries biologist with OSM. My colleague Liz Williams is also here, anthropologist with OSM. So, materials relevant to this presentation can be found starting on page 21 of your supplemental materials, ringed binder. This is an action item. At the end of our presentation, we will ask the Council to approve the list of Priority Information Needs. 20, page 21. We'll ask your Council to approve the list of Priority Information Needs for the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions.

So, it looks like everyone found it. Before we dive into the Priority Information Needs discussion, I'll briefly introduce the monitoring program. So, the Office of Subsistence Management administers the monitoring program, which funds research and monitoring projects that help manage Federal subsistence fisheries and Federal public waters of Alaska. Monitoring program is also directed at supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska native and rural organizations, and promoting collaboration among Federal, State, and Alaska native and rural organizations. The Office of Subsistence Management will announce the 2026 notice of funding opportunity for this program later this winter, and the first step in the funding process is for Regional Advisory Councils to identify Priority Information Needs for each region. This Information Needs, identify issues of local concern and knowledge gaps related to subsistence fisheries. In addition, they guide the monitoring program by determining the type of projects

1 that are submitted for funding and providing a framework  
2 for evaluating and selecting project proposals. In  
3 August, members from the Eastern Interior, Western  
4 Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Councils met to  
5 develop a draft list of Priority Information Needs for  
6 the Yukon region. Members from your Council included  
7 Jack Reakoff and Robert Walker and Kevin Whitworth also  
8 volunteered for the Kuskokwim region, so there was  
9 representation from Kevin for those PINs as well. So,  
10 that's the brief intro. So, we'll start again with  
11 reviewing the draft Priority Information Needs list for  
12 the Yukon region. They're listed on page 20-21. And I  
13 want you to note that the bold language represents  
14 changes or additions to last cycles PINs. So, my plan  
15 was just to read off -- just read off the list. And if  
16 the Council has any comments on them to stop me and we  
17 can go from there. The YKD did approve this list earlier.  
18 a couple of weeks ago. And the Eastern Interior RAC is  
19 meeting next week so, they'll also have input then.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The Yk Delta modify  
22 it in any way?

23

24 MR. GRAHAM: Not the Yukon list. There  
25 were for the Kuskokwim list, but we'll get to that.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

28

29 MR. GRAHAM: So.....

30

31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,  
34 these are the draft PINs for the Yukon region. Impacts  
35 of climate change to the harvest and use of fish, and  
36 impacts of climate change on fish, for example, impacts  
37 to fish migration, spawning and life cycle. The next is  
38 knowledge of population, reproduction and health of  
39 spawning habitat for Bering cisco and humpback  
40 whitefish. We have estimates of chinook, summer chum,  
41 fall chum and coho salmon escapements and or harvests,  
42 distribution, abundance, condition and survival of  
43 juvenile and out-migrating salmon in the Yukon River  
44 drainage. Increase the understanding of abundance,  
45 distribution, migration patterns and spawning locations  
46 of chinook and chum salmon in the Innoko River drainage  
47 or the Innoko River. Non-lethal estimates of quality of  
48 escapement for chinook salmon, for example potential egg  
49 deposition, age, sex, size composition of spawners,  
50 weight and girth of spawners, percentage of females,

1 percentage of jacks, and spawning habitat usage with an  
2 emphasis on Canadian origin stocks. Community based  
3 monitoring of salmon and resident species presence,  
4 abundance, life history patterns, harvests, genetics,  
5 age, sex, length composition, incidental and delayed  
6 mortality from entanglements and dropouts, habitat  
7 restoration needs, and/or environmental variables and  
8 tributaries to better understand fish and keep users  
9 engaged during years of limited fishing opportunities.  
10 The in-season estimates of genetic stock composition of  
11 chinook, summer chum, fall -- and fall chum salmon runs.  
12 Traditional ecological knowledge of fishes, for example,  
13 to identify salmon spawning and or rearing locations and  
14 expand the anadromous waters catalog. Advanced genetic  
15 baselines for chinook, summer chum, fall chum, and coho  
16 salmon by screening additional populations and novel  
17 genetic markers to improve the accuracy, precision, and  
18 scale of stock composition estimates to inform stock  
19 assessment for Yukon River fisheries at the tributary  
20 level. Funding to facilitate interagency, tribal, and  
21 stakeholder forums for gathering and sharing input on  
22 fisheries management issues, including cross  
23 jurisdictional and co-management of salmon. Seasonal  
24 salmon life stage usage of tribal tributaries, draining  
25 the Yukon Coastal District through an interdisciplinary  
26 approach, documenting traditional ecological knowledge  
27 and biological surveys in order to update the anadromous  
28 waters catalog and improve management's understanding  
29 of salmon in these streams. And last, a meta-analysis  
30 of existing information and research examining the  
31 relative importance of freshwater, e.g. predation,  
32 stranding, heat stress, reduction in marine drive  
33 nutrients. And marine, e.g. environmental conditions,  
34 bycatch, interception, migration routes, hatchery  
35 production and competition factors in causing declines  
36 of Yukon River, chinook and chum almon and or resident  
37 species to present at relevant Regional Advisory Council  
38 meetings. So, that concludes the draft list. Again, this  
39 is an action item, requesting the comment to comment on  
40 and approve this list for the Yukon region. Once you  
41 approve this list, I'll pass the mic to Liz, and we can  
42 go through the same thing for the Kusko [sic]. Thank  
43 you.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you. And Tim  
46 and Darrell that you have the list. I forgot to ask you  
47 when we looked in our supplementary materials, did you  
48 have that, that he was going over?  
49  
50

1 MR. GERVIAS: Yes, I have it. This is  
2 Tim.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, any  
5 questions on this list? I have a couple questions. Does  
6 any Council members have questions on this list? So, my  
7 question -- first question would be under distribution  
8 abundance condition of survival of juvenile out-  
9 migrating salmon in the Yukon River drainage. Is there  
10 -- would this investigation look at the stream of origin,  
11 the trophic environment that they actually were rearing  
12 in, like chinook and coho. There's -- my opinion is with  
13 the reduced chinook and chum, now coho stocks the number  
14 of spawning and dying fish, the trophic transference  
15 from the marine environment to the to the freshwater  
16 environment is in a steep decline. The salmon spawn and  
17 die to leave nitrogen 15 as a fertilizer on the bottom  
18 of the streams. It's basically -- so, the milk is going  
19 away for the baby salmon. That's the way I look at that.  
20 So, if we're looking -- if we find that juvenile salmon  
21 condition and survival numbers are declining as -- there  
22 needs to be like, where are these generally going to be  
23 obtained? Are they going to be obtained out of various  
24 components or drainage components of the Yukon River  
25 system, or it's just going to be at the mouth of the  
26 Yukon or how does this particular project envision how  
27 this is going to be accomplished? To actually look at  
28 what is actually going on in the streams as to why --  
29 if we see -- if it's -- so, go ahead, Cory. I'm just  
30 talking.

31  
32 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,  
33 these needs aren't supposed to be rigid. I guess there's  
34 not a proposal or project in mind. What it does is just  
35 give kind of general guidelines for researchers or  
36 tribes or whomever wants to conduct research to kind of  
37 come in and develop their own projects. So, what you're  
38 proposing would fall under this PIN, right? But then  
39 there are other options that they could do and ideally,  
40 they're following what you're saying, following what the  
41 Councils are saying and could kind of, you know, read  
42 the transcripts, listen along, see it's important and  
43 develop a project that way. But it's not like there just  
44 could be multiple kind of flavors within this pen for a  
45 final project.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, I  
48 understand. So, I feel that, you know, there needs to  
49 be like, you know, this Yukon River system is huge. And  
50 so, there's like Chena and Salcha and like Henshaw and

1 there's Jim River they have chinook runs and, you know,  
2 chinook salmon that have always traditionally -- and  
3 they have inventories of what those returns are. They  
4 have weirs there, they know what the returns are and  
5 what the numbers have declined to. And those should be  
6 site locations for capturing juveniles -- juvenile  
7 salmon. I guess this is a broad-based salmon migration.  
8 You know, the chum, pink, those are not going to be  
9 affected by that nearly as much as juveniles like sockeye  
10 and coho and chinook that actually spend time in system,  
11 that trophic -- trophic level, it could be a major factor  
12 that's actually going on is as the numbers have been in  
13 decline, the number of nutrients have been in decline.  
14 And then the exposure of those juveniles to predation,  
15 their incidence is actually really low compared to what  
16 grayling populations are and burbot. I fish with a fyke  
17 net in the river by Wiseman and I caught burbot with  
18 spawning size grayling in the stomach. And so, there's  
19 burbot, they eat juvenile salmon too. And that's -- and  
20 Tom -- and Darrell has been talking a lot about these  
21 pikes eating juvenile out-migrating salmon. That's  
22 another issue is the predation factor. So, but we're  
23 looking at the condition and abundance. And so, I do  
24 feel that there needs to be an abundance inventory at  
25 the mouth of the Yukon on juvenile. And they've done,  
26 you know, these juvenile funnel traps and so forth.  
27 There's -- that's done in the southeast drainages a lot.  
28 But we don't -- we also know need to know specific  
29 targeted where we have abundance numbers, long term data  
30 sets for weirs, what are these -- are the smolts out  
31 migrating at levels to maintain the populations? So,  
32 that would be discussion on that topic point. Any other  
33 discussion on that topic point from Council members? So,  
34 Tim, did you have any comments on that? Is Tim there?

35

36 MR. GERVIAS: No. No, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, well let's  
39 finish this off before we go to break. So, no comment,  
40 Tim. Robert was wanting to break -- excuse me. Do you  
41 want -- no comment. Tim, I missed that. Is that what he  
42 said?

43

44 MR. GERVIAS: Mr. Chair, this is Tim. I  
45 had no comment on that.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, no comment on  
48 that one. So, then down here at seasonal life cycle  
49 stage usage of, you know, tribal tributaries draining  
50 into the Yukon coastal district, I again feel that

1 plankton and nutrients that are vital once the juveniles  
2 reach the marine system need to be inventoried on an  
3 annual basis. You know, basically skimming the waters  
4 to find out, because I've watched sockeye out-migrating,  
5 they're just voracious. Once they get into the estuarine  
6 waters, they're just going wild for -- there's out  
7 migrations coincide with krill spawning in the lower  
8 rivers in May when sockeye are moving into the marine  
9 system. So, the brackish waters need to be inventoried  
10 for levels of what's going on there. So, that would be  
11 part of that, that Priority Need. And so, the  
12 environmental conditions under meta-analysis,  
13 environmental conditions, there's all this environmental  
14 conditions. There's these frozen debris lobes releasing  
15 all kinds of mineral water into the upper drainages. And  
16 so, we need to have water quality for pH levels taken  
17 once salmon move into the main stems of each contributing  
18 drainage. So, like this, especially large contributors  
19 like Chena, Salcha, Koyukuk main stem, we got to have  
20 main stem water quality samples that are going to  
21 actually tell us, is this water too acidic? Is it too  
22 alkaline? Is the turbidity too bad for salmon to actually  
23 derive nutrients? I live in the upper drainage. I got  
24 creeks that are running iron oxide, copper oxide and  
25 high levels of dissolved limestone, which is a super  
26 base minerals into the -- into the marine -- into the  
27 trophic where rearing areas where chinook in the upper  
28 drainages are actually trying to rear. So, that's part  
29 of that project is looking at environmental conditions.  
30 It's widely published this -- I talked about this in  
31 2017 at this Council -- at the Council fall meeting when  
32 we had our Wiseman Creek, which is -- a has an iron load  
33 at the headwaters that always ran clear water came down  
34 as oranges Tang and it ran orange water for years after  
35 that. This is an environmental condition that would fall  
36 under this category. And so, that you want discussion  
37 on that. That's what I'm making comments on and on that  
38 on this. And so, all of these Priority Needs are all  
39 valid needs. But those are the some of the discussions  
40 that I wanted to talk about. Any other discussion or  
41 comments on these -- any of these Priority Needs? Nobody  
42 at the table. Tim, do you have any comments on these  
43 priority needs?

44

45 MR. GERVIAS: No, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
48 So, I drank a lot of coffee today so, I can go all day,  
49 but our Council wants a break, so we need to pass -- we  
50 need to make a -- have a motion to adopt these priority



1 needs as presented with the comments that were presented  
2 during the discussion. That will be part of the record.  
3 So, we have a motion to adopt.

4  
5 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Move by Jenny.

8  
9 MR. KRISKA: Second.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Second by Tommy.  
12 Those in favor of adopting the 2026 draft Koyukon  
13 Priority Information Needs, PINs signify by saying aye.

14  
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16  
17 MR. GERVIAS: Aye, this is Tim.

18  
19 MR. VENT: Aye, this Darrell.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim, Darrell.  
22 Okay, roger that. So, Council wants a break, and so  
23 we're going to have a 15-minute break. So, 15-minute  
24 break. And I suggest that OSM get some Red Bulls or  
25 energy drinks for the.....

26  
27 I'm just kidding.

28  
29 (Off record)

30  
31 (On record)

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we're going to  
34 come back on record. Are you still there, Tim? I'm  
35 looking for Darrell and Tim on the phone.

36  
37 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, this is Tim. I'm here.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay roger, Tim.  
40 Darrell? So, Robert, Tommy? Do you guys drink energy  
41 drinks? Would you drink energy drinks if we had, like,  
42 Red Bulls and -- yeah. OSM, next meeting we need energy  
43 drinks for this late in the day. No kidding. Don't think  
44 OSM we'll get approval for that one. So, next up is  
45 Cory. Oh, Liz. Okay, Liz.

46  
47 MS. WILLIAMS: Pardon? Good afternoon,  
48 Mr. Chair and members of the Council. This is Liz  
49 Williams. Oh, page 22. I'm Liz Williams, anthropologist  
50 with OSM.....

1 (Simultaneous specch)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yukon to the next  
4 page. Kuskokwim priority.

5

6 MS. WILLIAMS: We all on the page? and  
7 I'm just going to read these out to you. But the Chair  
8 asked if there were additions from the YK Delta RAC, and  
9 Cory kindly highlighted those in red for me, so I will  
10 be able to share them with you clearly.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

13

14 MS. WILLIAMS: And this is the volunteers  
15 for the -- from this Council, of course, as Cory  
16 mentioned already, we're Jack, Robert and Kevin  
17 Whitworth. So, the list of Priority Information Needs  
18 listed by the volunteer group, that's partially you are  
19 drivers of chinook, chum, sockeye and coho salmon  
20 population declines in the Kuskokwim River drainage,  
21 including Kuskokwim Bay tributaries and sockeye was  
22 added by the YK Delta RAC. The next one is chinook,  
23 chum, coho, sockeye and pink salmon inter- and intra-  
24 species specific competition for resources in freshwater  
25 and marine environments. And again, YK Delta added  
26 sockeye to that list of species. The next one is Northern  
27 pike distribution, abundance, habitat preferences, and  
28 predation patterns upon juvenile salmon and other fish  
29 species in the Kuskokwim River watershed, including  
30 Kuskokwim Bay tributaries, for example, the Kanektok  
31 River. The YK Delta RAC added other fish species in  
32 addition to salmon. The next one is establish, develop,  
33 maintain and collect long term data sets of watershed  
34 scale, environmental variables to better understand  
35 their effects upon chinook, chum and coho salmon  
36 productivity within the Kuskokwim River watershed,  
37 including Kuskokwim Bay tributaries. The next one is  
38 reliable quantitative and/or qualitative estimates of  
39 salmon run size, escapement and harvest in the entire  
40 Kuskokwim River watershed, including Kuskokwim Bay  
41 tributaries. The next one is explore new and cost-  
42 effective methods for conducting in-season salmon run  
43 and harvest assessments in the Kuskokwim River drainage,  
44 with an emphasis on community-based monitoring. The next  
45 one is distribution, abundance, condition and survival  
46 of juvenile and out-migrating chinook, chum, sockeye and  
47 coho salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage, and again  
48 the YK Delta added sockeye to that list of species. And  
49 the final is impacts of environmental change and  
50 continued harvest and use of fish, and impacts of climate

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1 change on fish, for example: fish migration, spawning  
2 and life cycle and abundance. So, that concludes the  
3 list of the Kuskokwim Priority Information Needs.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me.  
6 Thank you, Liz. Any questions or comments for Liz?

7  
8 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

11  
12 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
13 think this was perfectly done, Liz. Thank you. We  
14 appreciate that. From what is it right here. Because it  
15 just gives us more, more latitude to look at other  
16 things. Thank you very much.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Any other  
19 comments? Did you have any comments, Tim? Tim or Darrell?  
20 Are they there? Oh, they dropped. You know, we don't  
21 have quorum at this point. They were there, I had them  
22 both when we first started, came back from the break. I  
23 will speak to these topics and it will be basically  
24 along the same line. Number two interspecies -- specific  
25 interspecies competition resources in the freshwater  
26 environments. And I also would like to add or look at  
27 the specifics for where we have good data sets for spawn  
28 returns and weirs, what the trophic levels are there.  
29 What the interspecies specific competition, those  
30 trophic levels should have had baselines, you know, in  
31 2020 hindsight, we should have had baseline data for  
32 that. But that should be part of that Priority Need is  
33 what -- what's actually going on in the system and in  
34 the marine water, fresh and marine waters. You know, the  
35 environmental variables. You know, that's again -- this  
36 reduction in spawning escapement and then distribution  
37 and abundance condition of survival of juvenile out-  
38 migrating. That's -- I feel it's really important to  
39 look at the immediate brackish water marine system  
40 because there's a lot of those fish are coming  
41 downstream. They've not actually had a whole lot to eat  
42 until they get down to the marine waters. And so that's  
43 not really hard to do. They can -- you can inventory  
44 that with some surface trawls. They do that quite a bit,  
45 you know, getting some baseline levels of marine  
46 plankton and other crustacean, brachiopods and krill and  
47 stuff like that. So, those would be comments on those  
48 Priority Needs. But all of these are important priority  
49 needs. So, did we get Tim or -- Darrell come back on  
50 this call?

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MS. PILCHER: Tim is on.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Tim, are you there now? You dropped out for there for a minute.

MS. PILCHER: Just dropped again.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, Tim dropped again. So, we can't actually -- we can get a motion to adopt. Go ahead, Robert.

MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - off mic)

CHAIRPERSON ROGERS: Well, it's good to have face-to-face meetings. When we were in Covid, when Covid lockdown, we couldn't -- it was about 10% effectiveness doing everything on the phone. That's just not -- don't want to go backwards to that. It was unanticipated that Tim wouldn't have -- wouldn't be here at the meeting. He wanted to be here, but he basically got backed up against the wall with a bunch of storms and things. So, can Tim text or can you text him? If he can't -- just maybe we can communicate by text. Just text to him and see if he's listened to the Priority Need introduction? We need his vote to register.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

MR. GERVAIS: I'm just saying, you know, this is 2024, and I think maybe technology should catching up with not only us, but other RACs. So, if somebody's going to call in, you can have a Starlink sent to them or a phone that'll work in their area. So, that's just a recommendation.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right, it would be advantageous or would actually be to the to this Council and the OSM advantage and the and the Department of Interior and the program to have Starlink capability to be sent out to members who know they're going to be participating virtually. I mean, it's not that much. In fact, sending that Starlink to that individual for the value their participation is phenomenally beneficial. You can buy the Starlink equipment for \$600. You pay \$90 for your residents, and your OSM has Starlink with numbers on them. And you just put it back in the box and you send it back after the meeting. So, this person

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1 can't come to the meeting for some various reasons. You  
2 got most communities have fairly fast mail service,  
3 relatively fast within -- you're going to know within  
4 two weeks. Well, how long since Tim couldn't come to the  
5 meeting? Well, you couldn't actually get ahold of him.

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MS. PILCHER: He appeared on Monday.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right, that would have been a problem. But is he there or did he? He's dropping out.

MS. PIKCHER: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: He can't even get text. So, we might have to table this. We might have to go to break. It's about 12 to 5. We might have to go to break and take this up in the morning, because we don't have quorum to adopt this. We can make a motion to have the motion on the table and be put into the barrel. So, the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the 2026 Kuskokwim area Priority Information Needs, PIN needs, and with the points of discussion that are on the record, and we need a motion to adopt and then it will be ready to go in the morning.

MS. PELKOLA: So, moved.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny. We have a second. Second by Robert.

MR. WALKER: Second.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, those in favor of that -- oh, just to get it on the table. I'm getting too far out. I needed a Red bull. And so, we'll go to recess for tonight. Go ahead, Nissa.

MS. PILCHER: I did want to point out something for the record. One of the fisheries proposals you guys reviewed was a deferred proposal from 2023. And I have it on the agenda wrong. So, FCR25-05 the Delta River all fish which you deferred should have read FCR 23-05. You guys don't have to revisit it. I'm just getting it clarified on the record, you guys deferred it to Eastern RAC.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It's a typo.

MS. PILCHER: Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, the vote is valid. The number is just changed, correct?

MR. WALKER: Hey, Nissa. The per diem we got is that to buy our own food?

MS. PILCHER: Ultimately, yes. I can talk to you about it.

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, but I'm just saying that so everybody could hear. So, like Tom, Tom didn't get a per diem.

MS. PILCHER: It's right here.

MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Were gonna -- we'll recess for tonight. We'll be back on record at 9 a.m. Nissa? Correct. So, thank you very much for those on the phone that that participated. Appreciate that. We're going to be on record at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thank you. Have a good night.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 135 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 2nd 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 15th day of October 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael Morel  
Chief Project Manager