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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE
October 30, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Dunaway, Acting Chair
Richard Wilson
Kenneth Nukwak
William Trefon
Robert Hill

Regional Council Coordinator, Leigh Honig

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 10/30/24)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, we're deep in the meeting season. Well, let's see what we can get done. Let's call the meeting to order here at 8:34. And Leigh, could you do a roll call? Sure.

MS. HONIG: Sure, Mr. Chair. Okay. William Trefon.

MR. TREFON: I'm here.

MS. HONIG: Kenneth Nukwak.

MR. NUKWAK: (In Native)

MS. HONIG: Richard Wilson

MR. WILSON: Here.

MS. HONIG: Okay. Robert Hill. I kind of -- I saw him log off. He was on earlier, so I'll keep an eye out for him. Okay. And then Nancy is absent. Let's see. Dan is here, of course. John is absent and John Christensen are absent. So, we have five Council members present. So, we do have a quorum if we need to take any action items.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Great. Thank you, Leigh. Do we have any -- do you have any updates or new information for us before we get started?

MS. HONIG: No, sir. No new updates or anything. So, just as a reminder, I had to refresh myself this morning, too. So, we left off on an agenda 12G. We did the future meeting dates. So, next up on the agenda.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Next what?

MS. HONIG: Next up is on the agenda is the statewide sheet discussion. But, yeah, if you want to do any other announcements or introductions, we can take care of that first.

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1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, well,
2 let's open it up. If there's any new participants that
3 have logged in that want to be recognized, we'll welcome
4 them to speak up.

5
6 MR. ANDERSON: Hello, Dan. George
7 Anderson here at Chignik Inter-Tribal Coalition.

8
9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, good
10 morning, George. Good to have you on board.

11
12 MR. ANDERSON: Hi. Good morning. Good to
13 be here.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Was
16 there an item that you wanted to speak to? We've done
17 all of the fish proposals but let us know if there's
18 something you want to speak to.

19
20 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. Well, I'm. I
21 apologize for missing yesterday's meeting. I just wanted
22 to give you a brief update. Follow up to where we left
23 off in March at the All RAC meeting. I did submit written
24 comments to Leigh, I think it was. Did you receive those?

25
26 MS. HONIG: For this meeting, Mr.
27 Anderson?

28
29 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, yes.

30
31 MS. HONIG: Oh, I did not receive those.

32
33 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

34
35 MS. HONIG: If you send them to me, I'd
36 be more than happy to send it out to the Council.

37
38 MR. ANDERSON: Okay, I will, I will do
39 that. And then if there is time for just a brief update
40 on what we're doing and needing I will do that when the
41 time comes, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: That sounds
44 good. We haven't gone through, like, tribal and native
45 organization reports so, we'll be sure to work you in
46 there. Seems like a place to do it. Anybody else? I'm
47 glad you're on, though. Anybody else?

48
49 MS. CARTY: Mr. Chair, this is Courtenay
50 Carty. Good morning.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Good morning. Welcome.

MS. CARTY: I apologize for having to miss the afternoon yesterday. Between work and my daughter's medical appointments, I just wasn't able to be there. I understand you guys went through the fisheries proposals. I do have comments prepared on the Priority Information Needs. I'm not sure if this is an appropriate time or if that's going to be later in the agenda.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: We kind of worked through that, but they didn't -- We kind of postponed taking action on the -- this was more of the Annual Report. But it would be good to hear. Yeah. We didn't have to take any action on Priority Information Needs. If you're prepared, Courtenay, why don't we do that now? Since that was one of the last things we did that yesterday and cleared -- get that taken care of before we move to the sheep thing. Is that agreeable to the rest of the Council?

MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh. So, the Council did discuss the PINs yesterday, and they did take action to adopt those priority information needs. But of course, there can be discussion about that.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, listen to Courtenay. And if there's something that we want to add in, we'd have a moment to do that. So, if everybody's agreeable, let's give Courtenay the floor.

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. CARTY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, for the Priority Information Needs. Okay. For the record, Courtenay Carty, member of the public. The views I'm expressing today are my personal opinions and don't reflect that of my employer. First, reviewing the Priority Information Needs, for folks perspective I've been working in the Federal Subsistence Management Program off and on since 2001, and have worked on a variety of FRMP projects over time, and have participated in development of PINs for -- gosh, my silver hair is telling me decades. I think in the -- I have these noted sorry guys, I don't really write out verbatim, but on your document in the Priority Information Needs under A, C and E this is really a

1 technical comment on verbiage. I think we need to insert
2 a verb or call to action at the beginning of these three
3 PIN's. They all start -- they don't have a verb. Reliable
4 estimates, reliable estimates, annual estimates. If you
5 look at the rest of them, we start with using, evaluating
6 etc. So, I think we need a verb for call to action for
7 Priority Information Beeds A, C and E. In regards to
8 priority information needs for C for chinook. I don't
9 understand, and I'm not sure if it's appropriate to
10 question you, Mr. Chair or the Council, why we're taking
11 out Meshik or Naknek. I might have missed that
12 conversation when I was absent yesterday and do
13 apologize. I fully support adding Chignik in, if the
14 Meshik and Naknek numbers are already there and that's
15 not a need anymore. I guess I could support removing
16 those. But with the chinook population's declining not
17 only statewide, but in our region as well. I don't know
18 why we would want to take those out. And then I was
19 texting a little bit with Cody yesterday about Togiak
20 River chinook escapement, because I think it was the
21 2012 Board of Fish meeting where ADF&G removed the
22 escapement goal for the Togiak chinook population, which
23 was very frustrating as a young researcher at the time.
24 How do you push to enumerate escapement when we don't
25 have an escapement goal to evaluate it against? So, those
26 are some of, I feel like the co-management conundrums
27 that we deal with regularly in this work and need to be
28 addressed in some way. And then under bullet I,
29 understanding subsistence sharing networks of fish
30 throughout the Bristol Bay region and the importance of
31 resource networks. I'm so glad this is in here. As a
32 researcher in the past and, you know, a harvester in the
33 present, I feel like the sharing component of our
34 traditional ways of harvesting and processing our foods
35 is very misunderstood, not understood, not paid
36 attention to, not implemented in the regulatory process
37 of management of our resources. And if we had a way to
38 strengthen this Priority Information Need, we need to
39 document these sharing networks so that we can
40 understand them. Perhaps that's some language we could
41 use to strengthen it. And then also expanding the
42 verbiage to not just throughout the Bristol Bay region,
43 but looking at our networks within the region and how
44 we as Bristol Bay -- it's common knowledge that we're a
45 region of abundance and wealth, and that our resources
46 are shared out into other regions and vice versa. Foods
47 that we don't have in our region are shared into us and
48 exchanged for foods that we have here and so, I just
49 feel like this could be strengthened. I hope to see many
50 more FRMP projects to document our sharing networks. And

1 even potentially expanding I, outside of the southwest
2 region only into the multi-regional could strengthen the
3 priority information needs for the program in general,
4 not just our region. And that, Mr. Chair, concludes my
5 testimony on Priority Information Needs. Thank you for
6 the opportunity to present.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
9 you. Yeah, we did have quite a discussion on whether to
10 remove or keep in the Naknek River in C, and I believe
11 we've asked it to be added back in, even though the main
12 reason that it was dropped out is that it's a struggle
13 to get a Federal waters nexus. I think I'm using the
14 right terms on the Naknek River itself. We did discuss
15 that quite a bit. It's a little harder, but I think we
16 did try to add that back in. There was discussion on the
17 concerns for spawning bed disruption from boat and other
18 activity in the spawning areas. That was the main reason,
19 then the Meshik River was partly dropped. More because
20 the logistics of trying to do anything there to seem
21 impossible is what -- when I was discussing this with
22 the Kodiak representatives and it was pretty dependent
23 on getting cooperation out of the Kodiak Fish and Game
24 office, and that wasn't happening. So, yeah, I believe
25 we've asked Naknek River to be retained in there. It
26 sounds like somebody wants to speak. Go ahead.

27
28 MR. KANULI: This is Walter. I'm -- I
29 just joined in, and I'm like Walter Kanuli from Togiak.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
32 Walter and very glad to for you to join us. Kanuli,
33 thank you. Good to have you.

34
35 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, Jarred has his
36 hand raised.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Sure. Go
39 ahead, Jarred.

40
41 MR. STONE: Thank you. Good morning,
42 Jarred Stone, for the record. Courtenay, thank you very
43 much for your comments. I think we can add those action
44 verbs on items A, C, and E without really changing the
45 intent of the Priority Information Need. And so, I
46 appreciate those suggestions. We'll make those changes.
47 Dan, Council Chair, was right on the spot with the Naknek
48 discussions yesterday. And I also learned that there's
49 -- there are some tributaries to the Naknek, such as Big
50 Creek, that have Federal jurisdiction. And so, with

1 Council Chair or Council members help from let's see,
2 was it Richard. Yesterday we had a discussion on adding
3 emphasis to the Naknek drainage. And so, we'll leave it
4 on the Priority Information Need. We'll leave it to the
5 investigator to really make that point where the Federal
6 nexus is on that Priority Information Need, when we
7 received their proposals. And then also I made note of
8 your comments on letter I, to further document the
9 sharing, not just understanding the sharing, and then
10 possibly expand it into the multi-region. I'm going to
11 look into that part, if that's something that we can
12 simply add or not. Generally, these are Council action
13 items that are taken up, and so I would have to look
14 into that further if that's something that we can add
15 into the multi-region. But again, I greatly appreciate
16 your contributions. Thank you.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
19 you, Jarred. And answered a bunch of questions that were
20 forming in my mind on what it would take to adjust the
21 wording. Any other Council members want to speak to this?

22

23 (No response)

24

25 Okay. Hearing none, I will agree with
26 Courtenay that the sharing, and the networking is
27 important, and I think we were one of the first Councils
28 to push that -- gathering that information, particularly
29 with Chignik not only just fascinating, but is really
30 important when you have utter failures. And it seems to
31 me in a number of other cases that it became important
32 in our decision making to know how these different
33 resources are used. So, good points, Courtenay. Is there
34 anything else we need to do on these items?

35

36 MS. CARTY: Mr. Chair, I'm not sure if
37 that was a question for me. But thank you so much for
38 the opportunity to testify and the dialogue and
39 discourse. I appreciate that very much. And I'm happy
40 to participate. And yeah, I was really hoping to be able
41 to get my testimony in before the decisions were made
42 or the vote was made on this yesterday. I'm sorry I
43 wasn't able to do that, but it sounds like it's all kind
44 of in line. The only thing I think I'd add before my
45 final conclusion is that I appreciate the information
46 on Federal nexus and also, Mr. Stone, how you guys are
47 kind of pushing it back to the investigator to be able
48 to determine that nexus. As I understand, you know, our
49 RAC, of course, the regulatory process and research can
50 only be done on the Federal resources and where that

1 nexus is strong enough to justify those costs,
2 logistics, etc. But the purpose of really discussing all
3 of our subsistence needs here at the RAC is bay wide for
4 all of our resources and not only the Federal nexus
5 resources. So, being able to document our needs entirely
6 and what they are, and not just what is logistically
7 feasible or what has the Federal nexus is very important.
8 So, I'm glad that was able to be captured and kept in
9 the PINs for the Bristol Bay region. Thank you so much.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
12 you, Courtenay and if we can just do that, executively
13 like you're offering there, Jarred. That seems pretty
14 handy. So, we move on to statewide sheet discussion,
15 then. Item G and that can be found on page 146 and who's
16 taking the lead. Is somebody going to bring this up to
17 us or how do we proceed with this?

18
19 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh. I
20 just have a short script to go over that. And also,
21 before we begin on that, I kind of jumped ahead to on
22 the agenda. I don't know if you want to allow for any
23 public testimony on non-agenda items before. If we have
24 any of that.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Sure. If we
27 have folks seeking to testify. Yes, I'll be happy to
28 open that up first.

29
30 MR. KANULI: Hello. This is Walter.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
33 Walter.

34
35 MR. KANULI: I remember my aunt saying
36 that my -- well, our ancestors used to go for dall sheep
37 just to have like white fur to put on their parkas. I
38 just thought I'd mentioned that.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Wow. That's
41 amazing. Where did they go to get sheep from Togiak?

42
43 MR. KANULI: I really don't know, but she
44 -- I think they went quite aways. I remember my uncle
45 saying that they used to see them in the mountains
46 somewhere, but thought I'd mention that.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well,
49 that's an interesting thing to know. I'm -- that's really
50 surprises me. But at the same time, these network studies

1 and older -- other studies important products got spread
2 a lot farther than most of us would guess these days.
3 It was by foot or boat so, thank you for that. Anything
4 else, Walter?

5
6 MR. KANULI: No, sir. Thank you.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
9 Anybody else have something they want to talk about?

10
11 MR. HILL: This is about the sheep?

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Well, I --
14 took to do public testimony in general and then I was
15 going to jump to sheep. Sorry.

16
17 MR. HILL: Okay.

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. With
20 that? Thank you, Walter again. And thank you, Leigh.
21 Let's move on to sheep, please.

22
23 MS. HONIG: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 So, for the record, this is Leigh Honig, Council
25 Coordinator. So, the Western Interior Alaska Regional
26 Advisory Council would like to share a document they
27 have drafted entitled Dall Sheep Management Strategy
28 Guidelines, which is found on page 146 in your meeting
29 book or available online as well. The management
30 strategies such as these are authorized in ANILCA as
31 part of an Annual Report and are limited to within the
32 Council's home region. The Council drafted this document
33 after becoming increasingly concerned with the decline
34 of sheep in the Western Interior Region, and the lack
35 of any action taken to attempt to reverse this trend.
36 The Western Interior Council requests that your Council
37 review this document and consider using it as a template
38 to fit your region's needs for sheep conservation and
39 management. The Western Interior Council has taken steps
40 to help sheep in their region by requesting a closure
41 along the Dalton Highway in the Brooks Range to all
42 hunting for sheep on Federal land, foregoing the
43 opportunity to be able to harvest sheep themselves so
44 that the sheep population has a chance at rebounding.
45 They suggest all regions look into this option if the
46 downward trend across the State continues. So, formal
47 action would not be needed at this time. If your Council
48 wishes to review and tailor the guidelines to your region
49 but may be needed in the future depending on what your
50 intentions with future sheep harvest management

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1 strategies in your region may be. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
4 you for that, Leigh. That was a little mystified what
5 to do with this. Because most of this area doesn't have
6 sheep, but.....

7

8 (Simultaneous speech)

9

10 MR. TREFON: Yeah, (indiscernible).

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY:I look
13 to Billy -- I'd look to Billy. And how do you feel about
14 this?

15

16 MR. TREFON: I mean, actually, I mean,
17 what they're talking about along the highway. I agree
18 that they should start enforcing more sheep management.
19 You've got a sheep actually comes right down to the
20 highway. So, yeah, I would -- if that's what their
21 concerns are. They're seeing it, I would agree with them
22 because if sheep were that easy to get in my country,
23 they'd probably be no more sheep, because sheep really
24 is a good meat. But I agree with you guys. If they got
25 a concern with the management of sheep on the highways,
26 I'd say they are looking into ways of enforcing it.
27 Because you see it on the news, you see pictures of
28 people stopping and taking pictures of their sheep that
29 are literally on the highway. But far -- as far as any
30 research and taking a sheep in my country, I think the
31 only people that really do take maybe Port Alsworth and
32 the people that could give you a better update on that
33 would be the Lake Clark National Park when they come up.
34 They just did a study last.....

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

37

38 MR. TREFON:an account.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah,
41 that makes sense.

42

43 MR. TREFON: (Indiscernible).

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
46 you. Any other Council members? Not hearing any. I
47 skimmed this very briefly. I think it'd be interesting
48 to follow the progress of this management plan. And,
49 like you say, Billy, kind of maybe take our cues from
50 the Park there. I'm not sure we need to rush into

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1 adopting anything at this point. But sheep hunters are
2 -- try to be tactful, but when I've sat in some of these
3 Board of Game meetings, they can consume days of
4 discussion on sheep hunting and everything. They are
5 highly, highly, highly motivated and it's highly
6 controversial. That meat is darn good. But I am almost
7 ready to move on unless anybody else wants to discuss
8 it. Thank you.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 Okay, thank you. Assuming that there's
13 no objection to moving on. Appreciate that, Leigh.
14 What's next on our agenda here with sheep? We had added
15 H, a joint letter and I, a proposal. Can you remind me
16 what the joint letter is? I should have caught up with
17 you yesterday on that.

18
19 MS. HONIG: Yeah. No problem, Mr. Chair.
20 So, agenda J was the joint Eastern Interior and YK Delta
21 RAC letter. So, this is available online, under the
22 Supplemental Materials tab. And so once again, this is
23 a joint Eastern Interior and YK Delta RAC letter to the
24 Board requesting revisions of the Magnuson-stevens
25 Fishery and Conservation Management Act. They requested
26 that the MSA be amended so that it considers and protects
27 subsistence uses more equitably, and prioritizes
28 conservation over economic uses in situations where
29 affected fish populations are in dire shape. So, the
30 Eastern Council recently met, and they had requested
31 that other Councils review this letter, and they
32 suggested they can use this letter as a template or edit
33 it as the Council sees fit to adjust to their region.
34 So, it's not an action item at this time. It's just
35 informational for the Council to review this letter and
36 if they want to use something like this for their own
37 Council, they definitely can. If you would like to write
38 a letter, there would need to be a motion made.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank
41 you. Yeah, maybe that's something that didn't show up
42 on my book agenda. What page is the letter in the book?

43
44 MS. HONIG: So, this was a late addition,
45 and it was added into the supplemental materials that I
46 was going to bring to the Council meeting. But it is
47 available online. I can drop it in the meeting chat, if
48 that makes it easier. It might be hard for some Council
49 members to see this if they're calling on the phone. I
50 can also email it out to Council members if they would

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1 like to review it, and then we can circle back around
2 to it.

3

4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: What's the
5 desires of the Council? Personally, I'm inclined to ask
6 you to send it to us and maybe we could address it at
7 the next meeting. But what's the pleasure.....

8

9 (Simultaneous speech)

10

11 MR. WILSON:Mr. Chair. Yeah, I
12 prefer to look at it and then address it at the next
13 meeting.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, that
16 makes sense to me. How about the rest of the Council?

17

18 MR. TREFON: That's Billy here. I agree
19 with that, what Richard says. Next meeting.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
22 Billy. Anybody else?

23

24 MR. HILL: Yeah. I'd like to have time
25 to look at it as well. It's Rob Hill.

26

27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
28 Rob. Yeah, can we do that then Leigh? Yeah. I was just
29 darn busy the week before this meeting and didn't even
30 occur to me that we might have supplemental information.
31 I never went to a website and just was looking at the
32 book, so.

33

34 MS. HONIG: Yeah, Mr. Chair, that is no
35 problem. The Council can, you know, act on this at any
36 time, and I will send this letter out to the Council,
37 and we can circle back around at the winter meeting if
38 the Council wishes to write their own letter.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
41 I'm also remembering that at the joint meeting that our
42 Council was a little more cautious on taking actions in
43 some of these issues than other Councils. And we, I
44 think, preferred to write our own or -- I mean, I'm
45 trying to remember. I read some of this in the minutes.
46 There was a lot going on. So, I don't want to jump ahead
47 too hastily and want to stay consistent with our previous
48 actions. So, if there's no objection from the rest of
49 the Council, let's put that on the agenda for the winter
50 meeting. And then what's the next -- you talk about J,

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1 Leigh, I had H, and I so, there again it never occurred
2 to me when I got home to look up the new agenda.

3

4 MS. HONIG: No problem Mr. Chair. The
5 other thing that was added was the Fish and Game Board
6 of Game proposals.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh.

9

10 MS. HONIG: So. And it kind of sounded
11 from the Council earlier that they might not be ready
12 at the time to discuss that, but just for informational
13 purposes, I did post the Board of Game proposals for the
14 region. They are available online, and I did have them
15 printed out to bring to you to review. But I can also
16 send those out to the Council again. And so, the comment
17 period for the Board of Game proposals is December 27th
18 and their meeting is January 10th to the 17th. So, as a
19 reminder you know, folks on the Council can submit
20 comments as individuals, you know, however, if the
21 Council wants to submit a comment on any of these
22 proposals. It would have to be an action item that would
23 need a motion to have that discussion. So, thank you,
24 Mr. Chair.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
27 That's some of the information I was hoping to share,
28 just that much. Also, I haven't reviewed many proposals
29 except close to Dillingham. I was kind of hoping that
30 if there was one of big concern that the state biologists
31 were seeking input on, that they would be available to
32 speak up. Amy was on yesterday and John was listening
33 in, too. I would invite either one of them if there's
34 proposals of particular concern that we could look at.
35 There's quite a few proposals over on the East side that
36 I have not reviewed yet. So, is Amy or John on and do
37 they want to speak to these or any of the Council
38 members?

39

40 JOHN LANDSIEDEL: Through the Chair. This
41 is John Landsiedel, I am here. I hadn't planned to speak
42 to proposals, but I could briefly go over them if
43 desired. We have 13 on the Dillingham side and I don't
44 -- none of them jump out to me as more or less important,
45 I guess. So, if you'd like me to just quickly review
46 those, I could.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, if you
49 would, pretty quick and the one point that -- since I'm
50 involved with one of those, the point I think we want

1 to make is the concern for lack of reporting of bear
2 mortalities. But yeah, go ahead, John, if you would.

3
4 MR. LANDSIEDEL: Okay. My little
5 spreadsheet is loading. So, Mr. Chair, we have 13
6 proposals for Unit -- primarily Unit 17, some of them
7 cross into Unit 9 as well. Four of them are for moose
8 and so, one proposal is to increase the number of moose
9 drawing permits issued to non-residents for Unit 17.
10 Currently, there are 20 permits. This proposal is
11 seeking to increase the number of permits to 50. The
12 next proposal is again for moose in 17A and that's
13 lengthened the non-resident fall moose hunt. So,
14 currently the fall moose season in 17A is September 5th
15 through the 15th. Again, those 20 draw permits, and this
16 proposal seeks to extend it from the 15th -- or 5th
17 through 15th to September 1st through the 20th. And then
18 the reauthorization of the antlerless harvest in 17A,
19 which is an annual proposal and then, the last moose
20 proposal we have for Unit 17 is to reduce the population
21 and harvest objectives for Unit 17B, which would be the
22 upper Mulchatna, the Tikchik and upper Nushagak
23 watersheds. That's a department proposal, and we just
24 don't feel like any biological data that has been
25 collected over the last 40 years are in line with current
26 intensive management objectives for that Unit. So, we're
27 proposing to for the Board to change them. I think we
28 have three caribou proposals, all for the Mulchatna
29 Caribou Herd. One of them is to review the current
30 population and harvest objectives and this proposal
31 doesn't seek or identify numbers, they just are
32 requesting we review our current population and harvest
33 objectives. There's another proposal for the Mulchatna
34 Caribou Herd that would implement a three-year
35 moratorium on caribou hunting in Units 9, 17 and 19.
36 Unit 9, particularly for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and
37 this would then -- if this proposal were adopted, it
38 would make Unit 18 -- these three Units would be in
39 alignment with Unit 18. So, last year -- or this year,
40 I guess, at the Board of Game for Region 5, Bethel Unit
41 18, they adopted a four-year moratorium on the Mulchatna
42 Caribou Herd. And about half of the Herd is in that Unit
43 right now. And so, they're just looking to expand that
44 moratorium across the range of the Mulchatna Caribou
45 Herd. Kind of a housekeeping thing is another caribou
46 proposal to closed the resident caribou season in units
47 9B, 17, and 19. Currently in regulation, it says no open
48 season. This is a public proposal, and they are seeking
49 to change in-reg to no open -- or to closed season,
50 sorry.

1
2 We have three brown bear proposals. One
3 is allow the year round take of brown bears in Unit 17.
4 Some of the thought process there -- and it's happened
5 elsewhere in the State particularly in Nome where --
6 yeah, I guess it's not news to anyone, people shoot
7 bears here and they don't get reported. And so, I have
8 a very limited understanding of how many bears are being
9 killed annually. I'm not even going to say harvested
10 because they're not harvested. They're just shot and
11 left. And so, my hope is to -- that this proposal may
12 alleviate some of the negative law enforcement
13 interaction that can come from shooting a bear. So, if
14 the season is open year-round, they're not going to get
15 in trouble. And my hope is it would increase reporting.
16 Two more bear proposals. One of them is tied to wolves
17 and that's allow the same day airborne take a brown bear
18 and wolves in Unit 17. That's a public proposal. We
19 would recommend that the Board amends the proposal to
20 remove wolves, because that's illegal under State
21 statute and under Federal law. Wolves can only be shot,
22 SGA through an intense -- active intensive management
23 program. So, we would yeah, recommend the Board of Game
24 amend the proposal to remove wolves from that proposal.
25 And then the third and final bear proposal is allow the
26 same day airborne take of brown bears in Unit 17. And
27 so, what that means is land and shoot. And you have to
28 be 300 -- at least 300ft away from an aircraft prior to
29 harvesting game. It wouldn't be shooting bears from the
30 air. And then the two, I guess the last three proposals,
31 two of them are for wolverine. One of them is to shorten
32 the trapping season for wolverine. Currently, the season
33 ends March 31st. This proposal seeks to change it to end
34 the last day of February and then again shorten the
35 hunting season for wolverine in Unit 17. This one, there
36 isn't much data to go off of. In the last ten years, I
37 think under hunting regulations. Nine wolverines and ten
38 years have been harvested under hunting regulations. So,
39 I don't think the effects of the proposal for the hunting
40 season would really be met. And then a housekeeping one
41 for beaver. So, right now, under our current regulations
42 for Unit 17 there's a clause that says, you know, the
43 beaver season is open from October 10th through May 31st,
44 but during a six-week time period in the spring, only 2
45 may be taken by firearm. And so, we're just asking the
46 Board to remove that. The firearms portion. And that's
47 all we have in Unit 17.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Great.
50 Thank you, John, for that. I think it helps at least

1 helps us know what's out there and going on. Are any of
2 these proposals interesting enough to the Council to
3 take action on or to discuss further?

4
5 MR. LANDSIEDEL: I think the most
6 pertinent one you know, I -- would be the three-year
7 moratorium on Mulchatna, you know, Mulchatna ranges
8 across such a diverse area from Bethel to McGrath,
9 essentially Lime Village down to King Salmon and
10 Dillingham, and the herds fragmented and there's very
11 different views. You know, I -- Kokhanok Herd was managed
12 under the Mulchatna registration permit, but that was
13 pushed to allow harvest. And subsequently Katmai is
14 allowing harvest through this process. And you know, on
15 the opposite side of the spectrum, Bethel is requesting
16 four years of no hunting, and so I -- probably wouldn't
17 be a bad idea for this Council to speak to the three --
18 the proposed three-year moratorium for Mulchatna in
19 Units 9, 17 and 19. Again, just because a diverse array
20 of opinions regarding that caribou herd regionally.

21
22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. I can
23 also imagine that taking up a big chunk of the day. And
24 I'm wondering about leaving it to the Advisory
25 Committees and Fish and Game at this route and possibly
26 the Council could see what comes out of that come next
27 winter. But I certainly want to respect all the members
28 here and their interest in it. So, any members -- what's
29 your wishes?

30
31 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair.....

32
33 MR. TREFON: Billy here. No, go ahead,
34 Kenneth.

35
36 MR. NUKWAK: Sorry, Billy. Am I now
37 recognized through the Chair?

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes,
40 Kenneth. Go ahead please.

41
42 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you. I apologize
43 again, Billy. But the predator control -- I'm interested
44 in that and in respect to the moratorium. I'm interested
45 in that also that 3 or 4 year maybe even make it a 5
46 year moratorium. See if that will help the caribou
47 rebound and also, if there's a predation control between
48 the bears and the wolves. See if that will help out on
49 the population of the ungulates within 17 -- Unit 17 and
50 Unit 9. And wherever the units -- where we can make

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1 decisions over. I'll stop there through the Chair, but
2 I really need to see the paperwork.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay.
5 Thank you, Kenneth. Billy.

6
7 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'm in agreement with
8 what Kenneth had to say there is that. But -- and he's
9 right. I mean, for how small the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
10 is, I would say, yeah extend the moratorium, closure on
11 Mulchatna heard until the numbers get up there. I don't
12 know what the goal is. I think I heard 30,000 or 36,000
13 before they even open a hunt, but I would say keep it
14 closed for five years. I think that's a very good idea.
15 As for brown bears, we haven't been having any really
16 problems at all up in my area, but I spoke to somebody
17 that flew around from Kokhanok up in the Mulchatna 9B,
18 17 area, and they're talking about wolves up there in
19 mega packs, things like 20-22. So, it'd be interesting
20 to hear what the park have to say about the numbers, but
21 that's a pretty big number for packs of wolves. I mean,
22 they're mega packs, they're not just packs. Thank you.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah,
25 that's interesting because I know some of the hunters
26 down at -- or Koliganek and New Stuy do their best to
27 keep the wolves knocked down. I haven't seen any numbers,
28 and I know for years the George.....

29
30 (Simultaneous speech)

31
32Iliamna spoken of large packs at
33 certain times of the year. Somebody else spoke up.

34
35 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah. Kenneth.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
38 Kenneth.

39
40 MR. NUKWAK: I'd like to use the Unit 18
41 as an example of where my father-in-law is from. Back
42 in 2003, they started coming here to hunt for moose and
43 then he was talking about a five-year moratorium for
44 Unit 18, his Unit. And they were going to do a Unit 18
45 Moratorium for five years from 2005 to 2010, and I lived
46 up there when I first met my wife about 30 years ago.
47 And there was hardly any moose up there, even -- not
48 even bulls and unheard of. And then once that five-year
49 moratorium was lifted in 2010 my father-in-law stopped
50 coming over, but he'd call in and report that he already

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1 got a bull moose. And looking at the Facebook my wife's
2 cousins and uncles, they didn't take long to catch a
3 moose. It hunted make -- within the Bethel area where
4 it was unheard of after that five year moratorium for
5 the moose to see if that works for the caribou up the
6 Mulchatna if it gets extended to five years. I wouldn't
7 mind the five year moratorium extension on that. Just
8 in order for it to -- for the population to survive and
9 be healthy. I never understood these until I started
10 joining these meetings. And thank you to the Chair.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
13 you, Kenneth. Anybody else?

14

15 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Richard.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Pardon? Go
18 ahead.

19

20 MR. WILSON: Yeah, yeah, I got to bow out
21 here in a bit, but yeah, there's a lot of information
22 there that, you know, we're going to have to chew on for
23 a bit. So, I sure hope we get a chance to discuss this
24 further at our next meeting and hope you know, a comment
25 can be entered in then.

26

27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. That
28 sounds good to me. How's the rest of the membership
29 feel?

30

31 MR. TREFON: Billy here.

32

33 (Simultaneous speech)

34

35 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair

36

37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
38 Billy and then Leigh.

39

40 MR. TREFON: Yes, I agree with what
41 Richard had to say.

42

43 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes.

46

47 MS. HOSETH: Hi, this is Gayla Hoseth,
48 Bristol Bay Native Association. I just had some comments
49 after reviewing some of the -- I have the Board of Game
50 proposal here. Maybe we could have a -- or maybe the

1 Council could form a working group to discuss those
2 Mulchatna Caribou Herd proposals and have a more in-
3 depth conversation of the impacts of those. I think
4 there's a few of them. Also, there is a Qayassiq Walrus
5 Commission proposal in there. To -- the Qayassiq Walrus
6 Commission is wanting to have the hunt start earlier.
7 And we also have -- on statewide we have proposal 132
8 and 133 regarding positioning the use of a snowmachine
9 for wolverine. You know, we spent a lot of time on the
10 positioning proposals, both on the Federal and State
11 management for regulations. And so, I know that with the
12 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, there's also some villages that
13 are working towards an educational permit hunt. So, I
14 think that we need to have a longer discussion of what
15 these proposals are going to impact us as the caribou
16 migrate on State land and Federal land. The Board of
17 Game meeting is meeting in Wasilla January 10th through
18 the 17th. So, that's before your February meeting and
19 the positioning proposals, those should be able to be
20 taken up at your February meeting in time for the March
21 statewide meeting. But I think these are important
22 issues for us to have discussions and conversations
23 about -- in our area and weigh in as a -- and weigh in
24 as a council. Not just -- and not just wait to --
25 everything is tied together. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
28 Gayla. Yeah, and that was partly why I asked to include
29 these at the same time, like Richard said, that I'm
30 realizing that some of these could be end up days long
31 discussions. But yeah, it's very important, the caribou.
32 And then, yeah, the long work we did on wolverine. I
33 haven't looked at that proposal yet. Thank you. What's
34 the wishes of the Council?

35
36 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, we have one more
37 public comment. Courtenay has her hand raised.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. And is
40 that what -- when you tried to speak in earlier? Is that
41 your main thing -- you were trying to do, Leigh?

42
43 MS. HONIG: Yeah, it was for Gayla. Yep.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, okay. Go
46 ahead, Courtenay.

47
48 MS. CARTI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
49 I was just going to reiterate the fact that the meeting
50 cycles are off. And it -- I think, is absolutely

1 necessary for the RAC to take the time to discuss these
2 proposals. We work so hard for so long, sometimes day
3 in and day out if you're the harvester, the career men
4 on this to align our proposals, align our seasons as
5 best we can, where appropriate as well as to take the
6 time to understand our regs and proposals for each
7 management system that we're in. And these systems only
8 work best for our resources and harvesters when we take
9 the time to do them right and to work together to
10 strengthen the process. And so, I would hope that we
11 find a way to take the time. I think it was Gayla who
12 mentioned the working group. If that's a way to move
13 forward with the RAC being able to provide input into
14 these Board of Game proposals. I think it was said on
15 the record yesterday by you, Mr. Chair, it's really
16 difficult to not see ADF&G Subsistence Now program since
17 it's no longer even a division, not here at the RAC and
18 participating. I think the integration between our two
19 State and Federal management systems is something that
20 we're going to have to live with for a while longer. And
21 if we're cutting corners to save time on a RAC meeting,
22 I think that is completely against the purpose of why
23 we're here. And I don't like it when we rush through
24 these things, especially as a member of the public, when
25 we expect to have two days to be able to participate and
26 we don't get that. It's not always the best way. Like,
27 why are we just checking the box? So, I'm hoping we can
28 take the time, if it's with the working group to go
29 through these proposals. And that would be all I have
30 to say. Thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
33 Courtenay, I really wasn't trying to cut corners. I know
34 traditionally the RAC's have kind of followed the lead
35 of the AC's and such. Also just realizing that we didn't
36 get highly prepared to deal with some of these at this
37 time and could somebody remind me when the comment period
38 is deadline for these -- 17, came in at 17 proposals?

39
40 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair, the deadline is
41 December -- this is Gayla Hoeseth. The deadline is
42 December 27th or excuse me, the comment -- looks like
43 that's a typo in the book. December 27th should be 2024.
44 And for the statewide is March 7th, 2025.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, it
47 would be easier to do the statewide. What's the wishes
48 of the Council? That I -- want to select -- well, what
49 do we do 2 or 3 folks for working group? It's going to
50 be really busy for a lot of us for the next month and a

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1 half, but Gayla and Courtenay's concerns are there and
2 well and Kenneth as well. Walter. Pardon? Genuine. I
3 don't want to discount them. Anybody want to speak to
4 it?

5

6 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, we have one hand
7 raised. Sorry. It looks like Amy has her hand raised.

8

9 MS. VANDERVOORT: Yes, Mr. Chair.

10

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

12

13 MS. VANDERVOORT: This is Amy
14 Vandervoort. I just wanted to say I am available to go
15 through the proposals over here, if you wish or if you
16 just wish to go through the 17 ones first. I'll leave
17 that up to you guys, but there are several sap, caribou
18 and brown bear season date proposals for Unit 9.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
21 Yeah, I was hoping to kind of just discuss what we've
22 had in front of us so far. I think some of these kind
23 of are pretty much similar over there, but I haven't
24 looked at them. Try to bite off small chunks right now.
25 So, what -- do we have a couple other folks that would
26 want to try doing a working group? But in my mind, I'm
27 thinking it would be best to wait till some of our AC
28 have met. And, you know, full information was available.
29 I'm not sure we have time to work through them today.
30 Not to cut corners, but some of this stuff takes days.
31 So.....

32

33 MR. NUKWAK: Through the Chair. This is
34 Kenneth.

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah.

37

38 MR. NUKWAK: Are you looking -- are we
39 looking to create a working group to look at the
40 proposals? My question; or is there...?

41

42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think
43 (indiscernible) kicking around. We're talking about
44 trying to form a working group or whether we want to for
45 the Council to address State proposals on hunting and
46 fishing regulations.

47

48 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair.

49

50

1 MR. NUKWAK: And that would be only on
2 proposals?

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: It would be
5 -- yeah. Game proposals for within that area of our
6 interest, okay.

7
8 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh. If
9 I could clarify really quickly. So, for the Central
10 Southwest proposals, there isn't enough time to have a
11 working group for that one. So, as a reminder, the
12 working group would meet outside of the Council meeting,
13 of course, and discuss the topics and then bring that
14 back to the Council to vote on. And so, as a reminder,
15 the Council meeting is held in February so, there won't
16 be enough time to form a working group for the Central
17 Southwest proposals. However, the statewide Board of
18 Game Meeting, which is held March 21st through the 28th,
19 that does have the comment deadline of March 7th. So,
20 there would be enough time for the Council to have a
21 working group to discuss statewide.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Good
24 point. That was -- I was wondering what -- so, we're
25 just kind of -- process wise we really can't do much
26 more than to alert everybody and maybe encourage them
27 to be active with their respective State Advisory
28 Committees or, and or submit comments individually. And
29 for those agencies that are listening in like BBNA and
30 so on, they could also submit their concerns because,
31 yes, stuff like this moratorium is going to be very,
32 very important to us. Thank you for that. But would we
33 have to -- yeah, we'd about have to form a working group
34 now to even have something to bring to the February
35 meeting. Is that correct?

36
37 MS. HONIG: Correct. And the only
38 proposals that would be still on the docket would be the
39 statewide proposals.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: What's the
42 pleasure of the Council?

43
44 (Simultaneous speech)

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Leigh and
47 then Billy.

48
49 MS. HONIG: Oh, I'm sorry to interrupt.
50 I was just going to mention that we have -- Gayla has

1 her hand raised, too.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh okay,
4 yeah, I can't see that right now. Sorry, go ahead, Billy.

5

6 MR. TREFON: Yeah. This is a good idea
7 for a working group for us to form. But in my nine years
8 of sitting here on this -- well, my third term working
9 with the State, once the state already written it into
10 the proposal, they already had their minds made up of
11 what they're going to do. Kind of like the example of
12 the moose hunting proposal, where I tried very hard to
13 get that change on the State level, but -- and that's
14 one of the reasons why Norm stepped down, because he
15 felt like he was wasting his time pounding his head
16 against the wall trying to convince State. So, when State
17 do make up their decision, they already made up their
18 mind what their actions are going to be. And it seems
19 like we on a fed level, we're just really wasting our
20 breath trying to convince them because they already got
21 us set in stone and this is the way it's going to be.
22 This is my experience with the State. Thank you.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
25 Billy, so you're saying it might not be worth the effort
26 right now?

27

28 MR. TREFON: That's what I'm saying. I
29 mean, that's the experience I've been dealing with, with
30 the State of -- and the states already have their minds
31 made up what they're going to do.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I see. Well,
34 yeah, once the Board decides, they certainly do. I think
35 at this point with the proposals, they're seeking input.
36 I think they do tend to pay more attention to the
37 Advisory Committees, the State system then outside of
38 that. But anyway Gayala, go ahead please.

39

40 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
41 guess with the information that was presented about not
42 having enough time, would the Council be able to just
43 reschedule a meeting prior to that December deadline to
44 convene back specifically for Board of Game proposals?
45 These proposals that the State is going to be weighing
46 in on were written by the summer -- written by the
47 Department of -- Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
48 some are written by public and other RACs or other ACs
49 pushing forward. But these proposals affect us on State
50 and Federal land. And I was trying to find the language

1 of the Regional Council management bodies of making sure
2 that we are not only involved in State regs -- in Federal
3 regs, but State regs, and I don't have that statute or
4 that regulation to fall back on to read it in the record.
5 But these are important issues and I know that everybody
6 is crunched for time. But we really should be weighing
7 in on these and not run into any problems like we've had
8 in the past at the Federal Subsistence Board when we --
9 we don't want to have to just, you know, the RAC doesn't
10 agree on something, and then other people come against
11 and then it creates just havoc during the meetings and
12 trying to prevent that from not happening for the future.
13 I guess the question is would the RAC be able to meet
14 before December for Board of Game proposals and weigh
15 in on these, especially for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd?

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair. Excuse me, Mr.
18 Chair. Can you hear me?

19
20 MS. HONIG: Oh, no. It looked like they
21 froze.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 Brooke, let me reach out to them really
26 quick to see if we can get connection again.

27
28 MS. HOSETH: Hopefully they heard my
29 comments, and I don't know if somebody's there from the
30 OSM has that language of how we are to weigh in on State
31 regulations.

32
33 MS. HONIG: Okay. Thanks, Gayla. Yeah.
34 Hang tight one second.

35
36 MR. KANULI: This is Walter Kanuli from
37 Togiak.

38
39 MS. HONIG: Hey, Walter, if we could just
40 hang tight for one second. We lost the Chair so, let's
41 get him reconnected, and then we can resume discussion.

42
43 MR. KANULI: Thank you.

44
45 MS. HONIG: Sounds like they lost
46 internet. So, they're trying to call in via phone so,
47 hang tight.

48
49 MR. ADERMAN: Hello, hello?

50

00025

1 MS. HONIG: Hi, this is Leigh Honig
2 Council Coordinator.

3
4 MR. ADERMAN: Hey, Leigh. Andy, and Dan
5 here. We are.....

6
7 MS. HONIG: Oh, hi, Andy.

8
9 MR. ADERMANagain so. I guess we're
10 doing the phone option.

11
12 MS. HONIG: Okay, thank you.

13
14 MR. ADERMAN: All right.

15
16 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, were you able to
17 hear Gayla's comments before you lost connection?

18
19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, Leigh
20 I think I did. I heard the part where she was seeking
21 or asking about the possibility of rescheduling a winter
22 meeting before the comment period to allow the RAC to
23 comment.

24
25 MS. HONIG: Okay.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I think I
28 tried to send you a text asking what your input would
29 be on that. I'm guessing it's pretty unlikely, but if
30 you could enlighten us.

31
32 MS. HONIG: Yes, thank you. Brooke
33 McDavid. She's Acting Council Coordinator Supervisor was
34 going to speak to that. Brooke, are you still available?

35
36 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah. Thanks, Leigh. Good
37 morning, Mr. Chair and Council members and everyone else
38 joining. I did want to say that Board of Game proposals
39 are not a required action item by the Council because
40 they're outside of Federal jurisdiction. I know that
41 doesn't mean that they aren't important and that there's
42 not important issues for you to address. But if you did
43 want to comment on Board of Game proposals for the
44 Central and Southwest Region meeting, it is on your
45 agenda at this meeting, I would suggest doing that now.
46 I -- because it's not a required action item I don't
47 think it would be grounds for scheduling another Council
48 meeting which would be a rigorous process of getting
49 Published in the Federal Register and proper noticing
50 out there and all of that. So, if you want to make time

1 today to provide comments on certain proposals that
2 would be the best avenue. Thank you.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
5 you, Brooke. That makes some sense. You know, in my
6 history with the Council, I think we have been in similar
7 situations in the past. We might be a little more
8 heightened in our awareness on some of these items
9 nowadays and looked like we might be getting back on the
10 internet, too. So, once again, I see, is a Council
11 interested in pursuing any of these at this time or
12 would we rather kind of let the process work through the
13 State system? And what's your pleasure?

14
15 MS. HONIG: I hate to jump in again. Mr.
16 Chair, this is Leigh. I see Walter's hand is raised.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, yeah.
19 Go ahead, Walter.

20
21 MR. KANULI: All right. Thank you. You
22 know I looked through some of the proposed -- proposal
23 stuff. I printed it out, and then there was Qayassiq one
24 and then -- and that seems reasonable as far as like the
25 Qayassiq Commission stated. And then the other thing is
26 in the first -- that first section for the non-resident
27 I think it's reasonable but then I -- I'm speaking for
28 myself, I haven't met with the other members of the
29 Togiak Advisory Committee so, I don't want this to seem
30 like it's coming from them so -- but and then the other
31 thing I wanted to express is with this climate change
32 thinking, you know, as far as like king salmon goes you
33 know, I was -- I went to a meeting some time ago down
34 in Oregon and we went to the border of Idaho, and there
35 was this creek, and there was a king salmon way up there.
36 So, I don't know why I am bringing this up, but I mean
37 -- and that's like -- it was hot in that section. But
38 anyway, I just wanted to you know, as far as regulations
39 go up here in Alaska. I mean, I think there should be
40 languages where there should be leeways. Thank you.

41
42 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, we have one more
43 hand raised. John Landsiedel.

44
45 MR. LANDSIEDEL: Through the Chair. I
46 think that was Walter speaking. I just wanted to say,
47 Walter you know, we do plan on trying to hold a Togiak
48 AC meeting as long as -- a Nushagak AC meeting, and
49 that's our process. And so, I think our Board support
50 person is -- has been in contact with Togiak AC members

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1 trying to get a meeting on the books so we can discuss
2 some of these 17A moose proposals in particular. Thank
3 you.

4
5 MS. HONIG: I think you're muted Dan.

6
7 MR. KANULI: Thank you. I was requested
8 by Jimmy Coopchiak to listen in. I've never been in --
9 on a subsistence or a Federal meeting before so, I'm
10 sorry for that -- I don't know the procedures. Thank
11 you.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank
14 you, Walter. Leigh kind of sent me a text here when we
15 were not communicating, and I didn't realize I was muted.
16 What about -- we could postpone discussing these further
17 and possibly until after lunch. Let people look them up
18 a little bit, see if we want to proceed with any formal
19 comment. I think we'll lose Richard by that time. But
20 I'd be interested in hearing an overview of the wildlife
21 proposals from Amy and then proceed. But I think also
22 our historical practice of following the State instead
23 of leading might -- we might be forced into it here with
24 just the way the processes work. So, what's the again -
25 - the Council want to move on and hear another overview,
26 and maybe we could discuss taking them up after lunch.
27 Okay?

28
29 MR. TREFON: After lunch, Billy here.
30 Yeah, that sounds good. Sounds good to me. Billy here.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: What was
33 that? Thank you, Billy. Anybody else?

34
35 MR. NUKWAK: This is Kenneth. That sounds
36 good.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
39 Kenneth. Okay, with that let's -- thank you, John, for
40 being on here. I don't know if you'll be available later.
41 If we want to take these up, I think it's going to be
42 essential, you and or Amy. Let's hear from Amy while
43 she's on and did a similar overview. That was a really
44 good summary, John. Thank you. Amy.

45
46 MS. VANDERVOORT: Hello, Mr. Chair, this
47 is Amy Vandervoort. For the record, we have three caribou
48 proposals, all for the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd
49 in Unit 9D. One of them seeks to reduce the non-resident
50 caribou bag limit from one -- from two bulls to one

1 bull. Sorry, I'm hearing a little feedback. The second
2 proposal seeks to shorten the non-resident caribou
3 season dates to September 1st to September 30th for Unit
4 9D, and then the last proposal for the Southern Peninsula
5 Herd seeks to increase the season dates for non -- for
6 residents and non-residents in Unit 9D. We have one
7 beaver proposal and for that it's basically just a
8 housekeeping thing. In the trapping regulations right
9 now, people with trapping licenses can shoot two beavers
10 during the April to May time frame, but people with
11 hunting licenses can shoot an unlimited amount year-
12 round. So, this would basically just get rid of the two-
13 beaver limit for trapping licenses in Unit 9.

14
15 We have one wolverine proposal, and that
16 proposes to shorten the wolverine hunting season to the
17 last day of February in Unit 9, and then the bulk of the
18 proposals for Unit 9 are all brown bear and all of them
19 deal with season dates or closures. So, the first one,
20 it seeks to extend the season dates to October 1st to
21 October 21st and May 10th to May 31st for residents and
22 non-residents. The next proposal proposes to close brown
23 bear hunting in Unit 9A to non-resident hunters. I --
24 propose -- the third proposal wants to shorten the brown
25 bear season dates in Unit 9C to October 7th to the 21st
26 and May 10th to May 25th for both residents and non-
27 residents. And then we have six proposals, all dealing
28 with Units 9D and 9E, and in one way or another they
29 want to extend the season dates. So, they want to go
30 October 1st to October 21st and May 10th to May 31st.
31 Some of them are identical proposals. Some of them only
32 deal with fall, some only deal with spring. But
33 basically, six of them deal with 9D, 9E extending the
34 season dates. And then the final proposal deals with
35 Unit 9C, and this one wants to shorten brown bear season
36 dates in 9C to October 7th to the 21st and May 10th to
37 May 25th for residents and non-residents and it wants
38 to establish a drawing permit for the portion of 9C in
39 Katmai Preserve. And those are all the proposals we have
40 for Unit 9.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
43 Council members, are there any within this list that are
44 of particular interest?

45
46 (No response)

47
48 I've probably haven't had a chance to
49 even look at them, but I'm not hearing anything. And my
50 own gut feeling might be to -- you know, it's good to

1 have a heads up from Amy, but I'm not sure if we want
2 to tackle any. Let's move on with the meeting here. And
3 if you want to bring the caribou moratoriums up later
4 after we have a chance to look at them, we can. But in
5 the interest of time, if we can move on to -- maybe
6 we'll get some more information that we can think about
7 when we get the reports. How is that with everybody?

8

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MR. TREFON: Sound good. Move on.

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
Thank you, Amy. That's helpful. Some of that used to be
my stomping grounds so, when I lived in Sand Point. An
interesting stuff. Sounds like some differing groups out
there, but okay. From that then Leigh, what else do we
have on the agenda? Do we go reports, or is there another
one in the amended agenda?

MS. HONIG: Yeah. Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yep.
We have completed all of the action items so we can move
on to the reports.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, with
that then.....

MS. HONIG: Sorry, I didn't mean to talk
over you. Would you like to take a little break? And we
can regroup, and people can get ready for the agency
reports?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Most
diplomatic. Yes, good idea. Thank you. Let's take a ten-
minute break and be back. Let's hope that -- hope that
computer doesn't take a break.

MS. CARTY: Mr. Chair, while you're at
ease, I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you
for allowing me to participate. I have additional
meetings that I need to attend. So, appreciate the time
and conversation and everyone's great work. Quyana.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Leight, see
you at what? 9:00 -- 10:08?

(Off record)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I've
got 10:10. Do we have everybody back?

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MR. HILL: Yeah, Dan. Robert Hill here.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Rob, Dan, is
Kenneth here?

(No response)

Richard, are you still with us or did
he already -- did Richard already take off for? I thought
he said he had to go to 11, but.

MS. HONIG: Nope. I just saw Richard.....

ACTINIG CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Are you
back Leigh?

MS. HONIG: Oh, I am back and yep. I'm
just...

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Curious.
Leigh, are you -- howdy, Richard. Just curious. Leigh,
are you at the office today? Are you at home still?

MS. HONIG: I'm at home still.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Oh, okay.
Just curious how things are working in Anchorage, so.
Okay, I think Bill, Rob, Dan, Richard, is Kenneth still
here? We're back on. Did he have to take -- did he say
he had a meeting to go to?

MS. HONIG: Oh, that's correct, he did.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay,
well, let's move ahead here. We've had the Unit 9
proposals, we kicked them around, we've been -- reviewed
the Alaska Peninsula proposals from Amy. And thank you
so much to both of them. At this time, can we move on
to the reports? I'm thinking in some cases, we might get
little tidbits of information that might help our
perspective on whether we want to tackle Board of Game
proposals in this meeting. So, who goes first with tribal
governments? Would that be BBNA or who else do we --
might we have?

MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh. I
am not aware of any reports. However, of course anybody
that's online that falls within that category can speak
up and provide a report to the Council.

1

2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
3 you. Certainly, BBNA has been a regular participant up
4 through the meeting so far. So, I'm not hearing from
5 them now. I'll -- then there's Native organizations. If
6 there's anybody?

7

8 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, George Anderson
9 Chignik Inter-Tribal Coalition. If it's appropriate to
10 go now, we're available.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Sure,
13 George, go ahead. Thank you.

14

15 MR. ANDERSON: Oh, okay. Can you hear me
16 all right?

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Very
19 clearly.

20

21 MR. ANDERSON: All righty. Thank you.
22 Yeah. For the record, George Anderson, Chignik Inter-
23 Tribal Coalition. I did submit my written report, and
24 Leigh confirmed. So, I'll just summarize that and spare
25 you some time here today. Thank you. Just an update
26 here. This past summer both State and Federal managers
27 closed our Subsistence Fisheries to maintain the
28 viability of the Chignik River chinook population. This
29 concurrent emergency special action was taken towards
30 ensuring the continued viability of our chinook within
31 the Chignik watershed. Since 2014, the escapement goal
32 has only been achieved four out of ten years, with 2023
33 being the lowest at 267 or 247, I'm sorry. As a result,
34 we had unprecedented closures this season, which
35 expanded closed waters downstream into State waters for
36 all subsistence users on chinook. Concurrently, the
37 Commissioner under EO authority had restricted the
38 commercial fisheries in the Chignik Bay section of the
39 Chignik management area to 1 or 2 days a week while
40 still allowing mixed stock fisheries to continue
41 harvesting in our adjacent Area M and Kodiak districts.
42 We believe this action was inconsistent with the
43 sustainable salmon policy and the mixed stock policy of
44 the Board of Fisheries.

45

46 As another update, I spoke in March with
47 you guys about the -- this shortening and shallowing of
48 the nets in the State waters. Just an update. The western
49 interior RAC had submitted a proposal which is being
50 heard today at the Board of Fisheries at the work

1 session. It's an ACR13, and it's asking that Area M net
2 depths and lengths be modified to improve chum and
3 chinook conservation. And you know, it's not asking
4 ADF&G to make any changes or the fishermen of Area M to
5 make any changes to their adaptive management plan. But
6 it is asking the Board of Fisheries to correct an error
7 in regulation. But I'll spare you the rest of the State
8 waters -- saltwater stuff. It's in my report, though,
9 if you want to read it. Just an update on a couple
10 projects we're currently working on, and I will be
11 interested in applying for FRMP funds when they become
12 available for these two projects, although we do already
13 have funding and starting momentum on them. As you know,
14 the folks in Chignik are always concerned about
15 escapement and the quality of escapement and what's
16 going on in our watersheds. So, we -- we're looking at
17 new tools and one of those is being environmental DNA
18 monitoring. This new technology could be used, I think
19 what we're thinking and I'd like some guidance from some
20 of your biologists to maybe replicate some radio tagging
21 studies that were done on each of our of tributaries
22 within Black Lake and Chignik Lake, both early run and
23 late run tributaries. I think we can recreate some radio
24 tagging and foot monitoring studies of all these
25 tributaries that were done in the 70s and update those
26 40 years later to see if those are still producing
27 similarly. And if not, I'm not sure where to go with
28 that. So, this is you know, we -- we're building a
29 quality assurance plan for it through Ivanof Bay Tribe
30 so we can access Federal funds with this. And I know
31 we'll be doing some sampling either at the Chignik weir
32 this summer or maybe up in some of the tributaries with
33 the limited funding we have. Our next project -- I had
34 a visit from Kenai U.S. Fish wildlife conservation
35 folks, Frank Harris, Jim Boersma stopped into Chignik.
36 We had a great talk about escapement -- escapement
37 concerns in Chignik, and I wanted to drill down on this
38 escapement issue, and they had recommended through our
39 conversation to look at an electronic monitoring grant
40 that we did and we partnered up with some folks there
41 that are have been doing this throughout Canada, Auke
42 Bay and some Yukon-Kuskokwim. And that's utilizing AI
43 to look at your weir cameras and identify and enumerate
44 salmon, you know, all species of salmon, they've had
45 great success. So, naturally this became high interest
46 to our folks. So, we filled out and applied for on
47 October 1st, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
48 grant, NFWF, and our partners are these folks that have
49 done this technology already, I'm happy to say Alaska
50 Department of Fish and Game was a very receptive. And

1 also, I believe we had support out of Frank Harris'
2 group there. We do have an existing FRMP where we have
3 video footage already for -- of three years, and we have
4 a year to go this coming year. And that footage, ADF&G
5 agrees that we can use that to help inform the AI
6 program. So, to already identify what has already passed
7 through our weir in the past and, you know, identify the
8 species and help on the numbers. So, I just wanted to
9 say you know, if I can get some help from some of your
10 biologists on asking the right questions, are we -- you
11 know, we want to do it as most useful with the funds
12 that we're going to be going after. So, I just want to
13 take some time to thank you guys for listening. And if
14 you want to read my report, it goes into a little more
15 detail. And then, of course, I'm always available. And
16 I really appreciate the time today. Thank you.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
19 George. All sounds very interesting and some of it pretty
20 high tech. Council members, do you have any questions?

21

22 (No response)

23

24 Okay. Thank you. Say, George I'm curious
25 when you seeking help from biologists, kind of running
26 through my head. Where would we be looking? Would that
27 be Jarred, or would there be a particular agency that
28 would be most likely to have the people to help you
29 besides game?

30

31 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, I think Jarred could
32 probably point us in the right direction. I know after
33 we met in March, I had talked with National Park Service
34 quite a bit, I think I saw Dillon on here a bit ago, and
35 we reconnected this morning. We had talked about doing
36 DNA a grant using IRA, Inflation Reduction Act funds to
37 do a tissue DNA study. We kind of pivoted away from that
38 and towards environmental DNA, you know, because why
39 replicate something that's already been done, right?
40 It's a waste of funds. So, I think we're going to
41 continue talking with the National Park Service on that.
42 And then anybody that has any ideas, you know, we just
43 want to make sure the questions we ask are useful
44 answers, so.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
47 Sounds good. Any other questions, folks?

48

49 (No response)

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1 Thank you for your report, George. It's
2 always good to have you participating. Are there any
3 other Native organizations With the report?

4
5 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. This is Gayla.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Gayla, go
8 ahead.

9
10 MS. HOSETH: Hi. Thank you. I just wanted
11 to give a first report for Bristol Bay Native Association
12 that we've been actively involved, of course, with the
13 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, the ADF&G
14 Advisory Council's on our Fish and Wildlife management,
15 and then Cody Larson runs the Partners Program within
16 the natural resources department of BBNA. And we also
17 have Jorjana Dray and then CaSander Johnson. So, what
18 we do is protecting our subsistence way of life on our
19 lands and our waters, and then making sure that we have
20 a clean environment is one of the main missions that we
21 have of natural resources. And we're pretty short
22 staffed, stretched thin, just like all of you that are
23 serving on here. So, thank you for the time that you
24 guys have committed to being as a part of the Bristol
25 Bay RAC as these issues are really important. So, I just
26 wanted to say thank you. I think Cody covered our updates
27 in the report. There's not too much more to update. We
28 are recruiting for four positions in my department to
29 help us on some of these efforts, but BBNA is always
30 here to help people understand this process of the RAC
31 and then the State process on any Board of fish, Board
32 of Game and Fish and Wildlife Management within the
33 Federal Subsistence Board. And that's pretty much all I
34 have for BBNA. And I do have a Alaska Federation of
35 Natives report to give you as well.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Let me
38 catch up on minutes for a second. Does anybody have
39 questions for Gayla?

40
41 (No response)

42
43 Okay. Go ahead with your (distortion).

44
45 MS. HOSETH: All right. Thank you. So,
46 switching hats. I'm the Subsistence Chair for the Alaska
47 Federation of Natives and the Bristol Bay Village rep
48 on the Alaska Federation of Natives Board -- Board of
49 Directors, and I don't know if you guys are able to
50 follow the recent annual convention that we had.

1 Subsistence is always a big highlight and a key factor
2 during convention. And last year we had a good day and
3 a half, two days highlighting subsistence. We also had
4 a subsistence workshop that's available on the Alaska
5 Federation of Natives website. Kind of going over
6 resolution 24-01 that was passed on the floor at the
7 convention. And resolution 24-01 is a resolution to
8 reform existing laws and establish a Native led
9 framework for fish and wildlife management to protect
10 and advance Alaska Native subsistence rights. For those
11 of you that don't know, Alaska Federation of Natives is
12 the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and
13 its membership includes 174 federally recognized tribes,
14 154 village corporations, 9 regional corporations, and
15 9 regional, nonprofit and tribal consortiums that
16 contract and compact to run Federal and State programs.
17 The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the
18 cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire
19 Alaska Native community. And tradition -- the
20 traditional and customary use of natural resources,
21 legally referred to as subsistence, including fish and
22 wildlife, is a foundation of Alaska Native culture,
23 economy, and well-being, and providing food security,
24 spiritual connection, and a way of life that has
25 sustained Native communities across the state for
26 millennia. Alaska Native peoples have stewarded the land
27 and resources for millennia through constant
28 observation, adaptation, and sustainable practices that
29 have ensured the long-term health of our ecosystems.
30 This deep indigenous knowledge and experience must be
31 respected and fully integrated into decision making
32 processes for managing fish, wildlife, and other
33 customary and traditional resources. Alaska Native
34 aboriginal hunting and fishing rights were purportedly
35 extinguished by Congress under section 4B of the Alaska
36 Native Claims Settlement Act. During consideration of
37 ANCSA, Congress expressed an expectation that the State
38 of Alaska and Federal Government would continue to
39 protect Alaska Native traditional hunting, fishing, and
40 gathering, and Alaska Native subsistence rights are not
41 protected under the Alaska National Interest Lands
42 Conservation Act, otherwise known as ANILCA, which
43 provides for a rural subsistence preference but does not
44 explicitly recognize Alaska Natives specific rights,
45 resulting in the lack of acknowledgment and the unique
46 cultural and historical connection Alaska Native --
47 Alaska Natives have to subsistence. And as you guys know,
48 that in 1989, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled the --
49 ruled the rule priority for subsistence use
50 unconstitutional under the State constitution for

1 subsequent efforts by the state of Alaska to extend
2 subsistence priority for rural residents as provided in
3 ANILCA have failed, and the lack of State compliance
4 with Federal law has resulted in a dual management system
5 that we're in right now. With the federal government
6 managing subsistence on Federal public lands and
7 prioritizing rural Alaska subsistence uses, while state
8 regulations apply uniformly to all residents. Both
9 systems are failing to recognize and protect Alaska
10 Native subsistence rights. So, through this we're
11 wanting to form an Alaska Native framework on this. And
12 the good news that we shared as we move forward that the
13 three tribal seats on the Federal Subsistence Board are
14 really going to make a huge impact on our Alaska Native
15 subsistence rights. And, you know, we come to these
16 meetings time and time again to our RACs, to our ACs,
17 to the Federal Subsistence Board, to the Board of Fish
18 Board of Game and it's -- our story never changes. We're
19 constantly talking about subsistence and what our way
20 of life means to us. And on the therefore, be it resolved
21 just to kind of give you guys what we're going to be
22 working on with AFN, which does impact all of us out
23 here in the region. Is that the delegates of AFN call
24 for Alaska's congressional delegation, Alaska's governor
25 and legislators to take action to establish an Alaska
26 Native framework for subsistence management by pursuing
27 the following goals; amending ANCSA to authorize Alaska
28 Native management of fish and wildlife on all Native
29 Corporation owned lands, and advocated by Ahtna
30 Incorporated and other Native entities, which can be
31 accomplished directly by the Alaska Native Corporation
32 and through contracts with the appropriate federally
33 recognized tribal governments. We want to repeal the
34 extinguishment of Alaska Native aboriginal hunting and
35 fishing rights in section 4B of ANCSA, and advocate for
36 recognition of Alaska Native right to co-management of
37 subsistence resources on public lands and partnership
38 with State and Federal agencies through amendments to
39 federal laws, including ANILCA, the Magnuson-Stevens
40 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Marine
41 Mammal Protection Act, and to require consultation with
42 Alaska Native tribes and organizations, and established
43 standards for implementation of co-management and
44 increased funding supporting all co-management efforts.

45
46 We go on to talk about migratory birds.
47 Amend subsistence priority in ANILCA to provide for
48 subsistence priority for all Alaskan Natives and rural
49 residents. So, that goes back to our aboriginal hunting
50 and fishing rights that Alaska Natives will be able to

1 come back and hunt and fish on Federal land and waters,
2 regardless of where you live in the State of Alaska. I'm
3 just kind of reading -- I don't want to read the whole
4 resolution in, but just the key takeaways for you, Mr.
5 Chair. As the RAC -- this is going to be something that
6 we understand at AFN, that they're going to be complex
7 issues, that is going to take years to work on, and
8 we're going to collaboratively work it -- work to solicit
9 input from feedback from Alaska Native hunters, fishers
10 and gatherers and all the regions of Alaska to ensure
11 our traditional and practical experience and indigenous
12 knowledge are incorporated into the Alaska Native
13 Framework for Subsistence management. We want to work
14 with legal and policy experts to achieve the listed
15 priorities through legislative drafting, legislative
16 strategies, and public outreach strategies to maximize
17 the likelihood of success in achieving these goals. We
18 want to make every -- make any additional efforts to
19 drive consensus and unity among the Alaska Native
20 community in accomplishing these goals. And so, this is
21 something that we're going to be working on at AFN
22 through the subsistence committee on these important
23 issues, and we'll be giving further updates as we go
24 through this process throughout the year and next, you
25 know, throughout -- in your -- at your spring meeting
26 and your by your fall meeting of where we're at and
27 moving forward in these efforts. But I just wanted to
28 let you guys know as us, this affects our subsistence
29 management in the Bristol Bay region. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chair.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
33 you. I did not follow much of AFN this year. Is there a
34 chance you could shoot me a copy of that resolution? I
35 couldn't write that fast. There's a lot packed in there,
36 and it's interesting to know. Are there any questions
37 from anybody else for Gayla?

38
39 (No response)

40
41 Thank you, Gayla.

42
43 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's
44 a lot. No, I don't -- it's a lot, but -- it's a lot that
45 I covered and I'm sure we'll have more conversations
46 about it. So, thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah.
49 Thank you very much for that. Organizations -- Native
50 organizations.

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MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, we do have a hand raised. Walter has his hand raised.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Walter, go ahead.

(Pause)

Can you hear me Walter?

MR. KANULI: Yeah. I -- we -- well, I appreciate Gayla's presentation. But when there's some language that -- well, it's like -- there's a lot of people in Alaska now so, and then you know, being -- I guess being a liberal Native. It's not like being in (indiscernible) if that was the right word. We have relatives that, you know, that are from other races. So, I mean, it's just that -- and what she covered was a lot. I mean, that's the state of Alaska. And it, you know, it -- I mean, we're citizens of Alaska and of course, U.S.A. It -- I just wanted to put that in -- what I just wanted to mention. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Walter. Now, Gayla, do you still have your hand up? We put it up again.

MS. HOSETH: Yes, I do. Yes, I do. Mr. Chair. Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. And I just want to just highlight really quickly as to how AFN came to this and if you guys are following the Alaska state legislature during this last legislative session, there was HJR 22 that was introduced by Thomas Baker House Representatives up in Kotzebue. That was going to open up the State constitution for a statewide -- for a state of Alaska statewide management system, which would mean that this RAC would go away and also the Federal Subsistence Board would have went away, and all the management system would have been under the state of Alaska. And so, when we weighed in heavily on that as Alaska Federation of Natives on that issue in Juneau, testifying on that, of how important it is for our subsistence way of life and for it -- to keep what we have currently, even though we have a dual management system. But seeing the need to have Alaska Alaskan Native framework in that piece of what we need to get back of our zboriginal hunting and fishing rights. But if HJR 22 and who knows what's coming up in this next legislative session because that could have just been a

1 feeler of what's going out there amongst the public of
2 the state of Alaska is that means that I would not want
3 to see this management body Council go away, nor the
4 Federal Subsistence Board process to go away. So, it's
5 something to really pay close attention to as we get
6 into the -- and as we get into the next -- just pay
7 attention to all of these issues during all of these
8 times. So, that's how we got to this and wanted to come
9 up with a good resolution protecting our rights. So,
10 thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 And I'll put a link to the workshop that
15 we have that covers everything from -- since the time
16 of statehood until now, with the whole history that we
17 covered on a workshop which it's a good education tool
18 to watch and rewatch again, because it is a lot of
19 information that I covered in about -- I don't know if
20 I hit the three minute mark, but was able to get that
21 in there on the record.

22

23 MR. TREFON: Billy here.

24

25 MS. HONIG: Billy, it looks like Dan lost
26 internet again, so they're going to try and get
27 reconnected. Can we pause for just a moment?

28

29 MR. HILL: Okay.

30

31 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah. We can hear you now.

32

33 MS. HONIG: Oh, okay. Great

34

35 MR. ADERMAN: This is Andy.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: We're back
38 on the phones now. Sorry, Gayla, cut off in the --
39 partway through your discussion on the state JR22.

40

41 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, it was HJR
42 22.

43

44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: You were
45 saying that AFN has been vigorously lobbying and working
46 on it, and we might be back on a computer here, too.

47

48 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair AFN was providing
49 testimony in a part of the -- a part of the panel during
50 the last legislative session. It did stop that bill.

00040

1 That that joint bill is not moving -- didn't move
2 anywhere. But that doesn't mean that nothing's going to
3 happen on this next legislative session. So, just to
4 keep your eye on it, there'll be something that we're
5 closely monitoring as we move forward to create our
6 Alaska Native subsistence framework for the State -- or
7 across the State not for the State. Across the state of
8 Alaska.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, that
11 would be a very significant change. Both HJR 22 and
12 possibly -- now are you seeing that as a total threat
13 or is that a mechanism that AFN could possibly -- with
14 amendments or something develop something that would
15 keep AFN happy.

16

17 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair, HJR 22, it had
18 changed everything for management in the state of Alaska
19 that would affect everybody in the State. (Distortion)
20 Federal management would no longer be no longer being
21 of existence.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, yeah.
24 So, it'd be very, very dramatic. So, is AFN seeking to
25 just totally block it or how on that?

26

27 MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair, the bill did not
28 move anywhere in the last legislative session so, we'll
29 have our new session starting up -- does it start in
30 January? And so, we'll just be monitoring to see if
31 there's any House Joint Resolution that come forward or
32 any bills opening the state's constitution. In regards
33 to a statewide management system. So, it'll be something
34 that we're closely monitoring.

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
37 you for that. Anything else?

38

39 MR. TREFON: Billy here, I'm trying to
40 put a piece in on this one. I've really got something
41 to say on this.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
44 Billy.

45

46 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Listening to her
47 report about the AFN and what the State is trying to do,
48 I think we on this Board should start paying more
49 attention to what's going. Because I wasn't even aware
50 that HJR 22 was going to eliminate all Fish and Game

00041

1 management on State and Federal, where the State would
2 be entirely controlling all Fish and Game. That is a
3 threat like any other threat we could ever possibly face.
4 Because in my years of dealing with the State, they
5 don't care about subsistence. They rather see
6 subsistence go away. So, I support what AFN is trying
7 to do here. I mean, this is all wrong. Because this
8 going to do away with our Council, it's going to do away
9 with the Board. It's going to do with the ACs and all.
10 It's going to be all managed by State fisheries, State
11 Fish and Game from what I understand.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, that
14 would be quite a change. Anybody else?

15

16 MR. TREFON: That'd be.....

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
19 you again, Gayla. Is that all?

20

21 MS. HOSETH: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 And just so you know, there's a link that Geoff Toy
23 posted in the in the chat. But thank you for your time.

24

25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, yeah.
26 There's a lot going on from -- to keep up with. So, with
27 that, do we have anybody from NOAA? Items 13C.

28

29 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, this is Leigh. I
30 did have Karen Gillis from the Bering Sea Fishermen's
31 Association. I have not heard back from her. So, if we
32 want to skip over item C and move to Alaska Department
33 of Fish and Game, perhaps I can get ahold of her and can
34 have her present to the Council later.

35

36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay so, my
37 agenda is still at -- I have 13 Charlie was NOAA, in 13
38 Delta was Bering Sea fisherman. Is NOAA -- did they move
39 or they're not on or how on that? Okay.

40

41 MS. HONIG: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 She was unavailable to present to the Council, but I
43 will point out that all of the information on the Gulf
44 of Alaska chinook salmon ESA information is in your
45 meeting booklet. There's an FAQ and some other documents
46 and a letter from Fish and Game in there, too, for the
47 Council's information.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
50 you. So, 13E echo is Fish and Game. Does Fish and Game

1 have any additional information they want to present at
2 the meeting here?

3

4 MR. LANSINGER: Through the chairs is
5 John Lansiedel, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I
6 don't think Amy, or I have given any updates. We just
7 briefly spoke to what proposals were up for the Board
8 of Game process this year. So, if you want an update on
9 capture and collaring efforts and population status of
10 caribou and moose and harvest, this would probably be
11 the time to do it, if that's what you're requesting.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, sir
14 John. I think people will be real interested in kind of
15 updates on the activities and in the area. Thank you.

16

17 MR. LANSINGER: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. So,
18 I'll try and make this as brief as I can. Mulchatna
19 Caribou Herd, we did our second round of intensive
20 management predator control this spring, which is in an
21 effort to increase particularly the West Mulchatna
22 Caribou Herd segment. So, we can have hunting --
23 subsistence hunting, and local resident hunting again.
24 We removed 81 brown bears and 14 wolves total. The 14
25 wolves were removed across two periods. What we learned
26 in the first year was that if you don't have good
27 tracking conditions, you're not going to be that
28 successful even on the calving grounds removing wolves.
29 So, we had a few day period in April of 2024 where we
30 particularly targeted wolves. Our public same day
31 airborne program, where we permit members of the public
32 to lethally remove wolves via aircraft, we do not get
33 the participation or the intensity from participants to
34 put an effective dent in the wolf predation that occurs
35 on Mulchatna, and therefore, that was justification for
36 the State to spend a few days really targeting wolves
37 in a specific area via helicopter. So, we removed 11
38 wolves in April and then 3 wolves in May. And then the
39 81 brown bears were in May, and that was in eastern Unit
40 18 on State lands. In addition, we radio collared 55
41 neonate calves. So, anywhere from one to maybe 3 or 4
42 days old, if they get any older than that, you can't
43 catch them. Right now, 36 or 35 of those collars are
44 still on air. And so, of the 55 we had three collars
45 that never turned on. We never heard them. So, we censor
46 those. We had one caller that I put on a sick calf,
47 particularly because I wanted to know what it was sick
48 from and why it died. And we found that two days -- that
49 carcass two days later. So, really, we started with a -
50 - 51 calves for any kind of survival analysis. And so,

1 our survival, the six months was about 68%, which I
2 don't like to put these kinds of generalizations on
3 things, but it is pretty good. It's rather good. So,
4 then we did our population survey. So, that was a spring
5 effort. I guess into touch back on the spring effort,
6 we do parturition surveys, which is where we look at
7 known age females and that's why we do so -- such an
8 intensive collaring effort over here is to have known
9 age females on the landscape. And one of the things we
10 assessed, and they've learned long ago, was that the
11 percentage of three-year-old females that were giving
12 birth, or even two-year-old females that were giving
13 birth, can be really indicative of population growth.
14 And so, that's one of those numbers we look at every
15 year is what is our three-year-old parturition rate and
16 this year it was an 80% which again is good. So, it
17 should be indicative of population growth in the most
18 simplistic way of thinking about it. So, we removed
19 bears, we removed wolves, we did our parturition survey
20 and then comes the photo survey. And that's a population
21 estimate. And we have a bunch of GPS collars on caribou
22 now. And so, it's really helped us refine that survey
23 where we don't need, you know, historic surveys had 4
24 or 5, 6 or 7 aircraft across all of Southwest Alaska.
25 But these GPS collars have helped us really hone in on
26 when to do the survey and reduce our costs. And so, the
27 East segment was conducted first on July 3rd. And that's
28 primarily up the Mulchatna River proper. And there was
29 an estimated 7,393 caribou there. There's another wad
30 of Caribou that is west of Koliganek, but stays up in
31 the park in between, like Kulik and Beverly, the lakes
32 up in the mountains, they summer up there. There was 424
33 of those counted at a minimum count, which is up from
34 like about 250 last year. And then West Mulchatna, which
35 is primarily those Kuskokwim, Bethel animals. But they
36 calve in the northern Tikchik and that's what we're doing
37 this predator control treatment on, they were at 7,453.
38 So, all in, what that means is the bulk of the Mulchatna
39 herd -- there's other groups of caribou that are managed
40 under the Mulchatna registration permit, but the bulk
41 of the Mulchatna herd is just under 15,000 animals right
42 now. With -- and that's not including, you know, the
43 Kokhanok group and the Cape Pierce and Goodnews groups
44 that, you know, us and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
45 have collared previously. So, there's a few thousand
46 more caribou out there in addition to this 15,000 number.
47 This 14,846 so, just under 15,000 is the highest
48 population estimate we've had since 2017. So, all things
49 indicate that we had growth outside of our confidence
50 intervals. So, it was -- you could call it substantial

1 growth where there was more growth than documented in
2 previous years.

3
4 And then we just did our composition
5 survey -- our fall composition surveys this October and
6 that survey is really our indicator of success on this
7 -- the two surveys for indicators of success for the
8 predator control program is population increase and calf
9 survival increase. And how we document calf survival
10 increases in our fall composition surveys where we
11 sample a portion of the population. So, we fly around
12 in a helicopter, and we count calves, cows and bulls.
13 And this year the East Mulchatna was done on like no
14 October 9th or 10th and the cow ratio maintained its
15 long-term average. Its ten-year average is 31 calves per
16 100 cows. This year we documented 32 calves per 100 cows
17 and then the West Mulchatna was done, I think October
18 17th, and we have to push past October 15th because we
19 don't want to fly on top of the Unit 18 moose hunters
20 because their season goes later than ours and so, we
21 really try and prevent that. So, we conducted that survey
22 on October 17th, and our calve to cow ratio in the west
23 was 54 calves per 100 cows and that's up from last year,
24 which was 44 calves per 100 cows -- our first year of
25 the predator control treatment. And the long-term
26 average for West Mulchatna is 28 calves per 100 cows.
27 So, we've nearly doubled our long-term average this year
28 in our calve to cow ratio. We'll continue to monitor
29 those calves in the west through the winter. So, we get
30 one year survival. And in addition to that, we radio
31 marked or radio collared 28 East Mulchatna six-month-
32 old calves. So, this fall so that we have a comparison
33 between the East Mulchatna and the West Mulchatna and
34 the overwinter survival of those six-month-old calves
35 in their first winter.

36
37 That kind of summarizes the Mulchatna
38 work for the year. This year we extended our fall moose
39 season in that extension for RM583 for the resident
40 registration permit here locally in 17B and C, 19% of
41 our harvest came in that five-day extension. That's down
42 a little bit. Last year's extension, there was 24% of
43 the harvest occurred during that time. We had similar
44 numbers of moose killed, this year to last year. We
45 killed something like 215 bulls between residents,
46 between 17B and C, our non-resident harvest was up
47 slightly. It was just above the five-year average of 51.
48 This year's non-resident harvest was at 57. We are
49 seeing, it seems like an increased desire to hunt the
50 upper portion of Wood-Tikchik State Park and Western 17B

1 from non-residents. There were a number of reported
2 failure to salvage cases that occurred primarily when
3 people shot two bull moose at the same time and were
4 unable to take care of it appropriately. And then 17A
5 harvest -- the bulk of the harvest occurs during the
6 winter hunt, and so we're yet to see that. But we
7 harvested 38 bulls under the resident fall season and 4
8 cows and we had non-residents harvest 5 bull moose over
9 in 17A and -- which is about right on track. It might
10 be slightly below the kind of ten-year average, but it's
11 kind of right in that ballpark. So, hopefully we have
12 good weather and travel conditions this winter so people
13 can take advantage of that 17A moose population.

14
15 And then we had an uptick in our brown
16 bear harvest this year. You know, a lot of our brown
17 bear harvest is driven by the number of guides operating
18 in the area. Most residents elect not to harvest bears
19 or if they do, they don't report them, is kind of the
20 general consensus. And that comes from, you know, going
21 to the villages and issuing permits and just having chats
22 with people out there. And thus, some of the proposals
23 that are coming up this Board of Game cycle. That's
24 really what I have of note. I guess if there's any
25 questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

26
27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
28 John. Council members, questions?

29
30 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Rich Wilson here.
31 Yeah. Do you have any numbers for -- do we have any
32 numbers for 9B and 9C on the moose?

33
34 MR. LANSINGER: Through the Chair.
35 Council member Rich, I would defer to Amy Vandervoort
36 would have all of that information and I think she plans
37 on probably giving an update as well.

38
39 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I'll wait for
40 that.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.....

43
44 MR. TREFON: Billy here.

45
46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
47 Billy.

48
49 MR. TREFON: Yeah. My question is about
50 also B and the caribou. Are they coming back into 9B or

1 is there anything going on there? Because I'm getting
2 questioned and people are actually seeing small herds
3 moving back up into the Mulchatna area. And if that's
4 the case, maybe we'll start seeing caribou and we really
5 like to start hunting them again.

6
7 MR. LANSINGER: Yeah, through the Chair.
8 Billy, you know that -- I think you're probably -- people
9 that you're talking to are probably seeing what we
10 consider the East Mulchatna Herd that uses the Mulchatna
11 watershed and certainly goes into the northern portions
12 of 9B at times you know, kind of that northwestern
13 portion of 9B and there's about 7,500 animals in there.
14 We did -- there's another group of probably 300-ish
15 animals kind of behind Clarks Point here locally that
16 we just got a couple radio collars on. I don't know if
17 we missed those during the photo survey or not. I -- my
18 gut says we probably did and those certainly go across
19 over into 9B as well. Is it Willy Larson Creek over in
20 that country there? But yeah, there's some caribou that
21 move back and forth across the 9B-17B border, certainly.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
24 Yeah, in the past, I recall, there was another small
25 fragment that used to live behind Ekuk and Clark's, and
26 I'd wondered if they'd all disappeared. Any other
27 questions?

28
29 (No response)

30
31 So, hearing none. Amy, are you able to
32 give us a report on your side of the bay?

33
34 MS. VANDERVOORT: Yes, I can. This is Amy
35 Vandervoort with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So,
36 I'll start off with moose, since that was the first
37 question that I heard just now. In total for Unit 9,
38 we've had 172 moose harvested this year so far. We do
39 still have the winter hunt so. I expect that to go up.
40 For -- specifically for 9B so far, we've had 42 moose
41 harvested and 9C we had 38. We typically see more moose
42 harvested during the winter and 9B and 9C than the other
43 Units, so I would expect that to increase. As far as
44 long-term trends, last hunting season, we had a record
45 high since the early 2000s of 2 -- over 200 Moose
46 harvested. This year, I would expect it to be similar
47 to that. So, hopefully that means we've got good moose
48 numbers, but we don't have any population estimates
49 scheduled for Unit 9. We will be doing the regular moose
50 trend count areas this fall to get the calf to cow and

1 bull the cow ratios, and then we will be helping Becharof
2 with their population estimate they're going to do in
3 9B. So, hopefully we get good weather, and we can get
4 that done.

5
6 For caribou, we did a minimum count in
7 July for the Southern Alaska Peninsula herd, and we
8 counted just over 3,400 caribou. We weren't able to get
9 to certain places because of weather. So, we're
10 estimating there to be about 3,800 to 4,000 down there,
11 which puts it right at the top end of the population
12 objective down there. For the northern Alaska Peninsula
13 Herd so, the ones in the south of King Salmon down to
14 Port Moller, we just finished a composition survey and
15 calf to cow ratios are looking good. We're sitting at
16 about 29 calves per 100 cows. Bull ratios are down
17 slightly from what they have been long-term. But it's
18 not alarming. We did survey them later than we have in
19 the past, which could account for the lower bull to cow
20 ratios. We were finding a lot of smaller groups which
21 could indicate that the bulls had or some of the bulls
22 had already segregated away from the cows. Hopefully
23 next year we'll get a survey done, maybe a little bit
24 earlier in the year. We were also able to survey the
25 caribou up between Kukaklek and Nonvianuk Lakes, and
26 this is only the second year we've been surveying them.
27 Calf to cow ratios were 33 and bull to cow ratios were
28 at 37. So, both are looking good. We plan to do another
29 winter count this year so we can start to build a
30 population model and to see what the herd is actually
31 doing. Right now, we only have one winter count from
32 last year, and this year's count will help us understand
33 the herd dynamics a little bit better. But so far, it's
34 looking good. And yeah, the last thing I had was just
35 brown bear harvest numbers. We harvested just under 450
36 bears last year for the fall 2023 and spring 2024 hunt.
37 That is down from the previous hunt season in 2021 and
38 2022 -- or 2020-2021. And that is what I got. If there's
39 any questions.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Anybody
42 have (distortion). Go ahead, Richard.

43
44 MR. WILSON: Yeah Amy. Thank you for
45 that. Do you have any -- what was the last year's count
46 for that North Peninsula Herd? And do you have any, any
47 numbers yet for this year and also for the Kukaklek and
48 Nonvianuk Herd, what was your totals on that one?

49
50

1 MS. VANDERVOORT: So, for the -- I'll
2 start with the Kukaklek-Nonvianuk group. We counted 398
3 caribou this fall during the composition count. Last
4 winter we counted just under 700 caribou out there and
5 that is -- it's not just on the preserve. We do have
6 some GPS collars and VHF collars out there, and we've
7 been tracking them, and they do go off the preserve
8 throughout the year. But our focus is mainly east of the
9 East Mulchatna group. So, we don't survey anywhere near
10 where the East Mulchatna Caribou Herd typically are
11 located. We don't want to double count those caribou.

12
13 For the Northern Peninsula herd, we
14 don't do a population count for them. We're -- we base
15 solely on a population model. The caribou and the
16 Northern Peninsula herd. They don't aggregate during the
17 summer like other herds do. So, in order to do a photo
18 census, it really doesn't work because we get a lot of
19 small groups just all up and down the Peninsula, and we
20 can't get a good estimate from a photo survey. From all
21 indications from what we were able to find this year and
22 for the radio collars we weren't able to find, we counted
23 over 2,200 caribou on the Northern Peninsula Herd, and
24 we really did not survey a lot of the mountain areas
25 where we would expect to find more. So, by all
26 indications, that herd is doing well, and I think the
27 population model right now estimates it to be about 42-
28 to 4400 caribou.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thank
31 you, Amy. You know, we have noticed small herds that are
32 in Unit 9C off of the Preserve down on the Branch River
33 area. There's some scattered little herds throughout
34 there. And we noticed that this winter, the North
35 Peninsula herd it. Very few came, you know, close to the
36 Naknek River section there. And they were broken out
37 into small groups as well. So, I can see his difficulty
38 in getting the count on those herds but appreciate the
39 info.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank
42 you, Richard. Thank you, Amy. Yeah, that's very
43
44 interesting that you only counted what, about half as
45 many caribou around Kukaklek this year as last year.

46
47 MS. VANDERVOORT: Well, through the --
48 so, the count that we're using as a population count was
49 a winter count. And that was done in February, I believe.
50 So, this fall was just a survey and not a complete count.

1

2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay,
3 great. I missed that. So, we'll look forward to the
4 winter count. I think there's a lot of people very happy
5 that that group of animals is getting some attention.
6 It'll be interesting to see what develops. Are there any
7 other questions or comments?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 Did somebody -- was it Billy? Did you -
12 - or who was it that had 9B question that John
13 Landsiendel deferred to Amy on?

14

15 MR. TREFON: Yeah, that was Richard. He
16 was asking about the moose in 9B or I think it was, but
17 I was asking about the caribou in 9B.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead
20 Billy, if you still have the question.

21

22 MR. TREFON: I think it's already been
23 answered. I was wondering about the number of caribou
24 coming back into 9B, because I'm hearing that there's
25 groups actually forming up around up in the Mulchatna
26 Chulitna area, significantly sized groups over 100 or
27 so, here and there. And if they're talking about hunt's
28 -- opening hunt's -- 9B I mean, I don't know how that's
29 going to work, but it'd be nice if they could start
30 considering us being able to hunt those caribou again,
31 because the numbers used to be 12. Now it's what, 14? I
32 thought the goal was 30,000, but I'll take it anyway I
33 can right now, because it's been a long time since I
34 tasted caribou.

35

36 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair. John has his hand
37 raised.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
40 Go ahead, John.

41

42

(Pause)

43

44

John, did you want to add something?

45

46 MR. LANDSIEDEL: Sorry, through the
47 Chair. I was muted. Yeah. I just wanted to comment on
48 Billy's comment and hopefully provide some
49 clarification. That's likely the East Mulchatna Caribou
50 Herd that you're referencing, Billy. And that portion

1 of the herd is about 7,500 animals give or take, and --
2 but they're all managed as one. So, we combine their
3 total and you're right, our minimum population count is
4 30,000. But there's a Board of Game proposal this year
5 from the public to have us reevaluate that number. Just
6 off the cuff, I -- you know, we're butting up against
7 State versus Federal management and whatnot. And those
8 animals would be pretty solely on State land. So, that
9 would have to come through the State process. And I
10 don't get to make -- I don't get to just wave a magic
11 wand and do what I want. But my suggestion would be we
12 wait till we're at about 20,000 animals and growing
13 before we offer any kind of resident hunt, just so that,
14 you know, if I -- if we open a hunt for Iliamna and
15 Kokhanok and Igiugig, what do we tell the people in
16 Koliganek? What do we tell the people in New Stuyahok?
17 What do we tell Manokotak? You know, and the same thing
18 -- Then what do we tell Bethel and Quinhagak and
19 Kwethluk. And so, it just -- it gets very... convoluted
20 quickly. And so, I guess just for everyone who's
21 listening, that's kind of where I'm sitting is when we
22 hit 20,000 animals and growing, that's when I think we
23 can start implementing kind of a Southwest Regional
24 resident hunt.

25
26 MR. TREFON: Thank you. I appreciate that
27 explanation because, yeah, I think we need to get those
28 numbers up way up before we could even start opening up
29 the hunt on the Caribou on Mulchatna. Appreciate that.
30 Thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank
33 you, John. Anybody else?

34
35 (No response)

36
37 Well, I think that was very helpful and
38 very interesting. I really want to thank John and Amy
39 for bearing with us and providing us with this
40 information. I know this time of year, I'm always kind
41 of on the edge of my chair, eager to hear what you've
42 come up with. And I know both of them have quite a few
43 projects that are working very hard at it, so thank you.
44 Is there anything else with Fish and Game before we go
45 to Fish and Wildlife Service?

46
47 (No response)

48
49 Okay, I'm not hearing anything. Let's
50 Turn it over to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. I have on my

1 agenda, starts with Alaska Peninsula Becharof first.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Good morning, Bill
4 Smith here in King Salmon, supervisory biologist for
5 Peninsula Becharof Refuge. We submitted a complete
6 written report I believe starts on page 165 of council
7 members' books. I'll give a very brief verbal update on
8 a few things I think the Council might be interested in.
9 Staffing at Peninsula Becharof -- our new deputy
10 manager, Brian Wehausen, started in April. He
11 unfortunately couldn't make this meeting. He was
12 required to be and looking forward to be participating
13 in a Native liaison training in Anchorage. And our new
14 manager -- Susan Alexander, of course, retired in
15 December of last year, and they're in the process of
16 filling that position. And we -- that position will
17 probably be the main source of contact and working with
18 the RAC on decision authority items that way with myself
19 and Bryce Woodruff involved peripherally as technical
20 expertise. So, we're looking forward to having that
21 position filled here probably by January or February of
22 this coming year.

23

24 Amy already highlighted that we're
25 moving forward -- Bryce Woodruff, our big game
26 biologist, is working pretty extensively right now on
27 putting forward GSPE population estimate for 9E. It's
28 an extensive effort and a joint effort with both Park
29 Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge assistance, and
30 of course, ADF&G. Amy's got -- I think we'll have six
31 Cubs in the air here for about the next couple of weeks
32 of cranking out a lot of this work. Six pilots, six
33 observers. It's a lot of logistical challenges and stuff
34 to pull off here. Bryce is feverishly kind of putting
35 everything together here. And we'll see if GSPE is --
36 probably be the first population estimate on Moose in
37 90 -- since first attempt, since, I believe the 1980s,
38 late 80s. Bryce has completed the habitat stratification
39 work. It was all done last year, with the exception of
40 one Unit he's trying to get done the next couple of
41 days. It was January 30th for about the 5th so, all the
42 habitat stratification flights have been conducted
43 already to stratify habitat. And the crews will focus
44 on the actual survey effort for population abundance
45 here in the next couple of weeks.

46

47 The only other thing I'm going to --
48 well, I will report on moose twinning rates. That is an
49 effort we continue to kind of keep working on here on
50 the Refuge. We did about 35, 36 hours of flight time

1 this spring trying to look at aerial moose twinning
2 surveys over five days late May. Twinning rate is still
3 really high. Twinning rates, of course, are kind of a
4 surrogate for habitat quality. 81% is what we determined
5 from the 2024 twinning rates. So, our moose and GMU 9
6 are fairly productive. Cows are fairly healthy and
7 putting a lot of twins on the ground. For some
8 perspective on that, with the State kind of looks at 20
9 to 35% as a very good rate. Right now, we've had
10 consistently high rates, 73, 68 to 81% in the last three
11 years. So, good habitat and high twin abundance in our
12 moose population. It's our preference to hopefully be
13 putting on the ground habitat studies together, looking
14 at browse studies and a lot more intensive actual habitat
15 work. We have not been able to put that together to
16 assist that effort with actual habitat work here, but
17 that's a work in progress.

18
19 Last thing, I guess I'll report on
20 what's come up on a couple occasions here where we're
21 definitely moving forward with the Naknek, Big Creek
22 Weir project for chinook abundance. Working with Jon
23 Gerken and Frank, our fisheries biologist in Anchorage
24 and Soldotna, as well as Cody Larson with BBNA as the
25 lead for the Partners proposal. I appreciate the
26 Council's patience with this. We've been talking about
27 it for three years. We are definitely going to be putting
28 in for the funding this year. And I appreciate the
29 Council's diligence to make sure that the Naknek and Big
30 Creek areas remain Priority Information Needs. If we are
31 able to get this funding weir operations would probably
32 be in place 2026 to 2029, about four years of effort
33 there. If we get the funding and probably the first --
34 only amount of chinook abundance information here on the
35 east side will be collected through that project and
36 that's all I have for the report.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Questions
39 anybody?

40
41 MR. WILSON: Richard, just with a
42 comment. Through the Chair. Thanks Bill, for that update
43 there and it's exciting to see that there's some things
44 happening in our chinook end of things here for keeping
45 track of that and kind of seeing what we can do. So,
46 appreciate all that and hope we can find plenty of
47 funding to keep that program going. Thank you.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you,
50 Richard. Anybody else?

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(No response)

Well thank you, Bill. It was very helpful and it's nice to have these summaries in our books as well. Keep up the good work. It's good to hear moose are twinning well. With that -- what are we Togiak Refuge? Yeah, Andy.

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MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Andy Aderman, wildlife biologist with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and our report or our information bulletin, I believe is on -- starts on page 173. So, right after Bill's report there. I'm going to skip right over to the second page, talk about Nushagak Peninsula caribou. We found just shy of 600 caribou in late June and we had 27 of our 29 collars in that -- in a large group. We found a couple other -- we had two other groups that had radio collar each, and then we had a fairly large group of bulls as well, with no radio collars. We don't we don't radio collar bulls and -- but it was nice to see that many, many bulls. We did a composition survey here earlier this month and we come up with 55 calves per 100 cows and 30 bulls per 100 cows. They're pretty similar to past years and the bulls dropped a little bit. We'd like to see that little higher. 35 would be a good number. But with 30 bulls per 100 cows, there should be adequate breeding. Let's see, we had a caribou planning committee back in July 25th, and we reviewed all the previous hunts and -- the previous hunt there was 24 caribou taken. So, for this year the hunts from August 1st to March 31st, 2025, we made 300 caribou permits available. Most of those were in Dillingham. That was 200 of the 300 permits and then, I believe 50 -- 50 to Manokotak and 40 to Togiak and 5 each to Twin Hills and -- I'm missing -- oh, Clarks Point, and also 22 Aleknagik. So, far, I've heard of 12 caribou that have been harvested so far. It's kind of tough for most people to get down there unless they can, you know, hire somebody with the plane. I think most of the Manokotak harvest is via boat, where they can get to and like and -- but anyways during that meeting we set a harvest objective of 200 caribou. So, that's a third of the herd. And we're, you know, we're hoping we can achieve that number or get close to it. A lot of it will just depend on how our access is via, you know, frozen rivers and snow to travel. Right now, it's one caribou per hunter. And yeah, that's -- I think that's all I have on Nushagak caribou. Except, I should mention that we -- we being Fish and Game, John Lansiedel and

1 Fish and Wildlife Service deployed 15 collars on caribou
2 down there. These are mostly short yearling. They're not
3 quite a year old and John also helped a lot with putting
4 out 15 collars on moose in 17A, again on a short yearling
5 females. We are planning to do a joint GSPE survey in
6 17A. The last one was done in 2022 where we had a
7 population estimate of just under 2,000 moose and that
8 was decline of about 7.5% from the previous survey. I
9 don't have that number right in front of me. I want to
10 say it's around 2,400, but we weren't able to get out
11 and look at calves -- newborn calves. We just had some
12 really bad weather. It was a lot of fog with some snow
13 mixed in it, and it just wasn't the right conditions.
14 So, that's about all I had on caribou and moose. Maybe
15 I'll pause here if anybody has any questions.

16

17 (No response)

18

19 Not hearing anything. I'll just go down
20 rather quickly here. Walrus; been monitoring walrus via
21 a number of methods. Daily ground counts occasionally
22 some aerial surveys and then time lapse photography on
23 the hollows. One thing that's interesting is we're
24 starting to see higher numbers of walrus using
25 especially the Hagemeister Island hollow. We got some
26 pictures of that hollow and this was a couple of years
27 ago, we had probably 10,000 walrus on that one hollow
28 site on Hagemeister and that's kind of what the numbers
29 back in the 80s were like for walrus at Cape Pierce. I
30 don't know if they were using the Hagemeister Island
31 hollow at that time. That was before my time here.
32 Seabirds abundance; we do population counts, and the
33 abundance has been below average for black legged
34 kittiwakes and -- since 2021. And then more recently for
35 MERS and cormorants, they have both declined. Invasive
36 plant surveys. This is an effort that we've been doing
37 now for the last 4 or 5 years. Trying to hit all the
38 popular local lakes where float planes get into, and the
39 main objective is trying to catch any elodea. It's a
40 non-native plant. It's popular in aquariums, and that's
41 probably how a lot of it gets spread. People get tired
42 of their stuff, you know, whether it's changing the water
43 out or whatever, I don't know, but it can really take
44 over a waterway in effect, you know, all sorts of
45 species, but certainly salmon and that for spawning
46 areas and the stuff just takes a little fragment and it
47 can start to grow and reproduce. And it's something that
48 we don't want. So, if we can detect it early on and get
49 it treated, that's the way to, you know, get rid of it.
50 Let's see here. Think I'll just stop there and again ask

1 for any questions.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Anybody?

4

5 (No response)

6

7 Well, thank you Andy. I'm glad to see
8 you're watching these invasive species right here around
9 Dillingham. Ever since they receded, some of our -- and
10 paved our highway. We've got that dang yellow whatever
11 it is.

12

13 MR. ADERMAN: Hawkbit.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: What is it?

16

17 MR. ADERMAN: Yellow hawks -- hawkbit.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Is that what
20 it is? I've heard it called South Thistle. I thought it
21 was hawkweed. It's hawkbit that it? Man, that stuff is
22 really invasive, and I don't know. Are you concerned
23 about that getting on the Refuge?

24

25 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah. You know, there's
26 some invasives -- they're not going to cause too much
27 problem. And a lot of them, you know, like pineapple
28 weed, it grows along the edges of, of roads and common
29 plantain. They don't typically overrun the Native
30 vegetation. They're there, but yeah -- but some of the
31 stuff that's, you know, pretty severe for certain other
32 species -- Native species. It's bad and it can increase,
33 you know, really, really quickly. So, if you can get on
34 top of it as soon as you see it, you know, put all your
35 effort into it and, you know, try to eliminate it. And
36 then continual monitoring of those sites to see if it's
37 coming back or not. But yeah, it's -- there's invasives
38 all over and there's places in Alaska that, you know,
39 have some of the nastier, you know, stuff that you really
40 don't want, so.

41

42 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,
43 great. Thank you. Anything else? Well, thank you, Andy,
44 and thank you for the written part here to refer to
45 later. Appreciate that. I guess the National Park
46 Service is next. Troy or Mark, are you on or another
47 representative? Who do we have on first? Lake Clark.
48 Liza, isn't it?

49

50

1 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Actually, this is --
2 Liza is on the line, but this is Susanne Fleek-Green.
3 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will give the report for Lake
4 Clark National Park and Preserve today and sorry that
5 not all there together in person as we usually are.
6 Also, I do have a PowerPoint, but I know a number, if
7 not all of the Council members are on the phone. So, you
8 have our report in your book there. And instead of
9 running through slides that you can't see, I think I
10 will just highlight a few things and then open it up for
11 questions, if that is all right with you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, go
14 ahead. Yeah. We're still without internet and working
15 on the phone here. So, thank you.

16
17 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yep. Okay, well, let
18 me just start with our salmon monitoring results from
19 this summer as we have for over 20 years now. We
20 conducted our salmon monitoring station on the Newhalen
21 River and like you have all heard, the Kvichak was --
22 had a very high run. We actually had the largest
23 escapement and -- since 2000, our count at our River
24 Mile 22 Station was right around 820,000 fish. We also
25 had two distinct peaks which really mirrored the Kvichak
26 return and we also had the latest start of the run this
27 year in 30 years. And we have -- that is consistent with
28 the last, you know, 6 to 7 years where we have been seen
29 later and later starts really almost to the third week
30 of July now, where we used to see those run starts right
31 around July 4th. So, it is going further back. And that
32 does create complications for subsistence fishers in the
33 area. This year too, like everyone else, we saw small
34 fish. And that was -- it was a run that was dominated
35 by two ocean fish and -- but even for those two ocean
36 fish, they were small. So, folks were catching more fish
37 with less poundage than typical. So, we are diving into
38 some additional research to utilize this 20 plus years
39 of data that we have to analyze salmon escapement and
40 we have entered into a partnership with Curry Cunningham
41 from UAF, who many of you know to look at that data and
42 try and answer four questions going forward. The first
43 being, is the annual escapement of sockeye salmon
44 changing over time. Second, which things best explain
45 the year-to-year difference in escapement? Do things
46 differ from what's driving escapement on a broader scale
47 in the Bristol Bay region? And can we forecast one year
48 ahead with escapement models like those used for Bristol
49 Bay? And we believe by answering these questions, we
50 will then be able to give the local communities

1 subsistence users a better sense of what the run could
2 be like, because we I mean, frankly, we don't know. We
3 rely on the larger data for Bristol Bay, and we don't
4 have an ability right now to refine it further for that
5 Newhalen run. So, this research will help us answer these
6 questions and again, hopefully give better forecasting
7 information to the local community so that they know
8 what to expect in coming years.

9
10 Another really great project that we
11 talked about a little bit last year and Katmai talked
12 about as well, is this cold water refugia project trying
13 to use technology to map where the coldest water is
14 within the park and preserve boundaries. As we know,
15 salmon like cold water and in the face of climate change,
16 it is more important than ever to identify where those
17 really good cold pockets of water are. And so, we
18 launched a project this summer that was funded by the
19 National Park Service to map those areas within salmon
20 streams in Lake Clark, Katmai and Kenai Fjords. And then
21 the other goal of this project is to really characterize
22 those areas in terms of their location, distribution,
23 connectivity and persistence. And similar projects have
24 been conducted over in the Cook Inlet area and once
25 these colder areas are known, then recommendations can
26 be made and potentially implemented for management
27 changes that give, you know, extra protected status to
28 those really good cold water areas, streams and rivers
29 so that we are able to ensure salmon still have that
30 habitat as temperatures warm, generally. So, excited
31 about that project and more to come on the results of
32 it. Maybe at our next meeting, I can show you some of
33 the cool graphics from this year's -- this summer's
34 research of preliminary identification of those streams
35 and water bodies. I also wanted to highlight a
36 opportunity to have more local involvement in water
37 quality monitoring. We have five wild and scenic rivers
38 in Southwest Alaska that have not had any water quality
39 monitoring conducted. And so, we are -- we've secured
40 funding and have actually bought the equipment for two
41 water quality meters and -- that we can lend out to
42 communities and help train citizens to go out and do
43 monitoring on streams in their area. And we'll be putting
44 information out via social media so that more
45 communities can get involved in that.

46
47 And then lastly, I -- for this past
48 summer, I just want to mention a couple of the cultural
49 resource projects that we undertook. One was actually
50 over on the east side of the Park at the Clam Cove

1 Pictograph site, which is near Chinitna Bay, and we --
2 in partnership with the Kenaitze Tribe, brought five
3 members of the Kenaitze Tribal Council to the Clam Cove
4 site and -- which none of them had been to before, to
5 talk about how we can protect as best we can and the
6 pictograph site from the effects of climate change, and
7 then how tribal members would like to talk to the public,
8 talk to youth about the pictograph site, and better
9 understand the importance of it to the tribes throughout
10 Cook Inlet, the Takotna region. So, that was a really
11 great project. Very rewarding and great to, to sit on
12 the beach, frankly, and talk about the importance of
13 that place to the tribes in the region. And then we also
14 have ongoing a report on the Kvichak National Landmark
15 area. So, we have Kvichak -- historic Kvichak is
16 currently on the National Historic Register, and we are
17 consulting with tribes about how to manage that area and
18 any adjustments to the boundary. So, historic Kvichak,
19 of course many folks that today reside in Nondalton come
20 from the historic Kvichak site. So, that report is in
21 its draft form, and we hope to finish it up and we'll
22 have a larger report to you to give at the next meeting.

23
24 And then in terms of 2025, I know there
25 was a conversation about sheep earlier in the meeting,
26 and that too is a priority for the Park. We have tried
27 unsuccessfully for the last three summers to do a sheep
28 survey. We used to do it annually, but a number of
29 factors have made that much more challenging, including
30 just the weather. But that is a priority for us next
31 year. So, again, we will come back to you with those
32 numbers. A number of Alaska parks are really putting an
33 emphasis on sheep surveys right now. We also plan to
34 conduct moose surveys in 9B and 17B. So, we'll have that
35 data for you and then we will be conducting a
36 collaborative bear study with ADF&G for 9B next summer.
37 And that is all I have. If there's any questions or
38 comments.

39
40 MR. TREFON: Hey, Susanne. Billy here.

41
42 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Hey, Billy.

43
44 MR. TREFON: My question would be about
45 the Caribou Herd, the Mulchatna. Just want to hear an
46 update on them.

47
48 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah, I -- the Park
49 doesn't have an update other than what you've already
50 heard from ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife Service. We don't

1 have new numbers for any of the herd within the Park.
2 We do, you know, from our regular patrols that we do
3 during the summer, we've seen patches of caribou but,
4 you know, it'll be like 5 or 6 animals here, 5 or 6
5 there, not in a significant number at all and that is
6 in the northwest part of the boundary.

7
8 MR. TREFON: Okay so, that's probably the
9 same thing I'm hearing, but I'm hearing people saying a
10 little group of 100. And that was kind of surprising.
11 But yeah. Thank you.

12
13 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah. No, we have not
14 heard numbers that big. Well, I should say we have not
15 seen numbers that big and we also have not heard numbers
16 that big.

17
18 MR. TREFON: Okay, I appreciate that.
19 Thank you.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Anybody
22 else?

23
24 (No response)

25
26 Okay thank you very much, Susanne. Kind
27 of glad to hear you could try to do the sheep surveys.
28 Kind of curious how that might play into this whole
29 statewide concern for sheep.

30
31 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Mm-hmm.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, thank
34 you very much. Was there more for Lake Clark or did you
35 cover all of it?

36
37 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: No, that's it for us,
38 Mr. Chair.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
41 Lake Clark. How about Katmai Aniakchak?

42
43 MR. STURM: Yes. Good morning, Mr. Chair.
44 Mark Sturm, superintendent, Katmai National Park
45 Preserve and Aniakchak in the Alagnak. We appreciate the
46 opportunity to present today. I have a few introductions
47 I'd like to make. We also have a short presentation, but
48 similar to what Susanne just said most of the Council
49 members are on the phone, so we will make sure Leigh
50 that we get our little presentation to you -- for you -

1 - so that you could add it to the supplemental materials,
2 if you don't mind. But we will just testify orally here
3 today.

4
5 There's been a few changes at Katmai
6 since last the Bristol Bay RAC met in person. I'd like
7 to introduce several new staff and I guess, can we start
8 perhaps with Jenya, can we start with you? Yeah. Come
9 on to the camera. For those of them with a camera. Go
10 ahead and introduce yourself.

11
12 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Hello. My name is
13 Evguenia "Jenya" Anichtchenko. And as Mark mentioned,
14 I'm a brand new, cultural resource manager for Katmai
15 National Park, Aniakchak Monument and Alagnak
16 (indiscernible) River. Nice to meet everybody.

17
18 MR. STURM: Jenya and I will be given
19 today's report out for Katmai today. But before we go
20 there, I'd also like to introduce one of Jenya's staff.
21 We -- the park has a new tribal liaison and subsistence
22 coordinator, and she's sitting here right to my right.
23 I'm going to turn my little camera on here. That's not
24 actually that's Suzy. That's -- well, a little bit ago.
25 It was a little bit ago. It was Mallory. We'll introduce
26 Susie next. I'm sorry. Go ahead, Suzy.

27
28 MS. SANDERS: Hi, everyone. I'm Suzanne
29 Sanders or Suzy as I go by. I'm the new natural resource
30 program manager here, so I took over what was Troys
31 position. Yeah, I come here from 20 years of working in
32 northern Wisconsin and northern Minnesota doing long
33 term vegetation monitoring. So, yeah feel free to reach
34 out to me with any questions or comments. Thanks.

35
36 MR. STURM: Thanks, Suzy. And now perhaps
37 we can go to Mallory. Mallory, are you on, out there?

38
39 MS. ZHAROFF: Yeah. Hi, I'm Mallory
40 Zharoff. I just started about two months ago as the
41 Katmai liaison and subsistence coordinator. I grew up a
42 little bit in Naknek. I'm a longtime commercial
43 fisherman in Igiugig, about 22 years of fishing with my
44 family. Some of you might know me by my last name,
45 Zharoff. So, hi, if you recognize the name. But, yeah
46 just started here and learning a lot about subsistence
47 and Katmai tribal relations. So, I'm excited to be here.
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. STURM: Thanks, Mallory. Appreciate
2 it. We're excited to have you and everyone else that
3 just introduced themselves. There has been some changes
4 here I think some of you may have caught. Troy has taken
5 a new job. He still works for us. A longtime natural
6 resource manager for the park. He is now a permanent
7 park pilot. We still use him on a lot of our natural
8 resource issues, of course, but he is primarily duties
9 as the park pilot, and Suzy is now our natural resource
10 manager. Topics that I'd like to talk about today from
11 Katmai is obviously the -- I guess the ongoing
12 development of the preserved caribou, the Kukaklek shelf
13 caribou population that we anticipate having a
14 subsistence hunt on this coming winter. We will be
15 hosting a meeting sometime, ideally later part of
16 November to -- a public meeting that we are required to
17 host in the authority -- designation of authority letter
18 that we've received to consider anything longer than a
19 60-day hunt. And we have heard from both Kokhanok and
20 Igiugig, the two communities that are eligible under
21 this community. They would prefer to have a longer hunt
22 in the winter time so, that they could choose the time
23 that they could access the preserve under best
24 conditions. And so, we are hoping to authorize up to a
25 90-day hunt after having our public meeting sometime
26 later in November. So, I would anticipate, assuming that
27 things go according to plan, a January, February, March
28 hunt on caribou. The park has been working for a number
29 of years to estimate the number of animals. You've heard
30 the estimates that Amy was talking about. Our estimates
31 are more focused on animals that are actually in the in
32 the Preserve itself. The first year the estimate was
33 around 320. The most recent final estimate that we have
34 is 425. So, the population appears to be trending in a
35 positive direction. There have been good estimates,
36 thanks to the work that's been done by the State, which,
37 by the way, I guess I would say I'd like to just take a
38 moment to acknowledge and appreciate Amy Vandervoort's
39 work and her peers with the State and trying to gather
40 some information on these animals to given the interest
41 that the communities have and that the Park Service has.
42 It -- even though we are not necessarily aligned
43 necessarily from a management regime at the moment there
44 is good collaboration and information sharing. And that
45 also goes for the for the communities of Kokhanok and
46 Igiugig. We have been to both of those communities. We
47 spent a number of days in Igiugig talking specifically
48 about issues that are related to this hunt. There are -
49 - there is an interest in working closely with both
50 Kokhanok residents and Igiugig on the management

1 structure that's developed for this, this particular
2 population. And there's also an interest in working with
3 the park to, I guess authorize and ultimately establish
4 a trail system because the Park service has, I guess,
5 in the last year or so, determined that traditional and
6 customary access is appropriate and has been documented
7 for the Preserve from those villages. This essentially
8 means that the -- that access into the Preserve using
9 traditional means of conveyance, wheeled conveyance, is
10 appropriate. And we need to establish an access trail
11 system that's associated with that and that's going to
12 take us a little while. But we do have interest, and
13 we've talked with both communities. And those
14 conversations have begun. I would expect that we make
15 good progress over the next year. It may take us a year
16 or two to ultimately have that trail system finalized
17 and in place, but progress is being made. Which is a
18 which is a great thing.

19
20 So, that's the status of the Kukaklek
21 shelf caribou that we're trying to move forward with the
22 hunt on. The other topic that I'd like to talk with the
23 RAC about is, is a topic that the RAC has expressed an
24 interest in. Katmai National Park back in 2014,
25 constructed a service road -- 200-foot service road near
26 the Brooks Lake side out at Brooks Camp. We did so,
27 without proper compliance and without proper
28 consultation -- tribal consultation having been
29 completed. That effort actually impacted two known
30 archaeological resources. We are embarrassed that that
31 actually did happen. We have actually worked in the
32 interim years to come up with a restoration plan. The
33 Park has restored that area in coordination with the
34 Council of Katmai descendants and other tribal entities
35 that have expressed an interest in participating in our
36 planning efforts. We did that work this summer. Took us
37 a couple of weeks. We did it in a manner that was
38 consistent with what we had negotiated with our tribal
39 partners. Lots of hand tools. It was a heavy and
40 difficult project, but it was appropriate to do it the
41 way that it was done. Took us a couple of weeks to get
42 that work done, but thankfully we are to a point now
43 where that work is leading to a restoration of that site
44 and we hope to have it restored and also continue the
45 conversation around other interpretive opportunities
46 that it has generated as we go forward. So, I just
47 thought it was important that we share that that
48 restoration work was completed this past summer. And
49 then I would turn it over to Jenya to add a few more
50 updates for work that her program has ongoing, and then

1 we can turn it over for questions.

2

3 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Thank you so much,
4 Mark. Can you guys hear me? Is the sound coming through?

5

6 MR. STURM: Yes, we can.

7

8 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Thank you. First of
9 all, I want to follow up on what Mark said about removing
10 unplanned road. And I would like to add to that, that
11 we had a very good partnership with Council of Katmai
12 descendants on this project, and consulted on all
13 aspects of that, had memorandum of agreement signed with
14 them. And through Katmai -- Council of Katmai
15 descendants, we had a tribal monitor Margie McCauley-
16 White, who was with us for the whole length of our
17 fieldwork and was really instrumental in making this
18 project done and done, what I think well. I'd like to
19 highlight a few partnerships, which we entered this 2024
20 fiscal year. We in partnership with Bristol Bay, a Native
21 corporation working on documenting Katmai National Park
22 indigenous place names. This is a project which will run
23 through 2024, 2025 and 2026. And the goals for this
24 project are to aid protection and preservation of our
25 cultural landscape and ancestral sites by learning and
26 documenting the indigenous place names, specifically in
27 Alagnak Wild and Sinuk River and Brooks Camp region. We
28 are also planning to share this information with wild
29 audiences [sic] and to promote the use of indigenous
30 place names in our park documents and maps and in our
31 interpretive materials. And we also hoping to foster
32 lasting intergenerational and cross-agency stewardship
33 and -- of this information and also strengthen our
34 connection to our communities and our tribes.

35

36 We had a really exciting partnership in
37 summer, in June of 2024. We worked with BBNF on creating
38 a culture camp. It was kind of a two-step dance we had
39 outreach to Perryville for several days and then brought
40 a group of campers to Brooks Camp and the goal for this
41 visit in Brooks Camp was to introduce our young tribal
42 members to what Park is doing. What kind of exciting
43 projects and future internships and job opportunities
44 are out here. We are also in partnership with BBNA on
45 project which is focused on documenting and rehousing
46 of Aniakchak Bay archaeological collection, which was
47 excavated a while ago from Aniakchak Bay in Aniakchak
48 monument. And we are now ready to revisit it recatalog
49 and rehouse. And we're hoping to have interest from the
50 region, we have a museum technician position which will

1 be stationed in Anchorage. It is paying \$22 an hour and
2 we're hoping to get people from the communities
3 interested in that. It does require some specialized
4 knowledge, but we're willing and happy to teach people
5 if we have that community interest. And you can reach
6 out to me, Mark or Mallory, with more -- for more
7 information. We also plan to have a special elder-youth
8 visit to Anchorage, again from communities affiliated
9 with Aniakchak Monument, to look at that same Aniakchak
10 Bay collection and to share traditional knowledge about
11 the landscape, the use of the landscape, the subsistence
12 and traditional way of life. So, we are planning to
13 bring six elders and youth, and all travel costs and
14 honoraria will be covered.

15
16 Also, this 2025-2026 fiscal year we are
17 hoping to wrap up and publish a traditional plants and
18 medicine language and traditional knowledge kit. This
19 is a combination of indigenous languages, traditional
20 knowledge, knowledge about medicinal plants and
21 educational materials. So, it's a plant cards and
22 curriculum which goes with it. It was designed and
23 developed in partnership with the community of Igiugig
24 and is solidly based on extensive knowledge of
25 (indiscernible). So, I'm really excited and we're
26 looking forward to seeing this project completed and
27 this is what I have for our cultural resource updates,
28 and I will be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you
31 very much. I'm told Walter has his hand up. We're still
32 without internet here so, I can't see. But Walter Kanuli
33 did you have a question?

34
35 (No response)

36
37 Do you need to unmute?

38
39 MS. HONIG: Oh, Mr. Chair, it looks --
40 oh, never mind.

41
42 MR. KANULI: The -- I'm sorry. That
43 Aniakchak volcano, I remember stories when the elders,
44 you know, well before them, I don't know where, but it
45 was before them. Where it didn't -- it didn't go summer.
46 Would that -- I mean, would that be like an explanation?
47 I mean, for the stories, maybe. I'm just curious.

48
49 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Well, so this is
50 Jenya. We would very much like to talk to you and learn

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1 all the stories you have for us. I wonder what's the
2 best way to connect with you. Maybe somebody can drop a
3 number for me. I would love to talk to you more about
4 this. Thank you so much for your comment.

5

6

UNIDENTIFIED: 4932457.

7

8 MR. STURM: Yeah. That's correct. We just
9 gathered your number there, Walter. Jenya will be in
10 touch. Thank you for your interest.

11

12

13

MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Very much
appreciated.

14

15

16

17

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Any
other questions or comments for Jenya or for Mark?

18

19

20

21

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
Richard.

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MR. WILSON: Yeah, I really appreciate
it, Mark and staff. And it's exciting to see that we
have Mallory on board and others there. It's good to see
those positions being filled here and kind of excited
to see what is going to come of some of those as far as
you guys' work goes. And thank you so much for all the
hard work you guys are doing. Trying to get that that
isolated caribou herd up at Kukaklek there, usable for
the communities around there and in the Preserve. And
just wanted to comment here on the some of the meetings
that, you know, the Park is having with the tribe there.
The -- what's it called? The Katmai descendant tribe. I
know occasionally you guys meet with them. I wonder if,
you know, because there's a lot of other families that
were involved in Katmai prior to all that, that are
also, would probably like to hear about some of the
things going on. So, if they were able to perhaps post
meeting dates and if somebody, some of the other tribes
wanted to sit in on it. Is that possible?

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. STURM: Richard. Through the Chair.
Mark Sturm, Superintendent Katmai, I guess that
absolutely we are willing to have conversations around
with any of our tribal partners about topics that we're
working on or topics that they would like to bring
forward. And I guess I can certainly follow up with you
or whoever you would recommend. We directly connect with
to give you that opportunity and others perhaps in

1 Naknek, but we are actually trying to step up our level
2 of consistent and, you know, predictable communication
3 with our tribes. That's why Mallory has been brought
4 into the position she has. And I think she will be a
5 single point of contact for these kinds of things so,
6 that we could easily set those types of meetings up and
7 have those conversations.

8
9 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thanks,
10 Mark. Yeah. I'm -- it's -- got a smile going on my face
11 here. Things are -- you guys are doing some great things
12 there. So, appreciate it all. And all the help that you
13 have on board there.

14
15 MR. STURM: Through the Chair, if I may.
16 I just appreciate those comments. We are working hard.
17 I'm glad that it's recognized. I will say, just on a
18 personal level I've been here in Alaska eight years, and
19 it is definitely an interesting place to work and live.
20 And just given the topics that this Council is dealing
21 with it's a very interesting time to be here. And we're
22 just trying to be the best partner we can with all of
23 our partners.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Having said that, don't go
26 away right away. Okay. Stick around. Yeah,

27
28 MR. STURM: I appreciate that.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, they
31 finally got you trained, Mark. Thank you.

32
33 MR. STURM: They probably do.

34
35 (Simultaneous speech)

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Good to hear
38 congenial and upbeat messages. I remember too many
39 meetings where they weren't and I'm pretty excited to
40 see that that Kukaklek caribou issue seems to be moving
41 ahead fairly steadily. And does this mean to that ORB
42 issue that was a pretty smoking hot issue a long time
43 ago, will that kind of be hopefully resolved as part of
44 a consequence of the caribou hunt, Mark?

45
46 MR. STURM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think
47 ultimately the answer is yes, but it's going to take
48 time establishing a trail system that is -- something
49 that is reasonable and conserves the resources that both
50 communities and the Park Service are wanting to

1 accomplish isn't necessarily a -- isn't necessarily an
2 easy task, but it is. It is a necessary task for us to
3 support, and it will take some time. And both communities
4 have expressed an interest in working with us. And it -
5 - as I mentioned, it might take us a couple of years to
6 get to where we actually have that system kind of
7 identified and actually where we do have some work to
8 do to make sure it's a properly constructed to get that
9 work done. It's going to take us a little while. First
10 things first, we're talking about where that access
11 needs to be. And trying to make sure we have the feedback
12 from those communities foremost as we make those
13 decisions.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
16 you. Does anybody else have any questions or comments?
17 Council? Rob?

18
19 (No response)

20
21 Okay one last thing that's still of
22 interest to me. Are we making any progress, or are you
23 on the Pike Ridge resolution?

24
25 MR. STURM: I appreciate the question,
26 Mr. Chairman. So, the Pike Ridge -- I guess there is a
27 proposed legislative proposal that has been before
28 Congress for the last four years. It's unlikely that
29 Congress is going to act upon that again. My hope and
30 expectation would be that the Park Service continues to
31 support a legislative proposal that would establish a -
32 - an area within the western expansion lands of Katmai
33 National Park to be eligible for subsistence, which
34 would address the underlying subsistence resource access
35 issues that that do play out in the western portions of
36 the Park. I might also add that it would also establish
37 a -- an area along the Naknek River where National Park
38 Service administered lands are also eligible for
39 subsistence. We are hoping -- we are hopeful that perhaps
40 the next Congress might be interested. If not, at some
41 point we will have to decide this isn't going to work
42 and do something else. There is the possibility under a
43 -- an authority that that is in ANILCA that we could
44 convert a certain area not to exceed 23,000 acres to --
45 from currently Park lands, to Preserve lands. The area
46 in question is more along the lines of 60 to 70,000
47 acres. So, it doesn't get us all the way there. It would
48 continue to have some issues that would play out if we
49 took advantage of that authority. Our preference, and I
50 think for reasonable reasons, would be to ask Congress

1 to allow subsistence use in this area of the Park and
2 then to work with the communities to manage that
3 subsistence use. It's a long way to answer your to answer
4 your question right now, it is in the hands of Congress,
5 and they have not so far acted upon it.

6

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.
9 Interesting, like I've said before, I think that my very
10 first meeting, I think it was a fish and game meeting
11 in Naknek, the Pike Ridge issue and that was like 37,
12 38 years ago.

12

13

MR. STURM: It's been a long time.

14

15

(Simultaneous speech)

16

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: So, when the
19 Park Service says it takes time, they're serious. It's
20 good to hear progress on that inadvertent road in Brooks.
21 Okay. Thank you, Mark. That's helpful. And I'm glad Troy
22 is still around to share his wisdom and welcome to
23 Mallory. At this time well, let's see, there's one other
24 wildlife rule update. What's the pleasure of the
25 Council? Do you want to take a lunch break or get a
26 couple more items done over? Can we do the National Park
27 Service wildlife rule and get that out of the way? Is
28 it Peter Christian, the one that'll do that?

28

29

(Simultaneous speech)

30

31

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chair -- Oh, sorry.

32

33

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Hello?

34

35

36 MR. PATTERSON: I didn't mean to -- I
37 didn't mean to jump in. Mr. Chair, this is Dillon
38 Patterson with the National Park Service regional
39 office, and I am on call to give that update for you,
40 And I can do it right now and try to be very brief, or
41 I can do it after lunch, whatever you prefer.

41

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Let's do it
44 now. We can do it then -- and then go from there, okay?

44

45

46 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, sir. That sounds
47 good to me. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. Members of the
48 Council. For the record, this is Dillon Patterson with
49 the National Park Service regional office subsistence
50 team. So, I just want to provide a short update on the
NPS wildlife rule that became effective on August 2nd

1 of this year. You can find the corresponding news release
2 for this on page 181, I believe, of your meeting packet.

3
4 The National Park Service amended its
5 regulations for sport hunting and trapping and national
6 preserves in Alaska through this rule. So, the harvest
7 practices addressed in this final rule are specific to
8 harvest on National Park lands only or -- sorry, National
9 Preserve lands only. And to harvest under the
10 authorization for sport hunting and trapping in ANILCA.
11 So, the public was invited to comment on the draft EA
12 and the proposed rule that was published on January 9th,
13 2023, over the past two years. Park Service staff
14 presented on the draft Wildlife Rule at all NPS
15 Subsistence Resource Commissions, as well as NPS Nexus,
16 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings
17 and solicited your feedback. All comments were reviewed
18 and inform this final decision. So, the 2024 Final
19 Wildlife Rule explicitly addressed two topics on
20 National Preserve lands in Alaska. First, it prohibits
21 bear baiting for sport hunters on National Preserve
22 lands. And second, it clarifies how a firearm can be
23 used in conjunction with trapping.

24
25 So, bear baiting is prohibited under
26 State sport hunting regulations on National Preserve
27 lands for public safety reasons. The concerns are both
28 immediate relative to bears defending a bait station and
29 more long term relative to food conditioning. Bait that
30 hunters typically use to attract bears includes
31 processed foods like bread, pastries, dog food, and
32 bacon grease. This rule will lower the probability of
33 people encountering a bait station where bears may
34 attack to defend food source. Further, this rule will
35 lower the risk that bears will associate food at bait
36 stations with humans and become conditioned to eating
37 human produced foods, thereby creating a public safety
38 concern. This -- the trapping portion of the rule applies
39 both to those trapping under State regulations and
40 National Preserves and a federally qualified subsistence
41 users trapping in National Preserves, as well as in
42 National Parks and Monuments open to subsistence.

43
44 However, does it change regulations? It
45 simply clarifies existing regulations that individuals
46 may harvest a furbearer with a firearm under a trapping
47 license only if the furbearer is either ensnared in an
48 intact trap, ensnared in a trap that is no longer
49 anchored. So, for example, dragging a trap that has
50 become unanchored or is mortally wounded by a trap, but

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1 the animal has broken free from that trap. So, free-
2 ranging furbearers may not be harvested with a firearm
3 under a state trapping license on NPS managed land.
4 Rather, an open hunting season and hunting license would
5 be required and that's all I've got. So, thank you for
6 your time, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

7

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Anybody
9 have questions? I managed to get back on Teams here.

10

11 (No response)

12

13 Well, I hear no questions. I think I'm
14 hearing a vote for lunch. Oh, we're muted. Sorry folks,
15 we've finally got back on Teams. Now we're getting quite
16 an echo, but I want to thank Dillon for that. Are there
17 any questions?

18

19 MS. HOSETH: Dan, I think you might want
20 to hang up your phone.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, we
23 thought we could just mute it and turn it down. But how
24 is it now?

25

26 MS. HOSETH: Very good.

27

28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
29 you. Was there any questions or any additional comments?

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 Okay. Thanks to Dillon for that. That
34 issue actually kind of percolates now and then more with,
35 I think, State agencies. So, it's good to know where
36 they are now. We have some stuff left to do. But what
37 do folks think, how about taking a lunch break? Or do
38 you want to keep plowing along? Did we lose our volume
39 here?

40

41 MR. TREFON: How long will it take to get
42 this house cleaned? Looks like all house cleaning to me.

43

44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Seems a lot
45 of this is Leigh's duties. Maybe she can give us an
46 idea.

47

48 MS. HONIG: Yeah. Mr. Chair, you know, I
49 would anticipate it would take 20 to 30 minutes to get
50 through the rest of the agenda items. I think the longest

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1 thing that might take is the declining balance card
2 discussion.

3

4 MR. TREFON: If that's the case, I'd say
5 we just plow on.....

6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: What's the
8 pleasure of the Council?

9

10 MR. TREFON: Billy. For 30 minutes, I'd
11 say we just I just.....

12

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Walter.....

14

15 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah, Just plow along.
16 By the way, through the Chair. I just joined in. Kenneth.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah,
19 Kenneth? Oh, okay. And somebody would be kind of walking
20 on each other. Somebody else spoke in?

21

22 MR. TREFON: Billy here, I would just
23 also comment. Yeah, if it certainly take 30 minutes, I
24 would suggest we just plow on through and get it over
25 with.

26

27 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Sounds good
28 to me. Last chance to object, but yeah. Let's.....

29

30

31 MS. HONIG: Oh, yeah, Mr. Chair, sorry
32 to interrupt.....

33

34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Im hearing
35 no complaints. So, next...

36

37 MS. HONIG: Sorry, Mr. Chair. Can you
38 hear me?

39

40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
41 yes.

42

43 MS. HONIG: I just wanted to remind the
44 council if they wanted to -- there were the Board of
45 Game proposals. If that wanted to be circled back to,
46 so.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Right. I
49 hadn't forgotten so. But good to remind. Well, not
50 hearing any strong objections. I guess next is Office

1 of Subsistence Management.

2

3 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Mr. Chair, members of
4 the Council. My name is Justin Koller. I'm acting
5 regulation. Specialist for the Office of Subsistence
6 Management. What I have to present is just several
7 updates. It shouldn't take more than 6 or 8 minutes to
8 do, and then I can take questions after. So, on behalf
9 of OSM, first, I want to thank you for your service and
10 exceptional work that you do on behalf of your
11 communities. We value your expertise and volunteer
12 contribution of your knowledge, experience and time to
13 this regulatory process. We're really looking forward
14 to being with you in person and Dillingham, and we wish
15 the weather would have cooperated for us. So, I'm sorry
16 that we're not there with you.

17

18 The first update I have is on the OSM
19 administrative move at the request of many stakeholders,
20 made during listening sessions and tribal consultations
21 across the State. Congress has moved OSM from the U.S.
22 Fish and Wildlife Service directly to the Office of the
23 Assistant Secretary for the Interior for Policy,
24 Management and Budget. The move became effective July
25 15th. This move is one of many efforts that the
26 Department of Interior is making to strengthen Federal
27 subsistence policies and structure, to ensure that
28 federally qualified subsistence users and Alaska Native
29 peoples have an opportunity for meaningful engagement
30 in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. OSM
31 responsibilities and support to the Federal Subsistence
32 Board and Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils remain
33 the same following this move to the office of the
34 Secretary. The Federal Subsistence Management Program's
35 operations continue seamlessly, and this regulatory
36 cycle is ongoing without interruption. If you need to
37 reach out to OSM staff, we now have new email addresses
38 that have been updated on our website. Our main contact
39 phone number remains the same (907) 786-3888 and our
40 main email address is subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

41

42 So, moving on to the next update is on
43 the wildlife final rule. The final rule for the federal
44 Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of
45 Wildlife for the regulatory years 2024 to 2026 have been
46 published in the Federal Register and went into effect
47 on August 29th. The regulations book is available online
48 at the program website, or hard copies can be mailed to
49 you upon request so, please contact us through our
50 contact information on our website or contact your

1 Council Coordinator to get in touch with us and request
2 those copies. Next is an update on the regulations
3 regarding the Federal Subsistence Board composition. So,
4 based on requests during joint consultations, the
5 departments of the Interior and Agriculture have revised
6 regulations concerning the composition of the Federal
7 Subsistence Board. In the proposed rule, the departments
8 proposed to add three public members to the Board. These
9 members would be nominated or recommended by federally
10 recognized tribal governments in Alaska and would be
11 required to possess personal knowledge of and direct
12 experience with subsistence uses in rural Alaska, and
13 that includes Alaska Native subsistence uses. The
14 proposed rule also defined requirements used to select
15 the Board Chair and affirmed both the Secretary's
16 authority to replace Board members and the Secretary's
17 responsibility and oversight regarding Board decisions.
18 The final rule, published in the Federal Register on
19 October 17th and will become effective on November 18th.
20 Tribes are welcome to nominate or recommend public Board
21 members for these new three seats. Please direct any
22 questions or nominations or recommendations to Raina
23 Thiele or Sara Taylor, and you can reach out to your
24 contact or excuse me, to your Coordinator for Raina or
25 Sara's contact information, but Raina's email address
26 is r, a, i, n, a, _ t, h, i, e, l, e @ios.doi.gov. Sara
27 Taylor is Sara -- s, a, r, a, _ t, a, y, l, o, r also @
28 ios.doi.gov.

29
30 Next, I have an update on WP 24-01,
31 which is a proposal to sell the hides of brown bears at
32 its public meeting on April 3rd. The board deferred
33 action on Wildlife proposal WP24-01. The board's
34 justification for deferring the proposal was twofold.
35 One, they wanted to allow more time or -- time for to
36 explore options for federally qualified subsistence user
37 to obtain a permit from a Federal agency allowing the
38 sale of the hide. And number two, to potentially
39 establish a work group with the Alaska Department of
40 Fish and Game concerning the use of its permit to sell
41 a brown grizzly bear hide and/or skull. Our update is
42 that ADF&G is not able to permit the sale of brown bears
43 on behalf of the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
44 If the proposal is passed as submitted as discussed by
45 the Board. In other words, the Alaska Department of Fish
46 and Game cannot permit the sale of brown bear hides
47 taken in units with a one brown bear limit. OSM is
48 therefore exploring opportunities for federally
49 qualified subsistence users to instead obtain a permit
50 from a Federal agency. And we plan to update the board

1 on this possible option at the Fisheries Regulatory
2 Meeting in February 2025.

3
4 Next up, I -- update I have is on OSM
5 staffing. This summer we welcomed our new Acting
6 Director, Crystal Ciisquq Leonetti. She will be in this
7 acting role until the end of November. In her permanent
8 position, Crystal's Alaska Native Affairs Specialist at
9 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Among regular OSM
10 director's responsibilities, Crystal has been leading
11 OSM through its administrative move into the Office of
12 the Assistant secretary, and she's doing a real
13 wonderful job. OSM's director position was advertised
14 on September 5th and closed on the 2nd of October. So,
15 we'll look forward to welcoming a new director here soon.
16 OSM also had some staff departures. Theo Matuskowitz,
17 OSM regulatory specialist, retired in July after over
18 20 years of service. We'll greatly miss his in-depth
19 knowledge of our regulations and the advice he's
20 provided to the program over the years. I've been acting
21 as regulatory special in the interim, and my main focus
22 is ensuring that these OSM final and proposed rules and
23 meeting announcements, etc. are seamlessly moving
24 through the approval and Federal Register publication
25 process. The permit position is currently being
26 advertised on USA jobs website right now. Kayla
27 McKinney, the OSM Subsistence Outreach Coordinator left
28 OSM due to a move out of State. Your Council Coordinator,
29 Leigh Honig and Administrative Assistant Sherri Gould-
30 Fehrs are doing a real outstanding job covering some of
31 the position's duties in the interim while we fill it.
32 But -- and they're also performing their regular duties
33 as well. So, we're really a great greatly appreciate
34 their help with the outreach coordinator duties. The
35 vacant positions of Subsistence Outreach Coordinator and
36 the Records Management Specialist will be advertised
37 soon. And we encourage those with diverse outreach and
38 record -- or records management skills and interest in
39 working with the subsistence issues in rural communities
40 to apply to those positions. In August, we were also sad
41 to learn about the departure of OSM Deputy Director Amy
42 Howard. She left the Federal service for a new job with
43 the Aleut Corporation as the Director of Lands and
44 Natural Resources. Her last day with OSM was August 30th
45 and while we congratulated Amy on our her job, will be
46 sorely missing her outstanding support for the entire
47 OSM team. Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division
48 Supervisor has served as Acting Deputy Director for the
49 last two months and Brent Vickers, Anthropology Division
50 Supervisor, will serve in that acting Deputy Director

1 role for the following two months here. And a new deputy
2 director will be hired after the new director is on
3 board. So, lots of staff movement in OSM.

4
5 My second to last update concerns
6 litigation. A detailed litigation update was provided
7 to the Councils at the March 2024 All Council meeting.
8 Since then, in the Kake Emergency Hunt matter, that's
9 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game versus Federal
10 Subsistence Board. There's a briefing now in progress
11 before the Ninth Circuit Court. In the Kuskokwim matter,
12 the U.S. versus the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
13 The district court found in favor of the U.S. on all
14 claims and enjoined the State from taking any further
15 actions in violation of Title 8 on the Kuskokwim River.
16 The state has appealed, and a briefing has just recently
17 commenced before the Ninth Circuit Court.

18
19 The last item I have for you is an update
20 on counsel correspondence. The Secretary's office is
21 reviewing the Councils letters that were forwarded by
22 the Board. The letters cover a real broad array of
23 issues, such as financial compensation for council
24 members, salmon fisheries, transboundary mining, among
25 many others. Some of the issues are pretty
26 straightforward and will be resolved more quickly, while
27 others are more complicated and will just take a little
28 bit more time to address. Some cover multiple regions,
29 others are specific to 1 or 2 regions. So, it's just a
30 -- the time it takes to work through these issues is
31 just going to be commensurate with the complexity and
32 the area in which they cover. The Secretary and her team
33 are working on responses to these letters and the next
34 steps forward for these issues. As the issues are
35 resolved, the Secretary or her staff will provide
36 responses to the Councils, including next steps forward,
37 wherever appropriate. The Secretary thanks the Councils
38 for their diligence and thoughtfulness in discussing
39 these issues and continuing to elevate them to the
40 Secretary's level. With the elevation of OSM within the
41 -- excuse me, with the elevation of OSM within the
42 Assistant Secretary's Office, the Secretary looks
43 forward to continuing engagement on these and other
44 issues affecting subsistence uses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Are there any questions from the Council?

46
47 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank
48 you very much. Council, any questions?

49
50 (No response)

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I have one. There was a court decision. Maybe at the Supreme Court level. Was it last spring or early summer? It was called the Chevron decision. And I've been hearing, or I did hear at some point that it could have massive repercussions in a lot of Federal regulation making. And do you have any insights on how that might affect the subsistence program? Over.

MR. KHOLER: That's an excellent question, Mr. Chair. Especially a good question for our Solicitor's Office. I know they like to comment on court matters affecting our program. The only thing I can really offer is that it, you know, it may lead to more work for our Solicitors and moving issues through the courts. But our program is going to continue to move ahead.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. I suppose it'd be nice and maybe if anything significant comes, I would assume you'd be notifying us at another meeting. Is that correct?

MR. KHOLER: Yeah, that's right, Mr. Chair. If anything significant comes up, our Solicitors will offer an update and we'll make sure all the Councils are updated. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you. Its that when somebody mentioned that, I kind of really startled me just how dramatic could that be. So, thank you very much. Any more questions, Council members?

(No response)

Okay. Thank you again. Well, a lot of turnover, but I'm glad that the transfer over to the new -- being under the -- directly under the Assistant Secretary. I'm glad it's going smoothly. I had wondered how that would go, so. Okay, I guess we're on to other business, 14. I'll turn it over to you, Leigh.

MS. HONIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Leigh Honig, for the record. So, to begin with, we have the 805C report. This is found on page 182 of your meeting book, and that has the letter and the report. So, briefly, the Council provided a total of ten recommendations on wildlife proposals, enclosure reviews. The Board acted on five proposals that were consistent with the Council's recommendation, and the

1 Board differed from the Council's recommendation on the
2 last five proposals. On page 185, the report goes into
3 detail on how the Board's actions differed from the
4 Council's, and briefly, those differences were proposal
5 WP24-12, 13 and 14, which sought to extend the moose
6 season in Unit 9B. The Council recommended opening the
7 season five days earlier, from August 27th to September,
8 making the season August 20th 7th to September 20th, and
9 the Board adopted WP2412, which extended the moose
10 season by a total of ten days. Five days were added at
11 the beginning and at the end of the season. WP24-18,
12 which sought to expand the hunt area for the Nushagak
13 Peninsula Caribou Herd, the Council was in support of
14 this proposal. However, the Board adopted the proposal
15 with modification to further expand the hunt area as
16 recommended by Bristol Bay tribes. The delegation of
17 authority letter was also modified to reflect the new
18 hunt area boundary and authority to set harvest areas.
19 And lastly, WP24-01, which sought to allow the sale of
20 brown bear hides statewide. The Council voted in support
21 of this proposal. However, the Board deferred the
22 proposal to the summer work session, which was held
23 August 4th. Information is still being gathered
24 regarding this proposal, and if you're interested in
25 reading the Board's justification on any action that
26 differed from the Council's that can be found in the
27 report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
30 Any comments? Questions? Council. Okay. Leigh, I guess
31 -- let's go on to B.

32
33 MS. HONIG: Okay. So, I don't have any
34 materials for this agenda item, but I did -- wanted to
35 notify the Council that there will be a call for
36 applications for Council members. The call should be
37 coming out here relatively soon. I can send out
38 applications and once that application period is open,
39 we will be doing outreach. If anybody is interested in
40 applying, they can send me their application. I can hold
41 on to it until that period officially opens as well. So,
42 we are working to make this process more efficient. And
43 our recent move to the Department of the Interior has
44 given us an opportunity to re-evaluate some of the
45 processes. And if folks are interested -- let's see here.
46 Oh, sorry. I just lost my spot. Okay so, the Council
47 does have three members whose terms are coming up for
48 renewal, and I'll send out those incumbent applications.
49 And once again, I'll notify the Council and regional
50 contacts when that application period officially opens.

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1 And that's all I have for this one, Mr. Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
4 you. I'd like to point out, too, to everybody listening
5 that what we're missing, we don't -- we have two empty
6 seats. Also, are those going to be open for recruitment?

7

8 MS. HONIG: I believe those will be
9 filled with last year's applications and hopefully that
10 will be announced this winter.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Good,
13 good. So -- but sometimes we have trouble filling all
14 the seats. So, for everybody listening, encourage folks
15 with interest and time and willingness to participate
16 to apply. Thank you. Any other comments?

17

18 MR. TREFON: Billy here. Hi, yeah. I
19 mean.....

20

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
22 Billy.

23

24 MR. TREFON:been trying. Yeah. I've
25 been trying to recruit people to get involved with
26 subsistence in my area since I got on. But once I start
27 talking about the per diem and what they get compensated
28 for, that seems to be a royal turnoff. I mean, that's
29 where it falls short. That's an observation.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
32 you, Billy. I did see that the whole compensation issue
33 is very, very prominent meeting minutes. So, hopefully
34 the message is getting sent up the pole because I --
35 yeah, I sympathize with you and other folks in situation
36 where it just makes it awful difficult to participate
37 no matter how much they want to. So.....

38

39 MR. TREFON: It makes it extreme.....

40

41 (Simultaneous speech)

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Anybody
44 else?

45

46 MR. TREFON: I'm good.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Okay,
49 then let's go to number C, correspondence update.

50

1 MS. HONIG: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 So, there's a lot of correspondence in your meeting
3 materials. On page 188 is where that begins from -- and
4 that's the correspondence from the previous year. So,
5 as a reminder, the Council wrote three letters during
6 the All Council meeting in March, the Council signed on
7 to the joint letter to the Board regarding concerns over
8 bycatch and the joint letter to the Board requesting
9 Council member compensation. The Council also submitted
10 comments on the proposed rule on the Federal Subsistence
11 Board membership. So, the two joint letters, they have
12 been forwarded on to the Secretaries and what kind of
13 made that meeting book so thick was -- I did include
14 this -- these two topics have been in particular have
15 been on a number of Councils' radars as well. So, they've
16 either -- written letters themselves as Council. So,
17 I've provided those for information. And those were also
18 sent on to the Secretaries. So, we are still awaiting
19 response back on the two letters that this Council
20 specifically signed on to from the Secretaries. And then
21 as a reminder, the additional three tribal seats on the
22 Board was.....

23
24 (Simultaneous speech)

25
26 Go ahead. Sorry.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: No, go
29 ahead.

30
31 MS. HONIG: Okay. It was just a reminder
32 that the tribal seats -- that final rule did recently
33 come out, and they are recruiting to fill those seats
34 on the Board. Thank you.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, thank
37 you. That -- I started kind of going through this and I
38 got a little bit confused. That was pretty late at night,
39 and I was trying to go fast. So, I appreciate the
40 explanation. Any comments or questions from the Council?

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Hearing none, I guess we'll go to D. You
45 said this was the biggie.

46
47 MS. HONIG: Hopefully not too big. Just
48 the biggest for this section, but okay so, to begin.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Declining
2 balance.

3
4 MS. HONIG: Yes. So, the declining
5 balance cards. So, OSM is considering ways to make the
6 way we process Council member travel more efficient and
7 user friendly. And so, this agenda topic I'm hoping to
8 get feedback from the Council on your thoughts on this
9 new process we may undertake. So, currently Council
10 members receive about 60% of their estimated total per
11 diem in the form of a check at the start of each meeting
12 and this is called a travel advance. The remainder of
13 the per diem is mailed to you in a second check once
14 travel vouchers are processed after the meeting. Rather
15 than continuing to issue and mail checks, we are
16 considering switching to declining balance cards. So,
17 they're like debit cards, and they would be loaded with
18 these funds for you to use for meals and incidental
19 expenses during Council meetings instead of having to
20 deposit or cash a paper check. If OSM proceeds to use
21 the declining balance charge, each Council member would
22 be issued a card that will be their responsibility to
23 keep safe and bring to each meeting. If the card is
24 lost, it can be replaced but may take several days to
25 get a new one in the mail. Of course. Council members
26 would be able to use their card while in travel status
27 or to withdraw cash from an ATM. Your Coordinator would
28 be able to tell you how much per diem has been deposited
29 to the card, and the card can be used to pay for expenses
30 such as meals, taxi fares, groceries, etc. Taxi and
31 parking receipts would still need to be turned into the
32 Council Coordinator. OSM will continue to book flights
33 and lodging, and Council members would use their
34 declining balance cards when they check in to the hotel
35 or other accommodations. The remaining per diem owed to
36 Council members after the meeting would be direct
37 deposited into your bank account. Any ATM fees would be
38 reimbursed as part of this direct deposit, as well as
39 any unused portion of the travel advanced funds on the
40 card. The card will be turned off between meetings so
41 it cannot accidentally be used. If OSM decides to proceed
42 with this declining balance card in order to set
43 everybody up, we would require Council members to submit
44 forms to us that contain personal identifiable
45 information such as your date of birth and banking
46 information. Please know that we respect your privacy,
47 and this information will be confidential. So, the
48 declining balance cards are a potential way and new tool
49 to be used, but no final decision has been made yet, and
50 we're hopeful that they could help reduce the

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1 administrative burden that comes with processing travel
2 for over 100 Council members twice a year and help you
3 receive your per diem payment more quickly. To help us
4 evaluate this potential change, we'd like to hear your
5 feedback and any questions I can try to answer them. And
6 we're taking this to all Councils during this meeting
7 cycle to receive that feedback before we make any final
8 determinations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you.
11 I'm wondering how people are hearing the -- she's kind
12 of cutting in and out. Well, to us here at Togiak Refuge.
13 Did everybody hear well enough? I think I got the gist,
14 but how about everybody else?

15

16 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Richard here.
17 Dan, can you hear me? Richard.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Yeah. No, that sounds like
22 a -- I mean, it sounds like an upgrade for from what's
23 been happening. I'm curious.

24

25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes. Go
26 ahead. Maybe it's our problem.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Oh. Can you still hear me?

29

30 MS. HONIG: I can hear you. Yeah.

31

32 MR. HILL: Okay, I'll just continue on
33 here. So, I'm curious, you know some of us -- I live in
34 the in the area right here and the meetings are generally
35 in Naknek or Dillingham. So, it's really not much of a
36 hassle for me to, you know, to move to Dillingham or of
37 course, when it's Naknek, it's a no brainer. But other
38 people that are on these outlying communities, how does
39 that -- do they get compensated for the -- their extra
40 travel and time spent away from home?

41

42
43 MS. HONIG: Through the Chair. Richard,
44 this is Leigh. Yes, they do get compensated as like, you
45 know, if there's additional lodging, we pay for that.
46 And then they would get per diem for those days that
47 they're in travel status.

48

49 MR. WILSON: Thank you. That was my
50 question. Is that kind of -- just so long as like Billy

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1 was saying, you know, it's some people don't want to get
2 involved because there's not, you know, it's rather
3 costly being away from a job or family and things. So,
4 I'm sure we're -- you'll hear some other comments,
5 probably from Council members, but thank you.

6

7 MS. HONIG: Thank you.

8

9 MR. TREFON: Thank you, Richard. Billy
10 here. Hello?

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm
13 eager to hear what Billy might think of this. Go ahead,
14 Billy.

15

16 MR. TREFON: Yeah. I mean, it sounds like
17 a really interesting, I mean, this this debit card thing
18 sounds like it's an interesting thing.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
21 Billy.

22

23 MR. TREFON: Hello?

24

25 MS. HONIG: I can hear you, Billy.

26

27 MR. TREFON: Hello? Oh, it must be his
28 phone, because I can hear everybody else very clearly.
29 But...

30

31 MS. HONIG: Yeah

32

33 MR. TREFON:yeah. It's not --
34 getting back to this debit card idea. It is a -- if you
35 look at the status of Alaska village incomes, I would
36 have to -- I mean, I'm under poverty like everybody
37 else. I live under poverty level and majority of the
38 villages live under poverty. That's why we fight for
39 subsistence so hard, and then try to find people that's
40 interested in going to these meetings. There are a
41 substantial amount of people that want to do this, but
42 it's -- financially, there's nothing they can do. I mean,
43 to tell you the truth, right now I am down here on \$237.
44 That's my per diem, my compensation for being here. It's
45 really nothing. It is nothing. Especially when the
46 hamburger cost \$25 here in Dillingham. But my question
47 was if the debit card shuts off after the meeting, in
48 between meetings, you're losing your per diem or you're
49 not going to get it. You couldn't cash it out. Would you
50 be able to take that per diem money from that debit card

1 and transfer it into your own account because sounds
2 like it doesn't roll over. You lose it if you don't use
3 it.

4

5 MS. HONIG: Through the Chair. Billy, you
6 know that is a good question. It's not entirely clear
7 to me. I don't -- Oh, Brooke, I see, has her hand raised,
8 so I'll let her answer that question.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, through the Chair.
11 Thank you, Billy, this is Brooke McDavid. For the record,
12 I'm currently Council Coordination Division Acting
13 Supervisor. So, my understanding is that you would have
14 that balance on your card for use during the meeting and
15 during travel. You could withdraw all of that at the ATM
16 if you just wanted cash. Cash out right then and there,
17 or like I said, this is my understanding and we could
18 get confirmation on this is that a few days after you're
19 done traveling, they'll kind of turn off the debit card,
20 whatever remaining balance is on there that you didn't
21 use of your travel advance that would get deposited into
22 your personal bank account, along with whatever
23 remaining per diem is owed to you after the meeting. I
24 hope that helps.

25

26 MR. TREFON: Oh, so in other words, more
27 paperwork to collect your money. Nothing simple. Just
28 got to keep a little more bureaucracy in it.

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: Well, it would be more
31 paperwork to set up to, you know, get your direct deposit
32 set up, but hopefully on the back end, it would mean you
33 wouldn't have to be waiting for a check to come in the
34 mail. You wouldn't have to be depositing a check. You
35 would just get an automatic direct deposit.

36

37 MR. TREFON: Speaking of direct deposit,
38 what is wrong with direct deposit going into our bank
39 accounts?

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Well, the reason we can't
42 direct deposit your per diem like before, and when you
43 travel for the meeting is because oftentimes travel
44 plans change as you're very well aware for this meeting.
45 And so, there's no way to recoup -- if they make a direct
46 deposit, there's no way to easily recoup that money if
47 travel gets canceled or changed like in this
48 circumstance. So, that's why you would get your travel
49 advance on your debit card. And that way if something
50 happened with change in plans, you wouldn't owe money

1 back to the federal government.

2

3 MR. TREFON: Okay. I actually do like the
4 debit card thing. I was just a little concerned about
5 getting it turned off and wondering where the money goes
6 after that, but I believe you answered that question.
7 For me, it's whatever's remaining goes right into your
8 account as a direct deposit or as a check?

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: As a direct deposit.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Okay. Because my biggest
13 concern, like I said, is getting more -- my concern
14 before was that like I was talking about before, about
15 getting other people interested in it comes down to per
16 diem and compensation. And if we could come up with
17 something where people would actually get compensated
18 for their time every day they're gone until they get
19 home. That might be a real good reason. I mean, people
20 will start going again because the concern and the
21 interest is there. It's just that, like I was saying
22 before, most people are -- in the villages are under
23 poverty level. So, so when you start talking about, oh,
24 I got \$200 for four days of work, they're going to ride
25 away without even question saying, nah, that's not even
26 worth my time.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: Through the Chair.

29

30 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you for that, Billy
33 and we are expecting some sort of update from the
34 Secretary's office. Now that we've moved on that
35 hopefully at your winter meetings, I know they've been
36 discussing that. And you know, it is definitely an issue
37 that's been raised by all the Councils. So, we're hoping
38 to see some movement there.

39

40 MR. TREFON: I appreciate it. Thank you
41 and I have nothing else.

42

43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Does
44 anybody else have comments on it? If you can hear me.

45

46 MS. HONIG: I can hear you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Can anybody
49 hear me talk? Okay, thank you. Okay. Yeah, I -- I've
50 kind of got mixed feelings. I have to think about it.

1 In some cases, I've been someplace at night and even if
2 I had a check, I couldn't do anything with it when I
3 might have needed to, and a card loaded could be handy.
4 In other cases, with sometimes people tagging on other
5 activities after a meeting somewhere, I wouldn't want
6 to see the access to the remainder to quickly go away.
7 And then I wonder, in some cases, how many people really
8 would -- they probably would be able to do a direct
9 deposit. But in some communities where there's no banks
10 and such I don't know if this would be easier or harder.
11 So, that's kind of my thoughts. I'm comfortable enough,
12 I can usually work around it anyway. But yeah, there's
13 people that deserve and want to be on that shouldn't be
14 discouraged by a lack of funds, okay.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair. Richard here.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Did you hear
19 that, Leigh?

20
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22
23 MS. HONIG: Yes, I did hear that.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
26 Richard.

27
28 MS. HONIG: I did hear that.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Okay. Richard here. Yeah,
31 just on the payout part. You know, you talked about a
32 card or cash or you know.....

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Richard,
35 can you hear me? Go ahead.

36
37 MR. WILSON:or check. You know, so
38 if you just gave them the option of whether...

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Richard
41 wanted to speak.

42
43 MR. WILSON:on the card would
44 either be, you know direct deposit or a check. Like I
45 say, some people would prefer to have a check for the
46 remainder. So, if that was just left as an option, it'd
47 probably be good.

48
49 MS. HONIG: Okay. Thank you for that,
50 Richard.

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MR. WILSON: Dan, can you hear me?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yes, I can.
I don't know if you can hear me.

MR. WILSON: Oh, I got you now. Okay.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Maybe Leigh
can go between.

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. TREFON: Hey, it's not like it's
(indiscernible), because I can hear everybody.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
you. Other than that, anybody else?

MR. HILL: Sounds pretty cut and dry to
me...

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Maybe the
Federal computers were complaining we went through
lunch. Thank you.

MR. TREFON: Hello, Dan. It seemed like
your phone...

ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Yes?

MR. TREFON:is a delay or a glitch
in it. This is Billy here. It seems like it's your phone
that seems to have a delay in the glitch. Because I'm
hearing everybody very clearly and while they're
talking, you're talking over them.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, yeah.
Yeah it's the internet here at the -- we're on the
internet here doing Teams. So, I could try to see who's
got a hand up. And it's been cutting in and out. This
might be, I don't know, what does it mean? But how are
we doing now?

MS. HONIG: I can hear you. How's the
relay for you?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.....

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MS. HONIG: I think.....

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think that kind of hesitant to change anything that's so close to the end of the meeting.

MS. HONIG: Dan?

ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead.

MS. HONIG: I'm going to -- okay. Robert, would you like to go ahead? I'd like to hear your thoughts on it.

MR. HILL: Oh, I thought you got me earlier. I -- it sounds pretty cut and dry to me. It sounds like a pretty good system.

MS. HONIG: Okay. Wonderful. Thank you so much. I just want to make sure you didn't get cut off. Okay. Well, that's all I had for that agenda item. Let me text Dan here.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay, I see Leigh thinks we're pretty much wrapped up. The one thing we have closing comments and also, what's the pleasure of the Council, do we want to try to tackle anything about the Board of Game proposals, or do we want to let the State system run and we will deal with it later in our own process? Over.

MR. WILSON: Dan, Richard here.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: I don't think they're picking this up.

MR. TREFON: I heard you, Richard.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

MR. TREFON: Billy.

MR. WILSON: Yeah, I just, you know, I haven't had a chance to really absorb a lot of that or put any thought into it. So, I mean, we've heard a little bit from, you know, some of the agencies on it, but to act on it right now to me would be kind of premature. So, I'd like to wait if it's not going to be too late to chime in at our next meeting.

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MS. HONIG: Through the Chair. Mr. Wilson, the comment deadline is before the next meeting.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay.

MS. HONIG: So, if the Council did want to act on or -- if they did want to vote and submit any comments, that would have to be done at this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. WILSON: Yeah. It's too bad that that had to overlap like that. Didn't give us a chance to, you know -- the information didn't come early enough to for us to really work on some of them issues, but I guess I'm open to whatever the Council members there would want to do.

MR. TREFON: Billy here. Can you hear me?

MS. HONIG: I can hear you, Billy.

MR. HILL: Okay. Yeah. There was a little bit of talking about possibly having a meeting before the deadline. Is it possible that we could have a teleconference vote within the month or so or something like that? And we can act on it with about a month, month and a half instead of acting right now, instead of having eyeball to eyeball meeting and have a quick teleconference and just reviewing just this particular subject that we are trying to reflect on. It is a kind of fast right now.

MS. HONIG: Through the Chair. This is Leigh. Thank you, Billy. So, unfortunately, we wouldn't be able to schedule another meeting. This is a FACA committee. So, with that comes the responsibility that we'd have to have this published in the Federal Register because it is a public meeting. So, we would have to notice that meeting with enough time to make sure that the public had the opportunity to attend. So, scheduling additional meeting for the Board of Game proposals is not an option. There was one option that my supervisor said we could extend this meeting by one day via teleconference since it's already been publicly noticed. But to add on another meeting, unfortunately, is not possible.

MR. TREFON: Okay, well, then I guess this leaves us with stuck with what's going on until we

1 can take actions on our next meeting. Because if the
2 State's already got it in writing, there's not much we
3 could say than to act on it after it's all said and
4 done.

5
6 MS. HONIG: And as a reminder, the
7 Council -- there is the statewide Board of Game meeting
8 that's held in March. And so, they're -- Gayla had
9 mentioned earlier that there's a positioning proposal
10 on the statewide docket, and we could bring that one up
11 at the winter Council meeting. There would be enough
12 time to discuss that one and have the Council discuss
13 if they wanted to submit a comment.

14
15 MR. WILSON: Hey, Dan, are you getting
16 any of this?

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm
19 trying to text Leigh. I don't know if you can hear me.
20 Kind of letting her lead it because there's so much lag
21 for me. I'm busy tomorrow. Can you hear me on that?

22
23 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I got you, Dan. You're
24 busy tomorrow. So, just as a thought, I wonder -- I know
25 we got a few Council members that are absent right now.
26 Nanci Lyon, for one. It's too bad we don't have a full
27 Council, you know, to help discuss some of these issues
28 here. But if we if we chose to today, say, take a lunch
29 break and then come back with a list of proposals with
30 -- and one of the agencies can give us a little rundown
31 on the proposal, and we could possibly quickly go through
32 them if that's an option for everybody.

33
34 MS. HONIG: To get -- through the Chair.
35 Richard, this is Leigh. That was an option. I'm just
36 reading what was put into the chat too by Amy Vandervoort
37 from Fish and Game. She wanted to remind the Council
38 that there are local AC meetings that you can also attend
39 to voice your opinions for the Board of Game proposals,
40 and then to circle back, Richard, to your suggestion to
41 maybe coming back later at lunch. I can reach out to Amy
42 and John and see if they would be available. I don't
43 think they were prepared, really, to discuss the Board
44 of Game proposals in depth. I believe their analysis is
45 still in draft form, but I -- if that was the desire of
46 the Council, I could try to have agency staff help out
47 -- Fish and Game staff help out.

48
49 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Good shot there.
50 But I think we're all -- the Council members are kind

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1 of in the same boat as the agencies. You know, we really
2 weren't prepared to discuss Game, you know, at this time.
3 It just so happened that it's so close to the next Game
4 meeting that you know, it's almost necessary, but, yes,
5 I do believe our ACs will meet prior to that and I guess
6 as individuals or we can always bring those wishes before
7 our ACs. That would work also.

8
9 MR. NUKWAK: Through the chair. This.
10 Kenneth.

11
12 MS. HONIG: I can hear you, Kenneth.

13
14 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Leigh, before the AC's
15 meet, I'd like a draft of the proposals in front of me.
16 If those can be sent to the Council members.

17
18 MS. HONIG: Yes, sir. I will send those
19 out again.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Leigh, can
22 you hear me? Anybody?

23
24 MR. NUKWAK: Unless they're in the book
25 we have right now, you can tell me that they are in
26 here.

27
28 MS. HONIG: No, they were in supplemental
29 materials that I had printed that I was going to bring
30 to you. So, I'll email you a copy of it.

31
32 MR. NUKWAK: Okay.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay. Leigh
35 says you guys are -- she can hear me. I'm kind of
36 inclined to -- look a lot like Richard. And what Amy
37 suggested was to let the State process work. Some of
38 these take some real thought, and we're not prepared.
39 I'm not prepared, and we are highly concerned, but I
40 think the process would work out okay to work with the
41 ACs and the Board of Game for now. Individuals can write
42 letters, get involved in a variety of ways, and we'll
43 maybe look out further ahead. Come before the winter
44 meeting. Okay?

45
46 MR. NUKWAK: Sounds good, Dan.

47
48 MR. TREFON: Billy here. That's all.....

49
50 (Simultaneous speech)

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ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: How about the rest of the cast?

MR. TREFON: Yeah, Billy here. I agree with what you're saying. Let's just let it take its course and move on. I mean, we didn't have to notice to do anything so, I just say move on and closing comments.

MR. HILL: Yeah, Dan. Rob here.....

(Simultaneous speech)

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Billy. Anything else?

MR. HILL: Rob Hill, here. Sounds like our hands are pretty much tied on this. So, to make an informed opinion on it. So, yeah, I think just let the State take its course, I guess.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Okay I'm getting a sense there's a consensus to just do as what Rob just said. With that, I guess we'll set aside the Board of Game and open it to closing comments from our members. So, whoever wants to start first, go ahead.

MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson, here. I guess nobody has fired off first so, I'll just go ahead and say my little bit there. Thanks, Dan, for your help here in this meeting and hopefully the next one will have all Council members there and we can do it in person. That would be great. I think we -- it felt like we did justice, and the agencies have really appreciated the agencies there and their feedback and their reports. That's always a very important part of how we're built and how we can move on and how we can make decisions. It can't come unless we get some good data. So, I really appreciate that and appreciate all the monitoring that's going on and hopefully the ones that are really needed, we can keep funding so that we can get some good data from those. And it'd sure be nice if, you know, maybe how many meetings won't be so close to each other to where we can actually hash out some of these, you know, like the Game proposals now. It would have been kind of nice to be able to, you know, sit through some of that and hash them out. But we'll do that on the AC part of it. So, appreciate all you guys there and all the staff that's helping making all this happen. I appreciate it all. Thank you.

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UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Richard. Anybody else?

MR. TREFON: Billy here. Just want to say thank you for everybody participating. And I do appreciate getting here, even though things didn't work out as planned. And the meetings were very, very helpful for me and some of the decisions that are being made. And I do appreciate Lake Clark for always being there, giving us such great updates. And the only thing I'd like to see more involved is -- which I am actually seeing in my hometown is, the State is starting to show a little more interest and more actual participating. But it's the meetings and it's the proposals where I think the State and the feds need to start collaborating and working together so we can all be on the same page when, when things like this happen. Thank you. Appreciate it.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Billy. Rob.

MR. HILL: Yeah. I just want to say I appreciate being part of the RAC and being part of the meeting was informative. It was a little extra difficulty when we're all on teleconference. I understand that and look forward to seeing everybody face to face for the next one. And yeah, just appreciate all the information.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Rob. Kenneth.

MR. NUKWAK: Yes. I'd like to thank you and the Council Coordinator, Leigh. And that's a lot of hard work that you guys do. And also, the Council members for joining in. Amongst all the work that we have to do around the house chores and taking your time away from what you're supposed to do and working for the region here in Bristol Bay. And also, the BBNA and ADF&G and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and all the other agencies that I haven't mentioned. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Thank you, Kenneth. Yeah, I think Richard said it very well. All of you pretty much covered what I wanted to say. I want to say it's a been a pleasure to work with the Council

1 members. You all are very helpful and knowledgeable and
2 hats off to Leigh, juggling many things at once. And
3 I'll stop there. Is there anything more from that we
4 need to hear from you, Leigh.

5
6 MS. HONIG: Thank you Mr. Chair. Nothing
7 more for me. Thank you. Just thank you all for being
8 flexible. And once again, apologize that we weren't able
9 to meet in person. But thank you for everybody switching
10 over to teleconference. I think it was a successful
11 meeting regardless.

12
13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON DUNAWAY: Yeah. Okay,
14 well, my favorite meeting word of all -- in all of Yup'ik
15 world, the (In Native). I have, 1:17. Adjourn.

16
17 (Off record)

18
19 (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 93 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II recorded on the 30th 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 3rd day of December 2024.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager