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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME III

LAKEFRONT ANCHORAGE HOTEL
Anchorage, Alaska
February 6, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Anthony Christianson, Chairman
- Rhonda Pitka, Public Member
- Charles Brower, Public Member
- Raymond Oney, Public Member
- Frank Woods, Public Member
- Sara Boario, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Sarah Creachbaum, National Park Service
- Erika Reed, Bureau of Land Management
- Jolene John, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Chad VanOrmer, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 2/6/2025)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning, everybody -- or afternoon, sorry. Welcome back to the Federal Board meeting this afternoon. As of every day we offer an opportunity for the public to speak to non-agenda items. So this is the opportunity. If you want to speak, there's blue cards in the back or in the front and they'll pass it up.

So at this time the first one on the cue is Clare Jaeger. Oh, wait. No, that's also an agenda item. Sorry. Yeah, we have none. Anybody online that would like to testify to non-agenda items.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none. We'll go ahead and proceed with the agenda. That brings us to the public comment period on consensus agenda items. This is an opportunity available at the beginning of each subsequent day prior to the final action. This is also an opportunity for the public to request a proposal or a closure to be removed from the consensus agenda. This is your opportunity. That would be Clare Jaeger.

Thank you.

MS. JAEGER: Good morning, Chairman and Board. Thank you for this opportunity. I represent Tolsona Community. That's where I was born and raised. We request that the Board consider moving the FP25-03(a) Chitina salmon customary and traditional use application. Also the FP25-03(b) Copper River Drainage freshwater fish customary and traditional use application.

Did you want me to go on and explain any more on this?

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the floor, so you can explain if you want to. As you do it one of the Board members here will have to entertain that, so explaining why would probably be beneficial

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1 for the record. Thank you.

2

3

MS. JAEGER: Okay. Look, I've appreciated all the information that I've learned. I've learned a lot here in the last few days. We're kind of a similar kind of thing like Ketchikan. Glennallen is the central hub area. Even Glennallen only has a population below 500 in the census. Tolsona is like a suburb of Glennallen. It's a very small community. The population is less than 50.

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Tolsona, we're all in the unorganized borough of Alaska and there is no local government there. These things are non-profits through State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, so it allows some revenue sharing from the State of Alaska into these otherwise very impoverished communities to support some very basic things like solid waste management and volunteer fire departments.

So these communities by going through this corporation process which was really driven in the late 1980s after the Wrangell-St. Elias Park was formed, this concept of revenue sharing, and it was driven first by management of solid waste. DEC was beginning to enforce violations of illegal dumping. Historically, like places up the highway, people would take trash to gravel pits. Basically they were DOT material sites.

It wasn't like it is now. I mean there wasn't much trash, so it was more like a fender from a car and this kind of stuff. Not all this plastic stuff we have now. Anyway, in the error of enforcement Tolsona community stepped up and formed a non-profit so that they could get some funding to manage a landfill and also it developed into having a local volunteer fire department.

Glennallen is clearly a rural community and Tolsona is part of Glennallen. All the services for Tolsona, the electric -- there's only one utility really available up there at all in that area, you know, outside of Glennallen property. They have water and sewer, but out in the Tolsona area it's only electricity and, of course, telephone.

But the post office is in Glennallen, the court, the Federal agencies, Fish and Game, a

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1 school, the Copper River School District. It's all
2 managed from Glennallen. Other than that there were
3 these little non-profit corporations formed for revenue
4 sharing. There is no subdivision of that whole area.
5 It's just within the unorganized borough of Alaska.

6
7 So, you know, Tolsona doesn't feel like
8 we should be exempted from subsistence rights just
9 because we have this roughly 25,000 a year revenue
10 sharing from the State of Alaska. Traditionally, the
11 people in Tolsona have used the resources in what is
12 now the Wrangell-St. Elias Park. So dipnetting in
13 Chitina, moose hunting, sheep hunting, that was part of
14 the territory that individuals hunted and fished in.

15
16 My family originally migrated to the
17 Glennallen area in 1946. Kind of attracted by the
18 Homestead Act. Most of the other residents is still
19 kind of the same six, eight or ten families, you know,
20 and a few other people in that area. You know, they
21 came with that concept of access to Fish and Game and
22 that's how we lived for, you know, the ensuing almost
23 80 years relying on those.

24
25 I, myself, currently my home is in
26 Eagle River. My permanent residence. I spend 50
27 percent of my time in the Tolsona area. Also the
28 Crosswind Lake area I have cabins there. You know,
29 that's my family -- I learned to preserve fish and game
30 from my parents and from other neighbors there.
31 Likewise, my children and my grandchildren are now like
32 experts in this process. It's the life we live.
33 Picking berries, fishing and hunting.

34
35 Another interesting thing, and it's
36 like there's -- the one reason fish and the salmon as
37 well as other freshwater fish are critical is because
38 different climatic reasons and whatever, different
39 populations of wild game crash or excel and the
40 Nelchina Herd of caribou has crashed again through lots
41 of conservation activities, you know, Fish and
42 Wildlife, Fish and Game, everybody was working together
43 and then the herd got back up into the 30-40,000 range
44 in the early 2020-2021.

45
46 The last two years we've had excessive
47 snowfall, more than I've seen in my whole 70-some years
48 of being there. Like eight to eleven feet through the
49 Copper River Valley. It really took a toll on the
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1 population of caribou. So for the last couple years
2 there have been no subsistence access to caribou
3 hunting in the Nelchina Herd because it's now down to
4 like 7,000.

5
6 So as these things go up and down,
7 individuals who are accustomed to subsistence they go
8 to another species and they do what they have to do to
9 survive. I just want to make the point that we're a
10 rural community. Glennallen has no economy. You know,
11 you have to go somewhere else. People work part time
12 different places seasonally to make a living.
13 Basically the income, average income is pretty marginal
14 in Glennallen in general. Much less Tolsona.

15
16 I think that's really my key points.
17 We meet the criteria for Federal subsistence, rural.
18 If anybody has any questions.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
21 from the Board for Clare.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
26 putting all that on the record, Clare. Appreciate
27 that.

28
29 MS. JAEGER: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So we have a
32 request here. Is there anybody here on the Board that
33 would entertain the request to remove those two and put
34 them onto the non-consensus agenda?

35
36 MR. ALBERG: Mr. Chair, NPS requests
37 that it be -- makes a motion that it be removed.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The motion has
40 been made. Oh, one Board member.

41
42 MS. LINNELL: I had a blue card.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I was calling
45 your card and then I got stopped and then you walked
46 out, so I was trying to call on you. We do have a
47 statement here to remove it on the record, but if --
48 let me look at the.....

49
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1 MR. ALBERG: NPS will remove that
2 motion to allow the public comment to go forward.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

5
6 MR. ALBERG: Yes, sir.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
9 floor, Karen.

10
11 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Just by her own admission she said she has a permanent
13 residence in Eagle River and requesting the ability to
14 have a Federal priority in the Chitina area for
15 dipnetting. I want to give you -- for the record my
16 name is Karen Linnell.

17
18 I'm the executive director of AHTNA
19 InterTribal Resource Commission that is comprised of
20 eight tribes; Cantwell, Mentasta, Chistochina, Gakona,
21 Gulkana, Tazlina and Kluti-Kaah and Chitina. And the
22 two ANCSA corporations that are landowners; Ahtna,
23 Incorporated and Chitina Native Corporation.

24
25 Seven of my tribes are on the Copper
26 River and live and depend on the salmon there.
27 Cantwell as well depends on the salmon there. Our
28 families would cross between Cantwell and Gakona and
29 Gulkana through what is now State lands at Crosswind
30 and have our hunting camps there in the winter. They'd
31 all come to the river for fish and then go back to
32 their hunting grounds in the wintertime.

33
34 I was reading through the proposal and
35 the documentation that they put in to accompany the
36 proposal. It's on Page 61 in your book. I don't even
37 know how this proposal made it into the book when it's
38 incomplete like that. The document John W., Marcy W.,
39 O.A. Nelson. O.A. Nelson died, I believe, in the '70s.
40 He used to own a store in Chitina. But everybody else,
41 Willard B., John and Marcy W., Wilford B., Clare J.,
42 Gene W., Ken and Evelyn B. No names. No way for OSM
43 to document who this is and talk to them to verify
44 their continued use. I think that the RACs made the
45 right decision in not moving forward with this.

46
47 Ms. Jaeger is here today, but by her
48 own admission says her permanent residence is in Eagle
49 River. This is for primary residents. Permanent
50

1 residents. There was some changes in land ownership in
2 recent years in the Tolsona area and there was quite a
3 significant lawsuit over access to that land because
4 the one gentleman was allowing the elderly lady access
5 through his property. When she died or sold that
6 property they started to subdivide it. Now those
7 residents want traditional use.

8
9 Mr. Wilson, who has a letter on Page
10 60, he says, yeah, I can borrow a fishwheel. He said I
11 can use that. Borrow a fishwheel and use my State
12 permit, you know. We don't go down to Chitina.
13 Traditional subsistence is you go closest to you.
14 Things that have changed in Copper River is that
15 they're dipnetting from boats below the Chitina River
16 -- the Copper River Bridge there in Chitina.

17
18 Dipnetting from boats and targeting
19 them in the eddies where they hold up during high
20 water. We're not seeing the fish runs return like we
21 do because they're targeting them in that high water
22 from boats. We've put in several proposals to try and
23 stop the dipnetting from boats in Copper River and have
24 been having a difficult time with that on a State
25 basis.

26
27 I think that this Federal recognition
28 will make the sale of that subdivided lots a little
29 more popular so that people can claim residency.
30 Because there's a lot of folks, a lot of houses in
31 Chitina too that are seasonal homes and people have
32 electricity on all year long and all you have to have
33 is an electric bill to be able to prove your residency.
34 It's a broken system. That's one of the curses of
35 being on the highway system.

36
37 The dipnetting from boats is really
38 having an impact on Copper River fishery and fish
39 salmon that make it upstream to the headwaters. To
40 anywhere above even Tazlina we're not seeing as many
41 salmon return. It's been quite a deal that we're
42 having with this. We're having a hard time.

43
44 We just got some regulatory changes on
45 the State side to move things -- to move the commercial
46 fishery back a week and to move the personal use
47 fishery back until a minimum of three days or until
48 they meet the sonar goals for the year at the river
49 intake. And no retention of kings until after June
50

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1 30th. That just happened in December.

2

3

4 It took four years of consultation with
5 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to make that happen.
6 We had -- Cheesh'na had met with Wrangell-St. Elias on
7 a government-to-government basis talking about how our
8 subsistence needs aren't being met. We had to show a
9 graphic and poor Mark Miller, his first year -- first
10 couple months here we had a pre-season meeting and I
11 balled him out and told him you're Federal managers.
12 You're supposed to be helping us to get our subsistence
13 needs met.

13

14

15 What we continue to see is a watering
16 down of the requirements for meetings, Federal
17 qualifications for residency. It came up last year
18 with Serendipity. Serendipity is between Tiekel Lodge
19 and Valdez. Their address is Valdez. Their shirts say
20 Valdez. And they were claiming to have long-term use
21 because a couple of them moved from a resident zone.
22 They'd only been in the whole state for a few years and
23 they were claiming long-term use from another
24 community.

24

25

26 That's what we continue to see and we
27 can't keep expanding this. Again, for me, I wouldn't
28 have ever accepted this as backup when there's no
29 names. Nothing that Staff could go back and look for.
30 The only reason I figured out some of these is because
31 I graduated with B.B. Bunch and she didn't come back.
32 She graduated, she got married, she moved away and she
33 hasn't really been back. So these folks they haven't
34 been -- they're either long gone or not in the area
35 anymore.

35

36

37 I'd just encourage you not to -- to
38 listen to the RACs and leave it on the consensus agenda
39 as is and oppose it.

39

40

41 That's all I had to say in regards to
42 this.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
45 from the Board to Karen. Frank.

45

46

47 MR. WOODS: Yeah, I'm looking at the
48 map on Page 43, Karen. I'm confused on what the
49 proposal outlines that you be listing for C&T. Is that
50 the map I'm looking at?

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Robbin.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Through the Chair. I might suggest that you are
5 beginning to deliberate or discuss the proposal itself.

6

7 MR. WOODS: Okay.

8

9 MS. LAVINE: And so there's an
10 opportunity to provide comments on non-consensus agenda
11 items, but if we go too deep into a proposal that is on
12 the consensus agenda, either it is taken up and those
13 comments then continue as part of our public process
14 after the analysis is presented and the comments are
15 summarized and the Council's recommendations are given,
16 etcetera.

17

18 MR. WOODS: Thank you. I was just
19 referring to what -- kind of just some clarification on
20 the map. So this is a map of reference on 43 for this
21 proposal.

22

23 MS. LINNELL: Yes.

24

25 MR. WOODS: Okay. Thank you.

26

27 MS. LINNELL: If I might, Deanna
28 Kosbruk.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I have her blue
31 card. Yeah, Deanna, you have the floor.

32

33 MS. KOSBRUK: Thank you, Chair and
34 Board. For the record my name is Deanna Kosbruk. I'm
35 from Gulkana Village. I sit on the council there.
36 AITRC is one of the tribes that represent -- that they
37 represent. I also work for Ahtna InterTribal Resource
38 Commission as the regulatory specialist and the THPO
39 project coordinator.

40

41 I work and live -- I live and work for
42 my people. I am on the land and I am asking today that
43 you do not take this -- these two proposals off of the
44 consensus agenda. There are no pattern use for C&T for
45 the Tolsona area and they should not have a positive
46 finding for that. My elders were and are Robert
47 Marshall, Roy Shane Ewan, Sr., Peter Ewan -- Peter
48 Tyone, excuse me, Bacille George. Those were the real
49 subsistence users and those were the ones that I've
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1 seen grown up, watching, living our life and that's
2 where I have learned.

3

4 My grandpa, Peter Tyone, until the last
5 year before he died, I watched him in his late 70's.
6 Every day after school out there, beginning of March,
7 building his fishwheel. That's customary and
8 traditional, getting ready for this fishing season, and
9 he was the provider for our family when it came to
10 fish. Whereas, you know, I had other elders that were
11 part of the hunting for wild game, but that's customary
12 and traditional use.

13

14 So I'm going to ask that you guys don't
15 take this off of the consensus and there's no more
16 discussion on it.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
21 from the Board for Deanna.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
26 you, guys. I'm going to look around the table now and
27 we have a request to do and to not do.

28

29 MR. ALBERG: Mr. Chair, NPS requests
30 that it be removed from the consensus agenda so that
31 the Board can take it up for deliberation.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The request has
34 been made.

35

36 MR. ALBERG: I'll make a motion for
37 that. I'm sorry.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Let the record
40 show that there's been a request from the Board to
41 remove that from the consensus to non-consensus. Was
42 that for both or one? There's two affected by this. I
43 think it's C&T.

44

45 MS. PITKA: NP25-03a and NP25-03b.

46

47 MR. ALBERG: A and B.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Let the record

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1 state it's 25-03a and b.

2

3 MR. ALBERG: Mr. Chair. Just to
4 provide a little additional information. That is based
5 on new information that we have received, so that's the
6 reason for the motion.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
9 you.

10

11 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair. In regards to
12 other consensus items -- again, Karen Linnell, Ahtna
13 InterTribal Resource Commission. Our people have a
14 history of over 9,000 years or 360 generations of using
15 and stewarding the lands also known as the Copper River
16 Basin or Game Management Units 13, parts of 14, 11,
17 parts of 12 and parts of 20. We just want to talk
18 about the WP25-01 Nelchina caribou.

19

20 I just want to say that I appreciate
21 the work that went into this and thanks to BLM for
22 hearing us. I thought I had asked for an 804 analysis
23 but was not ever told I needed to write in a formal
24 request at a previous Federal Board meeting. So I
25 appreciate BLM taking that up for me to make sure it
26 gets done in the cycle.

27

28 I see that they have put in there a
29 caribou cultural and ceremonial opportunity to be
30 allowed during the closure. We appreciate that. In
31 times of need that may end up getting used, but right
32 now our people are so concerned over the recovery of
33 the herd. I seriously doubt that it will be used
34 unless there's something to where we just cannot find a
35 moose to address our ceremonial harvest.

36

37 I want to again thank Caroline Ketron
38 at BLM, the Glennallen Field Office, and thank OSM
39 Staff for a very well prepared .804 subsistence user
40 prioritization. And for accepting the amendments
41 through the RACs to ensure that our tribal communities
42 traditional territories were recognized.

43

44 We do appreciate all that went in to do
45 this and the hopes that we can get the Nelchina Caribou
46 Herd recovered. Again, I just want to thank you for
47 your time and thank BLM for hearing us and helping us
48 to get this accomplished.

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1 I appreciate it so much.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Karen. Next in the cue we have Jim Simon.

7

8 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
9 the record my name is Jim Simon. I'm a consultant with
10 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission, but I'm here
11 just to share my personal testimony.

12

13 I wanted to speak to the two proposals
14 that were just moved to the non-consent agenda, so can
15 you edit my blue card or do I need to submit a new one
16 now? You've already taken action without hearing from
17 the rest of the public on that topic.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think the
20 opportunity now would be to speak to it when it comes
21 up on a non-consensus. We will provide opportunity for
22 public testimony.....

23

24 MR. SIMON: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:at that
27 time on that. Thank you. And we'll save your card.
28 Operator, we have somebody online with their hand up.
29 Could we please let them in. Thank you. Remember
30 we're on consensus agenda items. Thank you.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: If you have your hand up,
33 you can unmute yourself by pressing star six. Also,
34 for those of you who are online that want to provide
35 public comment on consensus agenda items, you can also
36 press star five to raise your hand. So again star six
37 to mute or unmute yourself and star five to raise your
38 hand. Thanks.

39

40 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'm the one that had
41 my hand up. Can you hear me?

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
44 floor. Can you state your name for the record, please.

45

46 MR. WILSON: My name is Kirk Wilson and
47 I was -- if you're going to bring it up later, I can
48 speak later, but I wanted to speak to the last thing
49 you guys were speaking on too. Then I heard Jim. If I
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1 need to wait and speak later, that's just fine. I
2 heard the way it's worked there and I like that, but I
3 have a lot to say about that, with what's gone on with
4 this proposal and stuff. I could be very brief and
5 give it to you right now or, if you would like me to
6 wait, I will.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll take that
9 up for the matter of the record during that time so
10 that we can confine it to that proposal since it's on a
11 non-consensus item. I'll take testimony during that
12 time.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. WILSON: Is that going to be today
17 too, you think?

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, yeah.
20 We'll be to those things. That's our next order of
21 business just to get into the non-consensus items
22 today.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you very
25 much.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
28 calling. Operator, is there anybody else who would
29 like to be recognized online.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. LAVINE: Last call for those online
34 who would like to speak to consensus agenda items. You
35 can press star five to raise your hand.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no more
40 online we'll go ahead and move on in the agenda. At
41 this time we're going to move to Board deliberation and
42 action on the non-consensus agenda items. This is our
43 opportunity and procedure for the Board to deliberate
44 on the proposals and closure. At this time we'll call
45 on the analysis of it for FP25-01.

46

47 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do
48 you want me to go?

49

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1 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, please
2 proceed with the analysis. I will Chair until he comes
3 back. Go ahead, please.

4
5 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
6 and members of the Board. My name is Robert Cross.
7 I'm the Subsistence Program Manager for the Tongass
8 National Forest with the USDA Forest Service. The
9 analysis starts on Page 481 of Volume II of the meeting
10 book.

11
12 FP25-01 submitted by the Southeast
13 Council requests to establish harvest regulations for
14 salmon fishing on the Taku River. The proposal includes
15 seasons, harvest limits, fishing area, gear
16 restrictions and harvest reporting requirements.

17
18 The proposal follows the winter 2023
19 Board action to end a longstanding closure of the Taku
20 River to subsistence salmon fishing. With the closure
21 rescinded, and no Taku River-specific regulations in
22 place, subsistence salmon harvest on the Taku River is
23 currently subject to the Southeast Alaska general
24 Federal regulations. This proposal seeks to establish a
25 set of Federal regulations specific to subsistence
26 salmon harvest on the Taku River.

27
28 The salmon fisheries on the Taku River
29 stocks are managed under the Pacific Salmon Treaty and
30 the Pacific Salmon Commission. This proposal has been
31 sent to the Pacific Salmon Commission and Transboundary
32 River Panel for consideration, but a full review has
33 not been completed to date.

34
35 The OSM conclusion is to support
36 FP25-01 with modification to modify the area to the
37 Taku River mainstem upstream of the Taku Lodge. The
38 proposed regulations will provide a subsistence salmon
39 fishery in the Federal public waters of the Taku River
40 under regulations specific to the Taku, which will be
41 necessary to effectively manage the fishery under the
42 Pacific Salmon Treaty. However, at this point, we're
43 looking for the Board to defer the proposal until
44 consultation with the Transboundary River Panel and
45 Pacific Salmon Commission is completed.

46
47 Thank you. That concludes my summary.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
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1 questions for Staff from the Board.

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3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
6 We'll move on to the summary of written comments.

7

8

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He asked for a
9 motion for deferral.

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, for a
13 motion for deferral. Oh, this is the one we were
14 talking about. Yes. There's a motion -- there's an
15 request for this one. There's some outstanding things
16 that need to be fleshed out like he stated that we need
17 to do. The floor is open for a motion at this time.

17

18

19

MR. VANORMER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
20 make a motion. Chad VanOrmer with the Forest Service.

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
23 floor.

23

24

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27

28

MR. VANORMER: Thank you. Mr. Chair, I
29 move to defer Proposal FP25-01. If I receive a second,
30 I will explain why I'm going to recommend the Board
31 defer taking action until the TransBoundary River Panel
32 process is complete.

29

30

31

MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife seconds.

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The motion has
35 been made and seconded. The floor is yours.

34

35

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43

44

MR. VANORMER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 As outlined in the InterAgency Staff Committee, the
46 Taku River fishery occurs on a transboundary river.
47 That is subject to both Title VIII of ANILCA and Annex
48 IX of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. In the Treaty the
49 U.S. and Canada establish management goals,
50 cost-sharing agreements in their respective fisheries
and assigned responsibilities for assessment and
monitoring.

45

46

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Because the proposed regulations here
are on a transboundary river that is subject to the
treaty it requires consulting with the Transboundary
River Panel and Pacific Salmon Commission, which are
composed of both Canadian and U.S. members.

0282

1 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
2 is a member of the Transboundary Panel and supports the
3 proposal in concept, but has stated that the proposal
4 must go through the Transboundary River Panel review
5 process first and then be approved by the Pacific
6 Salmon Commission before any new regulations can be
7 implemented.

8
9 As the ISC pointed out, this is the
10 same process that was used to implement the Federal
11 Subsistence Fishery in the Sitka River -- or, I'm
12 sorry, Stikine River in 2004. In my view, going
13 through the Transboundary River Panel process before
14 enacting new Federal subsistence regulations is the
15 best course here. This may also help avoid unnecessary
16 and difficult disagreements between the United States
17 and Canadian governments.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
22 Chad. Any discussion, deliberation on the motion to
23 defer.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
28 question.

29
30 MS. JOHN: Question.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
33 has been called. Roll call, please.

34
35 MS. LEONETTI: BIA, Jolene John.

36
37 MS. JOHN: Yes to defer.

38
39 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Charlie
40 Brower.

41
42 MR. BROWER: Yes.

43
44 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

45
46 Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.

47
48 MS. BOARIO: The Service supports
49 deferral for the reasons recommended by the InterAgency
50

0283

1 Staff Committee and the State of Alaska to have the
2 Federal Subsistence Board, the Forest Service, Office
3 of Subsistence Management and the Southeast Regional
4 Advisory Council engage with the Transboundary River
5 Panel and Pacific Salmon Commission for approval.

6
7 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

8
9 Public Member Frank Woods.

10
11 MR. WOODS: Yes.

12
13 MS. LEONETTI: National Park Service.

14
15 MR. ALBERG: National Park Service
16 votes to defer FP25-01 for the reasons stated by the
17 National Forest Service.

18
19 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

20
21 Public Member Raymond Oney.

22
23 MR. ONEY: Yes to defer.

24
25 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

26
27 Forest Service, Chad VanOrmer.

28
29 MR. VANORMER: Yes, to defer.

30
31 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

32
33 Public Member Chief Rhonda Pitka.

34
35 MS. PITKA: Yes to defer. I usually
36 hate deferral motions, but this one seems necessary.
37 Thank you.

38
39 MS. LEONETTI: BLM, Erika Reed.

40
41 MS. REED: Yes to defer for the reasons
42 articulated by the Forest Service.

43
44 MS. LEONETTI: BIA -- oh, did you
45 already vote?

46
47 MS. JOHN: Yes, I did, but then I can
48 also share that we concur with the justification
49 provided by the Forest Service as well.

50

0284

1 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you, Jolene.

2

3 And Chair Tony Christianson.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Support
6 deferral.

7

8 MS. LEONETTI: Motion passes
9 unanimously, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
12 Moving on. I'll call on Staff to present the analysis
13 for FP25-02, southern Unuk eulachon.

14

15 MS. BOLWERK: Good morning. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair. For the record my name is Ashley Bolwerk and
17 I'm a subsistence biologist for the Forest Service on
18 the Tongass National Forest.

19

20 Federal Fisheries Proposal 25-02 can be
21 found on Page 515 of your meeting book and requests the
22 closing of the Federal waters of the Unuk River to
23 non-Federally qualified users. The proponent, the
24 Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council, states that
25 a closure to non-federally qualified users will help
26 the Unuk River eulachon population recover while
27 continuing to provide harvest opportunities to
28 Federally qualified subsistence users.

29

30 In 2005 the eulachon population in
31 District 1 containing the Unuk River collapsed,
32 resulting in State and Federal closures to eulachon
33 fishing between 2005 and 2020. A limited Federal
34 subsistence fishery occurred on the Unuk River from
35 2021 to 2024 for Federally qualified subsistence users.
36 All closures since 2005 for District 1 eulachon harvest
37 have been conducted using in-season management actions.

38

39 If this proposal is adopted, it would
40 set in regulation the special actions that the Federal
41 in-season managers have been implementing on a yearly
42 basis. This system has an active monitoring program
43 for eulachon escapement. From 2005 to 2009 less than
44 100 fish were observed in the Unuk River system. From
45 2011 to present eulachon were observed in both the Unuk
46 River and other nearby areas of District 1, but numbers
47 have been variable and remain much lower than those
48 observed prior to the 2005 population collapse.

49

50

0285

1 The OSM conclusion is Support Proposal
2 FP25-02 with modification to close the Federal public
3 waters throughout District 1 to the harvest of eulachon
4 except by federally qualified subsistence users in the
5 Unuk River.

6
7 The limited subsistence opportunity
8 provided through recent emergency special actions has
9 not been able to meet the needs of Federally qualified
10 subsistence users in the area. The OSM modification to
11 close all of District 1, except the Unuk River, to all
12 users will help continue the conservation actions taken
13 by State and Federal managers to improve the population
14 status of District 1 eulachon stocks.

15
16 This closure will reduce total harvest
17 effort allowed under current State and Federal eulachon
18 regulations and allow federal managers to continue to
19 offer harvest opportunity in the Unuk River system for
20 Federally qualified users as the fishery recovers.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can take
23 questions from the Board at this time.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
26 for Staff.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
31 Thank you. Next is the summary of written public
32 comments.

33
34 MS. BOLWERK: I have those for you as
35 well.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. You
38 have the floor.

39
40 MS. BOLWERK: Again, this is Ashley
41 Bolwerk. There was one neutral public comment for
42 FP25-02, which was submitted during the initial open
43 period for comments on proposals which closed on July
44 8th. That's the only ones I have for you. The comment
45 was from the coordinator for the Tongass Women for the
46 Forest and can be found on Page 533. It expressed
47 concerns outside the scope of the Federal Subsistence
48 Management Program. I encourage you all to read it.

49
50

0286

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 that. Next, summary of tribal ANCSA corporation
3 consultation. Native liaison. Orville.

4

5 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Good
6 afternoon, Board members. Orville Lind, Native liaison
7 for the Office of Subsistence Management. There were
8 no questions or comments on that. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Orville. Tribal Native organization testimony.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing, seeing
16 none. Advisory group testimony. State AC, SRCs,
17 working groups.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Open to the
22 public testimony. Irene Dundas.

23

24 MS. DUNDAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It
25 seems like this would be a moot issue because Ketchikan
26 is now rural, but Ketchikan Indian Community -- for the
27 record my name is Irene Dundas. My Tlingit name is Ka
28 Klaa Tlaa. My father's people is from the Saanya Kwaan
29 and have owned and lived on the Unuk River since time
30 immemorial.

31

32 I work for Ketchikan Indian Community.
33 I am the cultural heritage specialist. Specifically I
34 have done research around the Unuk River. We
35 repatriated Chief Naha, which had been -- he lived on
36 the Unuk River. He lived to be about 108 years old.
37 His village was at Naha and he had moved to Loring and
38 he moved his village -- moved from the Unuk because
39 there was a smallpox outbreak. We actually repatriated
40 him from the Forest Service probably back in 2005.
41 Actually we didn't get to find all his remains because
42 the Department up here couldn't find all his bones.

43

44 Anyways we have a long history with the
45 Unuk River and it goes back many, many years and the
46 Unuk River means a lot to the people of our area, the
47 Tanta Kwaan and the Saanya Kwaan people. It is within
48 Ketchikan Indian Community's jurisdiction. In 2017 the
49 Constitution that was approved by the Department of
50

50

0287

1 Interior states that the Unuk River is within our
2 jurisdiction.

3

4

5 Initially we wanted this Board to vote
6 down and against FP25-02 because of our rural status
7 and that is what I'm going to recommend still. We feel
8 that the way that the Forest Service has been managing
9 or the way it's been operated right now is fine. There
10 hasn't been issues. I believe that there was only nine
11 permits for eulachon last year to gather eulachon,
12 which was a five-gallon bucket.

12

13

14 There's not a whole lot -- at least
15 it's being monitored so we have an idea I feel that --
16 and I think that with the rural status and I feel like
17 we still need to keep an eye on how many people are
18 harvesting on that river because I feel like even if
19 there is -- even if Ketchikan is designated rural there
20 needs to still be some sort of monitoring of something
21 going on and it's just not everybody allowing to be in
22 the river harvesting eulachon.

22

23

24 Ketchikan Indian Community has done
25 extensive water quality testing and I have a colleague
26 in the audience who I believe will be testifying here
27 shortly on the Unuk and done some eDNA studies on the
28 Unuk because of the mining upriver for the Brucejack
29 and the KSM Mine. But we ask that -- we oppose FP25-02
30 and just keep it the way it is.

30

31

Thank you.

32

33

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
34 Irene. Any questions from the Board for Irene.

35

36

(No comments)

37

38

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
39 Thank you, Irene. Ignacia -- I mean Jen. Jen and I do
40 the green crab thing and one time we created a dance.
41 Do you want to show them, Jen? I even know how to sing
42 it. I'm just teasing. Welcome to the Board.

43

44

45 MS. ARVANITIS: Good afternoon,
46 everyone, members of the Board. Thank you for lending
47 your ear today. My name is Iphigenia Arvanitis. I'm
48 the environmental specialist with the Ketchikan Indian
49 Community. As you can tell from my name I'm not
50 Native. I'm not from Alaska. I don't have the same

50

1 cultural connection to the Unuk as my colleagues do.

2

3 My approach to the Unuk is more of a
4 scientist. My responsibility with the tribe as the
5 environmental specialist is to coordinate our Unuk
6 River Stewardship Program, which is twofold. It
7 involves working with the Forest Service and members of
8 the U.S. Geological Survey to travel up to the Unuk
9 twice per year to collect water quality samples to
10 assess impacts of transboundary mining.

11

12 Second, which is more relevant to the
13 Board today, is monitoring the returning population of
14 eulachon. So the beginning or about the middle of
15 March, depending on how the fish are feeling, the fish
16 return to the Unuk River. So what we do is, myself and
17 members of the Forest Service and other partners, spend
18 about a month up there in March collecting eDNA
19 samples, physical DNA samples for genetic analysis,
20 conducting fish counts and spawn surveys.

21

22 I was hired by KIC in 2023, so I've
23 been involved in this project for two years, now going
24 on three years, and based on what I've observed and
25 based on the data that we've gotten, as well as
26 testimony from people who are living on the Unuk, we've
27 been seeing a moderate increase in the population of
28 returning eulachon, but I want to be cautious about
29 drawing any conclusions about population trends. We
30 need to have more data. So the Ketchikan Indian
31 Community is going to continue this work on monitoring
32 eulachon populations.

33

34 Initially, before the rural status
35 ruling yesterday, we were a little bit opposed to this
36 proposal because KIC, despite the work that we're doing
37 to monitor the Unuk River, is not a Federally-qualified
38 subsistence tribe -- was not, because we were not
39 rural. Now, with this potential change our position on
40 this proposal has changed somewhat.

41

42 However, based on feedback from members
43 of the Board, and I thank you for that feedback, even
44 though we were approved for rural status that -- our
45 ultimate change in status may take a while because it
46 has to go up the food chain. I guess long story short,
47 due to our change in rural status, we will be neutral
48 on this proposal.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 I'll call you Jen so I don't get it wrong this time.
3 Any questions for Jen.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
8 Just appreciate your guys's work. It's really
9 important that we feed those systems. I've always
10 challenged ourselves out there with doing that, feeding
11 the system with information and doing it from tribal
12 and local levels up and doing it in the framework that
13 they can accept it and make management decisions. So
14 good work and thank you and appreciate your testimony
15 today.

16
17 MS. ARVANITIS: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is
20 there anybody online who would like to speak to the
21 Unuk River proposal. This is their opportunity now to
22 be heard.

23
24 MS. LAVINE: Once again I'll remind
25 people online that if you wish to provide public
26 testimony to the Board you can do so by pressing star
27 five to raise your hand. And we have Meta on the line.
28 Please unmute yourself by pressing star six. Meta, we
29 can't hear you yet, so please try again to unmute
30 yourself by pressing star six. I think we've lost that
31 person. Once again by pressing star six to unmute
32 yourself.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: While we're
35 waiting for Meta we do have somebody in the house ready
36 to -- so we can work on the technical issue there,
37 we'll call on Gloria Burns.

38
39 MS. BURNS: Hi there. So,
40 respectfully, the Council did meet and we voted to
41 oppose this. As the leader of Ketchikan Indian
42 Community as their president, we would like to honor
43 the decision of our tribe and having had a consensus
44 with them the tribe, Ketchikan Indian Community, still
45 opposes it.

46
47 It's about -- it's going to take a
48 little while to get us on the Federal Register, yes,
49 but also you can redetermine our rural status like
50

0290

1 every 10 years. So it was a little bit of a -- you
2 know, there was a little bit of a fight for us to
3 become rural and it's not broken right now. You know,
4 I could see why we would do this if it was broken, but
5 we're actively monitoring, we're actively doing what
6 needs to be done in that particular area.

7

8 If there's any change to those
9 particular fish, we're going to be right here. They're
10 the life blood of our community that we've been waiting
11 to feed back in. So we would just ask that you not
12 change the status right now and allow us to go through
13 the process. Get on the Federal Register and allow us
14 to do our monitoring. We've been doing it in a good
15 way. It would be different if we hadn't been and if it
16 was currently broken, but it isn't.

17

18 So if it's not broken in this point, it
19 makes no sense to me for us to change it. Well, Staff
20 is just -- we're all just a little shocked at what has
21 recently happened. We'd state for the record that we
22 would like to oppose this.

23

24 Haw'aa.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
27 Gloria. Any questions? Ken.

28

29 MR. LORD: Gloria, you mentioned
30 revisit rural status every 10 years. You may be
31 referring to an old regulatory requirement for a
32 decennial review. That requirement has been removed
33 from regulation.

34

35 MS. BURNS: That will be very helpful
36 to tell everybody. We still maintain though if it
37 isn't broken in this situation, we have 11 people who
38 are getting permits, we're seeing a slight -- excuse
39 me? Nine, sorry. We're getting nine. Then in this
40 particular situation we're still opposed. But thank
41 you for that. That will make a bunch of people who are
42 sending me constant messages in disbelief to be able to
43 share that with them. That will be helpful.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
46 questions for Gloria.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0291

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Gloria. Operator, did we have any luck with Meta
3 online?
4

5 MS. LAVINE: Meta, can you try to
6 unmute yourself by pressing star six. Meta, I see that
7 you have expressed that you will speak after your
8 relatives. If that is not possible, you can write a
9 few comments in the chat and I'll read them on the
10 record. Thanks.
11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We've done all
13 the comment cards, Meta. You're the last person in the
14 cue. So if you want to speak, this is your
15 opportunity. Thank you for your respectful nature, but
16 it's time.
17

18 MS. LAVINE: Star six is not working
19 for them.
20

21 MS. GLEASON: Hey, Robbin, can you hear
22 me?
23

24 MS. LAVINE: Oh, yes.
25

26 MS. GLEASON: It's Christine.
27

28 MS. LAVINE: Yes.
29

30 MS. GLEASON: I think since she's
31 online maybe she can just hit unmute. That might work
32 for her.
33

34 MS. LAVINE: Okay. Perhaps you can hit
35 unmute rather than star six. If we pause for just a
36 moment, she will write her comments in the chat. Thank
37 you.
38

39 MR. SANDERSON: Mr. Chair, can you hear
40 me?
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I can hear
43 you.
44

45 MR. SANDERSON: If I may have the
46 floor, I'd like to provide a comment.
47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
49 floor, Keenan.
50

0292

1 MR. SANDERSON: For the record my name
2 is Keenan Sanderson. I'm the indigenous specialist for
3 the Ketchikan Indian Community. I won't speak on any
4 information that I provided yesterday other than there
5 was a point that I would like to clarify and I can't
6 remember which of the Board members said this, but just
7 to clarify for the record that regardless of the rural
8 status we were opposed to the permanent closure.

9
10 Yeah, we are opposed to the permanent
11 closure, but we are supportive of preseason closures as
12 determined by essentially preseason management and
13 predictions on what escapement potentially could be on
14 a year to year basis, which still leads to the point of
15 opposing FP25-02.

16
17 I would definitely err to my colleague
18 Iphigenia on definitely more on the ground things that
19 happen on the Unuk River because they are responsible
20 through our department on how all that science and
21 research is conducted. I'm also happy to answer any
22 questions if there was any new ones that came up from I
23 think Sunday's government-to-government consultation.

24
25 But other than that I just want to
26 clarify for the record that we're opposed to the
27 permanent closure, but still want to be able to have
28 the management tool in place that we can work with the
29 State and the Forest Service to open or close on a
30 year-to-year basis regardless of what is happening with
31 rural status.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
34 Keenan. Any question from the Board.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
39 I think the Board always supports the most vocalized
40 management tools we can find, so appreciate your
41 comments and look to continue to support you through
42 whatever venue we can.

43
44 Operator, is Meta available?

45
46 MS. LAVINE: One last time, Meta. Meta
47 has provided a text to me and I will read this into the
48 record now. My name is Meta. I am Saanya Kwaan
49 Teikweidi -- if someone wants to -- okay. My clan and
50

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1 village originate from the Unuk River and I am opposed
2 to FP25-02 for the reasons KIC mentioned and stated.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
7 facilitating that for Meta, Robbin. Operator, at this
8 time is there anybody else who would like to be
9 recognized online? This is their opportunity.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Meta continues: In 2004
12 the eulachon population was recorded at around 10,000
13 fish and, as I see it, the current restrictions are
14 working for the fish.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are no
17 other hands raised.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Let
20 the record reflect the additional comments there. With
21 that we'll conclude the public testimony for this.
22 We'll open up Regional Advisory Council recommendation.
23 I believe they're online.

24

25 Operator, if you can open up Don's
26 line, we'd appreciate it.

27

28 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. This is Don
29 Hernandez, Chairman of the Southeast RAC. Can you hear
30 me okay?

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. You have
33 the floor, Don.

34

35 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. So I
36 guess as was pointed out earlier this proposal that we
37 put in is not going to be very relevant in the future;
38 however, it may still apply for this season. That
39 harvest is going to begin in about a month and probably
40 won't be in the Federal record that Ketchikan residents
41 will be declared rural and be able to engage in this
42 fishery. So there might have to be some consideration
43 for this season.

44

45 With that in mind I'll go ahead and
46 read our justification when we deliberated on the
47 proposal. That would be the Council voted to support
48 25-02 with the OSM modification to close the Federal
49 public waters throughout District 1 to the harvest of
50

1 eulachon except by Federally qualified subsistence
2 users in the Unuk River.

3
4 Our justification is the Council
5 recognizes that this is a long-standing conservation
6 issue and the proposed action is justified by
7 substantial information, both from traditional
8 ecological knowledge and on-the-ground surveys. The
9 Council also recognizes the presence of current and
10 future transboundary lines on the Unuk River as a
11 compounding factor in the recovery of this fishery.

12
13 The proposal puts into regulation
14 in-season management actions that have been happening
15 every year through special action and the proposed
16 regulations would implement conservation actions while
17 providing subsistence harvest opportunity.

18
19 A modification to include all of
20 District 1 is justified given the lack of site fidelity
21 of these fish and the need to conserve genetic stocks.
22 That concludes my -- the Council's original
23 justification for this.

24
25 I really think we need to have a
26 discussion on where we need to move forward on this in
27 the future after this season. It sounds like there may
28 be some agreement that maintaining the status quo for
29 this season would be acceptable for people. As of
30 right now, the way the harvest has been working only
31 Federally qualified subsistence users being eligible.
32 It's a very small number of harvesters. Basically
33 probably folks from Metlakatla and Saxman being
34 qualified. I don't know of any other efforts from any
35 other area on that system.

36
37 But next year when Ketchikan with a
38 vastly increased number of Federally qualified users is
39 allowed to fish in that fishery there's going to have
40 to be some different management strategies. It will
41 probably have to be managed in the season very closely.

42
43 I would just like to say -- I know I'm
44 stepping a little bit outside the bounds here of where
45 we've been on this, but I would like to say that our
46 Council has been strongly supportive of co-management
47 efforts.

48
49 I think moving forward with this
50

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1 fishery it should be strongly considered that present
2 managing agency, the Forest Service, cooperate or
3 initiate a co-management agreement with the local
4 tribes, Metlakatla, Saxman and KIC, for the
5 co-management of this eulachon fishery so there can be
6 in-season monitoring, which is happening now through
7 KIC, but may also need to include some in-season
8 harvest monitoring and managing the number of permits.
9 As I see it now, I don't think our Federal managers
10 have the capacity to do all that. A co-management
11 agreement I think would be very wise.

12

13 I just wanted to go there now because I
14 think it's something that needs to be considered.

15

16 That's all I have to say for now.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
19 Any questions from the Board for Don in regard to Unuk?
20 Yes, you have the floor, Charlie. Do you want to turn
21 on your mic.

22

23 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair, I didn't quite
24 hear what he said about the proposal. Was he in
25 support of the proposal or what?

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Don, Charlie
28 wants you to clearly state the RAC position for the
29 record. Thank you.

30

31 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, the RAC does
32 support the proposal as presently written, yes.

33

34 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
37 the clarification. Any other questions from the Board.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
42 seeing none. Again, thank you, Don, for your service
43 and calling in today. We'll move to the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Mulligan, you have
45 the floor.

46

47 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner for
49 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Department
50

0296

1 opposes this proposal.

2

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The current system where I know our manager is brought into conversations pre-season about the eulachon season. Combined with recently the Board of Fish has implemented more conservative measures for if and when non-Federally qualified users would be allowed to participate in the State subsistence fishery. We believe that the current system is working and, again, we oppose this.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr. Mulligan. Operator, could you please mute a line. Thank you. They were celebrating your statement there, Ben. We love co-management. Any questions for the State.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: InterAgency Staff Committee comments. ISC Chair, you have the floor.

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. For the record this is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator and InterAgency Staff Committee Chair.

The ISC provides comments to the Board. Unique comments when the ISC believes there is some information that they want to draw your attention to while considering the analysis and the Regional Advisory Council recommendations.

When the ISC does not feel compelled to write anything more they write what's called the standard comment. I'm going to read the standard comment now and then ever after during the meeting if the ISC has forwarded their standard comment, I'll just say standard comment. But for this one time I'll read it for today, for this meeting.

The InterAgency Staff Committee found the Staff analysis to be a thorough and accurate evaluation of the proposal and that it provides sufficient basis for the Regional Advisory Council recommendation and Federal Subsistence Board action on this proposal.

0297

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
4 questions for Robbin from the Board?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
9 seeing none. We'll move on to Board discussion with
10 Council Chairs, State Liaison. This is our opportunity
11 to ask the RAC Chair or counterpart any questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none
16 there. I just want to make that statement -- oh,
17 Rhonda. Rhonda wants to be recognized.

18

19 MS. PITKA: Oh, sorry. I was just
20 going to say probably right now would be the time for
21 Don to make that statement that he wanted to make about
22 management. At the end of RAC Chair comment he had
23 some further Board discussion that he wanted to say, so
24 I wanted to make sure that he had it on the record
25 repeatedly.

26

27 MR. HERNANDEZ: Would you like me to
28 repeat that for the record? Is that Rhonda?

29

30 MS. PITKA: Yeah, yeah. The last part
31 where you were talking about how you saw management
32 going forward.

33

34 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, thank you.
35 Yes. In the future, future fisheries coming years,
36 when the number of qualified harvesters for this system
37 increases dramatically, there's going to be a need for
38 a different type of management for that system to
39 ensure that there's not a conservation concern.

40

41 Presently, under Federal management, I
42 don't think they have the capacity to provide that
43 management for that increase in the potential fishery.
44 I just wanted to state for the record that our
45 Southeast Council has been on the record of being in
46 strong support of co-management agreements and I think
47 moving forward with this fishery it would be a very
48 good idea for the Forest Service present management
49 agency to enter into a co-management agreement with the
50

0298

1 Metlakatla Tribe, the Saxman Tribe and the Ketchikan
2 Tribe to co-manage this fishery.

3

4 Presently the Ketchikan Tribe, KIC, is
5 doing in-season monitoring up there, which is very
6 important, but with an expanded fishery there would
7 have to be good in-season monitoring of the fish
8 populations and return. There would also have to be
9 good in-season monitoring of the harvest effort. That
10 may be necessary to do in-season regulatory or
11 in-season closures depending on the amount of effort
12 that was there.

13

14 Like I say, this is a very fragile
15 stock. We've been watching this for 20 years now since
16 the collapse. There's signs that it's starting to
17 rebuild. I think we have to be very careful moving
18 forward. I think everybody would agree that some
19 really sound management is going to be needed.

20

21 Thank you, Rhonda, for that
22 opportunity.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don,
25 for that clarification and statement on the record.
26 Any other questions, discussion from the Board to the
27 Chairs or the State.

28

29 MR. VANORMER: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
32 floor.

33

34 MR. VANORMER: Chad VanOrmer with the
35 Forest Service. I'm just following up on Chairman
36 Hernandez's comments. I agree 100 percent. The
37 landscape has changed dramatically after yesterday's
38 Board decision rescinding the non-rural determination
39 with Ketchikan and the types of pressures that may be
40 on that system will warrant really further
41 consideration on how we build a management system that
42 promotes cooperation amongst both the State of Alaska,
43 the community of Ketchikan and the tribes that call
44 that area their traditional use area. So totally
45 support that concept of working together to work
46 through this changed environment that we're in.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

0299

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Chad. Any other Board question, discussion.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
7 seeing none. Board motion. The floor is open.
8 Robbin.

9
10 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
11 members of the Board. Just as a reminder on your
12 procedure cards in front of you if your position is
13 contrary to a Council's recommendation, you must
14 support your position with rationale that addresses at
15 least one of the three criteria from Section 805(c).
16 You may reject the Council's recommendation when it is,
17 one, not supported by substantial evidence; two,
18 violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife
19 conservation or; three, would be detrimental to the
20 satisfaction of subsistence needs.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Back to you,
25 Chad.

26
27 MR. VANORMER: Mr. Chair, if I may.
28 Mr. Chair, I move to defer FP25-02. If I receive a
29 second, I will explain why.

30
31 MR. BROWER: Second.

32
33 MR. VANORMER: In light of the rural
34 determination for Ketchikan, the conditions addressed
35 in the analysis for FP25-02 have fundamentally changed.
36 Ketchikan's non-rural status was a key assumption in
37 the Southeast Council's recommendation and analysis as
38 well as with the OSM conclusion. Thus the Southeast
39 Council's recommendation may no longer be supported by
40 substantial evidence.

41
42 Deferring the proposal will allow the
43 Southeast Council to update its analysis and
44 recommendation under the new conditions as well as the
45 opportunity to modify the proposal if they see fit. It
46 will also provide time for an updated OSM analysis. It
47 seems to me that this is the best course.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0300

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any Board
2 comment, question, discussion?

3

4 MR. WOODS: So with that recommendation
5 the State of Alaska has a personal use fishery
6 allowable or that's what I misheard earlier?

7

8 MR. VANORMER: Through the Chair.
9 Member Woods. We have -- there's a State subsistence
10 fishery there, but that fishery hasn't operated in some
11 years because the Forest Service still has the ability
12 to restrict to only Federally qualified users as
13 they've done so in the last couple of years. So that
14 State subsistence fishery hasn't taken place in a
15 while.

16

17 MR. WOODS: I'm trying to get
18 clarification on the actions of the Board right now
19 with the passing of rural determination yesterday. The
20 impacts is -- this one was to open?

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: To close.

23

24 MR. WOODS: This one was to close. So
25 we can defer. It will be open until -- thank you.
26 That's the clarification I needed. I heard two
27 different things, right, so I'm clarified. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I think
30 the action to defer would be to give our managers and
31 our Regional Advisory Council more time to -- with the
32 new developing things to work through that program and
33 probably give ideas that you hear on the record here
34 time to flourish and develop those relationships. I
35 think status quo now. We have a Federal manager
36 in-season who can take care of that resource until time
37 takes care of the other issues.

38

39 MR. WOODS: Thank you for that
40 clarification.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
43 questions, need for clarification.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion on the
48 floor to defer. Call for the question.

49

50

0301

1 MR. BROWER: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
4 has been called. Roll call, please.

5

6 MS. LEONETTI: National Park Service,
7 David.

8

9 MR. ALBERG: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chair. National Park Service defers for the reasons
11 the National Forest Service has presented.

12

13 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

14

15 Public Member Frank Woods.

16

17 MR. WOODS: Move to defer.

18

19 MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife
20 Service, Sara Boario.

21

22 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service
23 votes to defer for the reasons stated by the Forest
24 Service.

25

26 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Charlie
27 Brower.

28

29 MR. BROWER: Move to defer.

30

31 MS. LEONETTI: That was a yes.

32

33 BIA Jolene John.

34

35 MS. JOHN: BIA votes to defer FP25-02
36 and concur with the justifications provided by the
37 Forest Service and appreciate the input by KIC tribal
38 members and Staff on this.

39

40 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

41

42 Public Member Chief Rhonda Pitka.

43

44 MS. PITKA: I support deferral for the
45 reasons already stated. Thank you.

46

47 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Raymond
48 Oney.

49

50

0302

1 MR. ONEY: Yes, motion to defer as
2 stated by the Forest Service.

3
4 MS. LEONETTI: Forest Service, Chad.

5
6 MR. VANORMER: I continue to support
7 deferral.

8
9 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

10
11 BLM, Erika Reed.

12
13 MS. REED: BLM votes to defer for the
14 reasons stated by the Forest Service.

15
16 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

17
18 And Chair Tony Christianson.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support
21 deferral as stated on the record and also look forward
22 to discussions on co-management of that resource. I
23 think that's the way to move forward with all the
24 resources in Alaska. So thank you.

25
26 MS. LEONETTI: Motion to defer passes
27 unanimously, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
30 Let's take a 10-minute break.

31
32 (Off record)

33
34 (On record)

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome back,
37 everybody. We'll get back to our non-consensus agenda
38 items. At this time we're going to take up FP25-03.
39 We'll call on the Staff to provide the analysis. Thank
40 you.

41
42 MS. VOORHEES: Good afternoon, Mr.
43 Chair. Members of the Board. My name is Hannah
44 Voorhees. I'm an anthropologist with the Office of
45 Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting Proposal
46 FP25-03a which begins on Page 40 of the Board book.
47 I'll take a little bit more time to present this
48 proposal, but when we move on to FP25-03b, which is the
49 companion proposal, my presentation will be a little
50

0303

1 bit briefer.

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This proposal submitted by Tolsona Community Corporation requests that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District by residents of Tolsona. The proponent states that residents have customarily and traditionally harvested salmon in the Chitina area.

The proponent provided written information submitted with the proposal describing residents histories of fishing for salmon in the O'Brien Creek south of the Chitina-McCarthy Road Bridge. The proponent states that use of subsistence resources is vital not only to the survival of Tolsona residents but also to their sense of identity and connection to others.

In regulatory history between 2000 and 2005 the Board added communities to the determination for salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict. However, in 2002 the Board rejected proposals to add Delta Junction and Lake Louise due to lack of evidence. In 2023 the Board rejected a proposal to add Serendipity subdivision to the determination in deference to the Southcentral Council, which said that residents did not demonstrate the necessary criteria.

In that same year the Board also rejected a proposal to add the named communities along the Alaska Highway from the U.S./Canada border to Dot Lake. This was in deference to both the Southcentral and Eastern Interior Councils due to lack of proximity or evidence of a long-term pattern of use and sharing of the resource.

Tolsona is located in traditional Ahtna territory although it is not an Alaska Native community and it has an estimated population of 11 residents. Tolsona and neighboring Nelchina and Mendeltna are small Glenn Highway communities that lack distinct population centers, interconnected residentially and economically. Tolsona is located about 14 miles from Glennallen. The Tolsona census designated place was first created in 2000.

Of note, during a subsistence survey for the 2013 study year researchers found -- this was

1 with Division of Subsistence. Researchers found that
2 several households self-identify with the community of
3 Tolsona but lay outside of the CDP boundaries, falling
4 within either of the Mendeltna CDP or the Glennallen
5 CDP.

6
7 Also of note between the 1990 and 2000
8 census the Westernmost boundary of the Glennallen CDP
9 expanded to incorporate what had previously been
10 considered part of the East Glenn Highway communities.

11
12 So this is of interest because some
13 people who consider themselves residents of Tolsona but
14 live within the Glennallen CDP already have a customary
15 and traditional use determination for both salmon and
16 freshwater fish in the areas considered in this
17 analysis.

18
19 As part of the Prince William Sound
20 Area, Tolsona residents are already federally qualified
21 to harvest salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict of the
22 Upper Copper River District. As residents of the Prince
23 William Sound Area, residents of Tolsona are also
24 federally qualified to take salmon in the remainder of
25 the Prince William Sound Area. Additionally, Tolsona
26 residents are Federally qualified to harvest wildlife
27 species and subunits surrounding the Chitina
28 Subdistrict.

29
30 When conducting a customary and
31 traditional use determination analysis eight factors
32 are considered. You can find them listed on pages
33 starting on Page 48 of the Board book. These factors
34 are not a checklist.

35
36 Subsistence surveys conducted by
37 Division of Subsistence provide information on
38 communities patterns of subsistence use during a
39 single year. 2013 is the only year for which survey
40 data specific to Tolsona are available. Based on the
41 results of the survey residents exhibit reliance upon a
42 wide diversity of fish and wildlife resources in the
43 area.

44
45 Residents harvested an estimate 311
46 pounds of wild food per person and on average surveyed
47 households harvested nine resources and used 14
48 resources. Also of note 100 percent of surveyed
49 households used wild resources and 88 percent of
50

0305

1 households harvested wild resources. Salmon made up an
2 estimate 41 percent of the total harvest by the
3 community and was used by 88 percent of surveyed
4 households.

5
6 Sockeye salmon was the top resource
7 used by the community in terms of edible weight. Fifty
8 percent of surveyed Tolsona households gave away salmon
9 and 80 percent received salmon. The majority of the
10 Sockeye salmon harvest was obtained through fish
11 wheels, which are more common in the Glennallen
12 Subdistrict than in the Chitina Subdistrict, with much
13 smaller amounts harvested by rod and reel and dip net.
14 Chinook salmon were also harvested in small amounts.
15 For the 2013 survey salmon search and use areas were
16 matched for the three East Glenn Highway communities
17 combined.

18
19 The data showed that some residents in
20 these communities combined did fish for salmon in the
21 Chitina Subdistrict; however, it was impossible to
22 separate out just Tolsona in the analysis. But,
23 according to the State's comments, their internal data
24 show that residents of Tolsona were not documented as
25 harvesting salmon in the Chitina subdistrict in 2013.
26 The survey that year included about two-thirds of
27 Tolsona households. That year surveyed residents of
28 Tolsona were documented as harvesting salmon in the
29 Glennallen subdistrict.

30
31 The proponent included written
32 testimony about subsistence practices by residents of
33 Tolsona going back to at least the 1940s. The
34 testimony is in an appendix on Page 61. Those who
35 provided information referenced personal histories of
36 fishing at O'Brien Creek south of Chitina Bridge over
37 many years. Sometimes with other families, including
38 youth, as well as harvesting and using other
39 subsistence resources in the area.

40
41 Currently, residents of Tolsona can
42 fish for salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict under sport
43 fishing regulations or the State Chitina personal use
44 dipnet fishery. Sport fishing data are unfortunately
45 not available.

46
47 Of note, no permits were issued to
48 residents of Tolsona for the State Chitina Subdistrict
49 dipnet fishery between 2002 and 2023. However, between
50

0306

1 2014 and 2023 a total of 13 Federal subsistence permits
2 were issued in error to residents of Tolsona in the
3 Chitina subdistrict. Per permits fished, the average
4 harvest was 29 salmon.

5

6 In the State Glennallen Subdistrict
7 subsistence fishery an average of 2.6 permits were
8 issued to residents of Tolsona per year between 2002
9 and 2023 and 2.14 permits per year were issued in the
10 Glennallen Subdistrict under Federal regulations
11 between 2011 and 2024.

12

13 If this proposal is adopted, residents
14 of Tolsona would become Federally qualified to harvest
15 salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict under Federal
16 subsistence regulations. If the proposal is rejected,
17 could continue to harvest salmon in the State personal
18 use dipnet fishery or under sport fishing regulations
19 in the Chitina Subdistrict. They could also continue
20 to fish in the Glennallen Subdistrict under State and
21 Federal subsistence regulations.

22

23 The OSM conclusion is to support
24 FP25-03a. Tolsona residents patterns of fishing
25 exhibit the characteristics of customary and
26 traditional uses of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict.
27 Sockeye salmon is the most important resource for
28 Tolsona residents in terms of edible weight harvested
29 and is also widely shared as documented in a
30 comprehensive subsistence survey.

31

32 Tolsona residents are already Federally
33 qualified to harvest salmon in the Glennallen
34 Subdistrict and in the remainder of the Prince William
35 Sound area. Use of salmon by Tolsona residents within
36 the Chitina Subdistrict has been documented through a
37 reported harvest under Federal permits that were issued
38 in error and written testimony submitted with the
39 proposal.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
42 my presentation and I'm open to any questions from the
43 Board.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
46 questions from the Board of analysis provided.

47

48 MR. WOODS: Short question, Mr. Chair.

49

50

0307

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
2 floor.

3
4 MR. WOODS: CDP, that's a census
5 designated place and that population you said was -- I
6 didn't quite catch that.

7
8 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Member Woods.
9 Through the Chair. Yes, the CDP, census designated
10 place, and as of the most recent population estimate,
11 which is based on the U.S. census, the population was
12 11 residents. And you may have noticed that in public
13 testimony a larger population was given for Tolsona.

14
15 The difference between the official
16 population estimate and local understanding of the
17 population size likely has to do with where the CDP
18 boundaries fall. And also with how residency is
19 counted in the U.S. census. People who self report
20 Tolsona as their usual place of residence would be
21 counted.

22
23 MR. WOODS: Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
26 questions.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
31 your presentation. Appreciate it. We'll move on to
32 summary of written public comment.

33
34 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This
35 is Hannah Voorhees again. I'll be reading a single
36 public comment that was received during the initial
37 open public comment period. This comment was in
38 opposition to the proposal.

39
40 The comment came from an individual who
41 said he had been living in the Tolsona community for 43
42 years. He stated that he and his neighbors were
43 unaware of the proposal and the proponent does not
44 represent him. He states that the individuals listed
45 in the proposal had short-lived residency in the area
46 and some have not lived in the area for 20 years.

47
48 Additionally, he believes there's ample
49 opportunity to fish at O'Brien Creek under State
50

0308

1 regulations. He does not think most of the community
2 has used local Federal lands for subsistence purposes.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
5 questions on the written public comment.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate
10 that. Thank you. Summary of tribal ANCSA corporation
11 consultations. Oh, Robbin has her hand up.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 members of the Board. This is Robbin LaVine,
15 Subsistence Policy Coordinator. The Board receives
16 written public comments during a specific window of
17 time over the summer and then those comments get
18 included in the analysis as Hannah just presented.

19

20 The Board does not incorporate written
21 public comments beyond that until the day of the
22 meeting and then we accept written comments via email
23 or handed in and we summarize them on the record and we
24 share them -- we print them out and forward them to
25 you.

26

27 So you should all have just been handed
28 seven proposals -- seven comments. So during the
29 meeting the Board received seven public comments in
30 support of these two proposals. So I'm going to share
31 them with you now and just remind you of the summary
32 for the next proposal.

33

34 Two of these comments were from
35 residents of Copper Center. One was from a resident of
36 Glennallen, one a resident from Tolsona and the other
37 three did not specify a community, but site their
38 experience in the Copper River Basin or in the
39 community of Tolsona.

40

41 Denny Wallace, Ray Voley and Nathaniel
42 Bengtson wrote in to support both proposals and
43 Tolsona's National Park Service residence zone request
44 and to describe their experience sharing subsistence
45 activities and resources with residents of Tolsona. So
46 that's in the package that you should have in front of
47 you.

48

49 You should also have the comment from

50

0309

1 Clare Jaeger who describes her personal history as a
2 resident of Tolsona and subsistence practices during
3 her time there.

4
5 Matt Warnick reiterates Tolsona's
6 subsistence practices and outlines other sources of
7 support for these proposals, including the Tolsona
8 Community Corporation, community members from the
9 larger Copper Basin Area.

10
11 The Copper Basin Area Wrangell-St.
12 Elias Subsistence Resource Committee, the SRC who you
13 will hear from shortly. The OSM recommendation and
14 also Senator Dan Sullivan who wrote in support of these
15 proposals.

16
17 Dennis Kananowicz. I'm so sorry,
18 folks, for my -- I'm unfamiliar with these last names.
19 Dennis writes also in support of these proposals and
20 describes what he believes are customary and
21 traditional practices from the people in those
22 communities.

23
24 Sharon McLeod has written a very large
25 comment describing her family history hunting, fishing,
26 berry picking and practicing subsistence in the area.

27
28 So these are the comments. You can
29 review them in front of you that were submitted during
30 the meeting and that's all I have.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
35 Robbin. Any questions.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
40 Summary of tribal ANCSA Corporation consultation.
41 Orville.

42
43 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
44 Board Members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the
45 Office of Subsistence Management.

46
47 Just a little background. We conducted
48 two rounds of consultations. The very first ones were
49 July 9th and July 11th for the '25-'27 fisheries
50

0310

1 proposals and closure reviews. The second round we did
2 on November 12th and November 14th again of 2024. We
3 did not have any comments or questions on that
4 proposal.

5

6 That's all, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Orville. Tribal Native organization testimony.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
14 seeing none. Advisory group -- yeah, there's somebody
15 online? Is it tribal representation? Because there's
16 public testimony too so I get it mixed up. Let the
17 record reflect we're at.....

18

19 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. I have an
20 Advisory Council testimony when you're ready for that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. We'll get
23 to you next in the cue. We do have Tribal/Native
24 organization. You'll be next. Thank you, Barbara.

25

26 MS. LINNELL: Sorry. I was waiting for
27 my computer to pull up. Thank you members of the Board.
28 For the record my name is Karen Linnell. I'm the
29 Executive Director of the Ahtna InterTribal Resource
30 Commission, otherwise known as AITRC. I am a tribal
31 citizen of the Cheesh'Na Tribe in Chistochina on the
32 upper Copper River. I'm the daughter of Lemmie and the
33 late Edna Charley. I am Was'ineid and I am Nelchina.

34

35 The Ahtna InterTribal Resource
36 Commission was established by the eight Federally and
37 state recognized tribal governments and two Alaska
38 Native corporations within the Ahtna Territory, which
39 is about the size of Ohio. AITRC supports the tribal
40 sovereign authorities held by its members to honor and
41 integrate traditional knowledge and values with western
42 science to innovatively and respectfully steward
43 cultural and natural resources to ensure
44 self-sustainability for all generations.

45

46 The Ahtna people for many years have
47 expressed significant concerns regarding Copper River
48 salmon fisheries management and the difficulties we
49 continue to experience in harvesting enough salmon to
50

0311

1 support our customary and traditional ways of life.
2 Commercial fishing began on the Copper River in 1889.

3
4 An early example of the ongoing
5 challenges to protect our ways of life dates back to
6 the Chief Goodlataw's 1917 complaint filed with the
7 U.S. Federal government regarding the impacts of
8 commercial fishing practices in the Copper River
9 Abercrombie Rapids area that began in 1916 and caused a
10 food security crisis and starvation amongst the Ahtna
11 people upriver.

12
13 The 1914 and 1915 upper Copper River
14 subsistence harvests exceeded 40,000 salmon, but in
15 1916 only 8,880 salmon and in 1917 only 6,000 salmon
16 were harvested, demonstrating the impact of the
17 downriver commercial fishery.

18
19 This is from Bill Simeone's report.
20 Fortunately, Drs. Bill Simeone of ADF&G Subsistence and
21 Jim Kari of the UAF Alaska Native Language Center spent
22 decades of research working with Ahtna elders, many of
23 whom have since passed, such as Robert Marshall, Katie
24 John, Frank Stickwan, Jake Tansy, Bell Joe, Fred Ewan,
25 Martha Jackson, and many others.

26
27 In 2002, Simeone and Kari published a
28 report entitled, "Traditional Knowledge and Fishing
29 Practices of the Ahtna of the Copper River, Alaska" in
30 the ADF&G Subsistence Division Technical Paper series
31 (TP 270).

32
33 This report summarized the ongoing
34 challenges faced by the Ahtna people as follows: "One
35 hundred years ago the Copper River salmon fishery was a
36 commercial fishery that the Ahtna managed for their own
37 benefit -- or communal fishery, sorry. That the people
38 managed for their own benefit, but over time the Ahtna
39 have become one of several user groups vying for an
40 allocation.

41
42 Despite usurpation of the fishery, the
43 Ahtna people have participated in the management
44 systems by going to meetings and submitting proposals.
45 Underlying these efforts is a feeling that biologists
46 and resource managers are not really interested in what
47 the Ahtna people have to say despite their long history
48 in managing this fishery.

49
50

1 Ahtna yenida'a or our long ago stories
2 are legends of the ancient past when animals and people
3 could talk to one another, which provide critical
4 teachings to young people to learn rules of conduct and
5 attitude towards one another and our non-human
6 relatives.

7

8 In Ahtna cosmology Raven is considered
9 the creator or world maker. Raven not only introduces
10 salmon into the Copper River by tricking the salmon
11 boss into letting the fish go, but also teaches them
12 how to swim by placing ballast stones or otoliths
13 inside the salmon's head and helps humans catch them by
14 making the river water cloudy so that they may be
15 caught by dip net. Raven also conserves the salmon by
16 letting only a few go out of the salmon boss's house so
17 some will be left for next year.

18

19 The intimate relationship between Ahtna
20 and salmon is clarified in the Salmon Boy Story or
21 Bac'its'aadi (the one who is highly regarded). Salmon
22 and humans live in parallel worlds. Both have a society
23 and culture. Salmon are also sentient beings and aware
24 of what is happening in the human world. The
25 Bac'its'aadi story explains the relationship between
26 humans and salmon and provides explicit instructions on
27 how salmon are to be treated.

28

29 The Salmon Boy stories ensured that
30 Ahtna people understand the salmon life cycle and that
31 one must only take what is needed without producing
32 waste. These and other rules were essential to ensuring
33 healthy spawning grounds that produced sufficient
34 numbers of out-migrating salmon fry, which we in the
35 Upper Copper River Ahtna dialect call 'uuli or those
36 that are swimming past.

37

38 As long as we treated the salmon
39 properly and honored the rules of conduct and attitude
40 each year, the juvenile salmon would return to the
41 ocean and live with the salmon people until adulthood
42 when, with good luck, the salmon boss would allow some
43 of them to return upriver to give themselves back to
44 the Ahtna people.

45

46 The Ahtna people depend upon this
47 ongoing mutual relationship, which is commonly
48 referenced in the Ahtna Territory as "if we take care
49 of the land, then they will continue to take care of
50

50

0313

1 us."

2

3

4 Ahtna fishing technologies ensured
5 selective fish harvesting practices early in the season
6 to produce superior dried salmon as well as conserve
7 the quality of salmon escapement by ensuring sufficient
8 numbers of female salmon reached the spawning grounds.

8

9

10 Historically, dried salmon dominated
11 the processing methods we used, but also important
12 historically and still today are that salmon are eaten
13 fresh, salted and fermented. Simeone and Kari continued
14 to say, "To avoid these problems, Ahtna historically
15 harvested as much salmon as possible early in the
16 season. The early runs of salmon, which are typically
17 headed for streams and lakes in the upper Copper River,
18 are less likely to be affected by high water since the
19 weather in late May and early June is usually dry and
20 cool.

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21 To maximize their effort and produce
22 enough ba' or dried salmon, Ahtna traditionally
23 targeted these early runs of sockeye and especially the
24 large, fat sockeye headed for Tanada Creek, called
25 natael luugu' or roasted salmon fish or the wide meat
26 fish."

28 The roasted salmon fish stock of
29 sockeye salmon from Tanada Creek were known throughout
30 the Copper River and were relied on by all, not just
31 those of us from the uppermost Copper River.
32 Unfortunately, however, the late Katie John reported to
33 the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 1996 that there were
34 no more of those large roasted salmon fish stock
35 returning to Tanada Creek and that she hadn't see many
36 spawned-out salmon carcasses around Tanada Lake,
37 indicating there weren't many fish.

39 Katie John also discussed numerous
40 other spawning tributaries of sockeye and king salmon
41 that no longer produced fish like they had during her
42 earlier years according to oral history accounts.

44 The report continues: The Ahtna give
45 names to salmon runs that emanate from particular home
46 streams. This is especially well documented for the
47 Upper Ahtna where, for example, twenty-one different
48 salmon runs on tributaries of the upper Copper River
49 above the Sanford River have distinct names. Each run

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1 is named for a side stream or a place and Ahtna say
2 that they can discern the differences among fish from
3 the various locations.

4
5 My grandson knows which fish comes from
6 Suslota, which one comes from Batzulnetas. He's been
7 to Batzulnetas, but he's never been to Suslota. This
8 he learned from my uncles and my grandpa, right. It's
9 been passed down to us.

10
11 Historically, the Ahtna people
12 management was based on socio and territorial systems
13 in which a denae, or clan leader, had the ability to
14 regulate competition by limiting access to resources
15 within his territory. In part, a clan leader's
16 authority rested on his skill to ensure the welfare of
17 his people. To this end the denae directed the
18 construction and maintenance of equipment, such as our
19 fish weirs, our fishwheels, our dipnet platforms, and
20 instructed our people on when to begin and stop
21 fishing.

22
23 Today our Ahtna elders continue to do
24 this with our local fishwheel operations. We've often
25 been told by management that we're not putting in
26 effort in the upper reaches of Copper River and we're
27 not putting in the effort or the catch-per-unit effort
28 they want to look at and saying that we're not trying
29 to catch the fish. But when we're seeing fish and
30 we're catching or not catching them or we're not seeing
31 the fish we stop.

32
33 As an example, I had my fishwheel at my
34 family's fish camp. My grandpa's fish camp. Our family
35 -- the whole village would fish at our fish camp for
36 over 120 years. My camp is just down the hill from my
37 grandpa's cabin. My fishwheel is the same place as
38 where my grandma Maggie had her wheel.

39
40 There was a year a few years ago when
41 we got a lot of kings. Three days in a row we got a
42 few kings. We don't get a lot of kings. Not like
43 Yukon River or anywhere else. It's not something we
44 seek out all the time. We got a few kings for a few
45 days and my uncle came in and he said how many kings
46 you get today and I said, oh, about four. How about
47 yesterday? Three. How about the day before that?
48 Three. He said, okay, shut it off. Let them go by.
49 That's our conservation.

50

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1 In another situation, after nearly a
2 month's fishing effort, every day, I only got 66
3 salmon. My uncle again told me to shut it off. Let
4 them go by. There's not enough. We have to stop and
5 let them go by. They need to go back to the spawning
6 grounds. That catch rate demonstrated that there
7 weren't many fish in the river and we were practicing
8 traditional law to ensure that our salmon will continue
9 to come back.

10

11 This example of how traditional
12 fisheries management -- is an example of how it
13 continues to operate, but also demonstrates how Ahtna
14 Indigenous Knowledge and tribal stewardship values
15 mitigate from Ahtna people succumbing to the tragedy of
16 the commons where people just keep fishing without
17 regard to the consequences of their actions to future
18 generations of salmon and humans.

19

20 The spiritual relationship between the
21 Ahtna people and the salmon, as characterized by the
22 Salmon Boy stories, inherently mitigated the risks of
23 over-fishing under customary and traditional fisheries
24 management systems because the health of each
25 particular stock could be assessed and conserved
26 accordingly.

27

28 What I hope to leave you with is a
29 recognition of these values and stewardship principles
30 that are still employed by the Ahtna people today to
31 manage our subsistence fishery in the Upper Copper
32 River. The Ahtna people have always monitored the
33 diversity of king and sockeye salmon stocks and our
34 elders have noted a number of tributaries that no
35 longer support certain king and sockeye salmon stocks.

36

37 The risks and challenges facing our
38 wild Copper River salmon stocks are increasing due to
39 the additional stressors of ongoing environmental
40 change, declining size of fish at age, and increased
41 competition for food while our salmon are at sea. AITRC
42 is committed to working with our partners to increase
43 salmon monitoring to ensure that all Copper River
44 salmon fisheries avoid the crises of the Yukon and
45 Kuskokwim rivers.

46

47 As I stated a little earlier, we're
48 seeing new fisheries. We're seeing people dipnetting
49 from boats when that didn't use to happen. They used
50

0316

1 to fish from a bank or a shore with their dipnets. Now
2 they're drifting, trawling. A net and a boat under
3 movement. They're trawling with their dipnets now.
4 This is not a traditional method of fishing and it's
5 not being done by the Ahtna people.

6
7 It's being done from folks from urban
8 centers and they're doing it in that area down below
9 the Chitina River Bridge because that's where they are
10 just coming in just past the Mile 6 sonar. The only
11 other fishwheels down there are the Native Village of
12 Eyak's mark/recapture wheels.

13
14 There's no subsistence between that
15 fishery, which is where now these guys want traditional
16 use. They've got traditional use and fishwheel
17 capabilities and dipnet capabilities north of the
18 bridge, but now they're trying to target them because
19 of this more highly-efficient way of targeting fish
20 when we're in a decline.

21
22 Not only that, but with the recent
23 change in the Department's regulations delaying that
24 personal use fishery, because it is a personal use
25 fishery zone that they can use, but they delayed it by
26 three days or until the salmon and the sonar count meet
27 management objective. What will happen with this is
28 Federal fisheries start May 15th. That stops them from
29 June 10th. It gives them almost an entire month of
30 harvesting there where they had not had traditional
31 use.

32
33 That's something that we're -- that
34 early run, because the runs are coming back two weeks,
35 sometimes three weeks later, they're capturing that
36 early run that goes the farthest to Katie John's camp
37 to my grandfather's camp. They're intercepting those
38 fish and we're not getting them at the headwaters.
39 This has a direct impact on people that Eastern
40 Interior serve because they fish out of Slana area and
41 it has a direct impact to Southcentral RAC subsistence
42 users in the upper reaches of the Copper River.

43
44 So I urge you not to support this
45 proposal and to vote it down in an effort for
46 conservation because we're not catching them. We're
47 not seeing them at the headwaters where my family's
48 camp is. Where Katie John's family camp is. The whole
49 reason you have Federal jurisdiction is that Katie John
50

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1 case.

2

3

So I want to thank you for your time.

4

5

Thank you.

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7

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
8 Karen. Any questions or comments from the Board for
9 Karen's presentation.

10

11

(No comments)

12

13

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
14 taking the time, Karen. We'll move on to Advisory
15 Group testimony. We have Barbara Cellarius online to
16 provide the Western SRC recommendation. You have the
17 floor.

18

19

MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Members of the Board. Can you hear me?

21

22

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
23 floor, yes.

24

25

MS. CELLARIUS: Great. Thank you. My
26 name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the subsistence
27 coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
28 Preserve. I'm calling in today to present the comments
29 from the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
30 Resource Commission, which is a citizen advisory
31 committee established under the provisions of ANILCA
32 that represent subsistence users of Federal lands and
33 waters within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

34

35

I believe that the Board members have
36 also been provided with a written copy of the SRC's
37 comment letter. The SRC took up this proposal at its
38 October 2024 meeting. At that meeting Staff presented
39 a summary of the OSM Staff analysis and the preliminary
40 OSM conclusion for both FP25-03a and FP25-03b. The SRC
41 commented on Proposal 25-03a but did not comment on
42 03b. I thought I would mention that just in case the
43 question came up when you got to the next proposal.

44

45

The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
46 Resource Commission unanimously supported FP25-03a.
47 Information in the analysis demonstrates the Tolsona
48 residents have historically used salmon in the Chitina
49 Subdistrict. So that's our comment and I would like to

50

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1 provide one clarification about the SRC meeting with
2 your permission, Mr. Chair.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
5 the floor.

6

7 MS. CELLARIUS: So in their comments
8 the proponent -- I think you have some written comments
9 from the proponent and they kindly attributed the hard
10 work of the OSM analysis along with the preliminary OSM
11 conclusion that was presented at the SRC meeting to the
12 NPS, but that was information from OSM. The NPS hasn't
13 taken a position on the proposal. That will happen at
14 today's meeting.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Barbara. Any questions for the SRC.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
24 calling in and presenting that today. At this time
25 we'll open up the floor to public testimony. First
26 we'll call up Donald Mike. Is that for a or b?

27

28 MR. WARNER: Good afternoon. This is
29 Matt Warner.

30

31 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
32 is for Proposal.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: One second,
35 Donald Mike. Could somebody mute their line online,
36 please. I can hear something coming through. Thank
37 you. You have the floor, Mike. Sorry.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
40 is my public comment. My personal opinions on section
41 B of the proposal. My name is Donald Mike. I'm
42 originally from the village of Kotlik on the western
43 part of Alaska, Yukon Delta. I'm Yup'ik. I was born
44 and raised in Kotlik and I grew up in a seasonal camp.

45

46 I'd like to acknowledge Karen Linnell
47 representing the Ahtna InterTribal Council and I
48 support her comments to this Board.

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As far as the proposal, the Staff analysis states that the request for C&T use of freshwater fish in the Copper River the Staff analysis states that there's only 2,013 study areas for one specific survey for residents of Tolsona that are available. So that's pretty small or non-existent data for this analysis to come forward and support the request.

Further, the analysis states that there's significant gaps and currently there's a lack of information about the location and depth of Tolsona residents freshwater harvest.

For the comments made by the Regional Advisory Council I just want to state on the record I support the recommendations brought forward to this Board. I support their recommendations and they are the user groups that matters for decisions to be adopted or rejected.

The Southcentral Council found that there are significant data gaps and it appears the long-term history of passing on tradition is not there. It is unclear the proponent has a subsistence -- proponent has any subsistence history in the area. The Council further stated that the individuals names having histories of use in the area there's a lot of data gaps missing.

The Eastern Interior Council opposed this proposal because not enough of the eight factors were determining customary and traditional use were met. So for that I would oppose Proposal FP25-03b and a.

Finally, you read into the public record written public testimony from Kirk Wilson and he stated that the Tolsona community has no proof of their customary and traditional use patterns on Federal land in question. For this, they don't have C&T use. I just want to bring out that the proponents clearly do not have C&T use of that area.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Donald. Any questions for Donald on his presentation.

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for coming to testify, Donald. Appreciate it. Next we have Deanna Cosgrove.

MS. KOSBRUK: Hi, again. For the record my name is Deanna Kosbruk. Thank you for listening to all our public testimony chance to introduce myself fully. So I'll take this time to say who I am, where I'm from and what family I'm from.

(In Native)

The late Ralph Kosbruk, Sr. (In Native). The late Luke and Jeanie Maxim (In Native). I said I am Deanna. I'm from the Tsisyu Clan. My village is Gulkana. My parents are the late Ralph Kosbruk, Sr. and Ann Maxim. My grandparents are Luke and Jeanie Maxim. My grandma Jeanie Maxim her maiden name is Tyone and that's where I come from, from the Tyone side in Gulkana.

I was mainly raised by my Grandma Jeanie and my Grandpa Luke and all her siblings and her relatives. So for most of my life I was raised traditionally and I'm very thankful for that.

I would just like to thank Mr. Mike for coming up and testifying and supporting us. I want to thank Karen Linnell for her testimony as the tribal organization. That is a perfect example written down of our customary and traditional use.

I'd like to point out that I heard that Board Member Frank Woods he had asked -- he had asked the agency how many -- what was the population out in Tolsona and her response was 11 people. That may not seem like a lot, but if you guys were to support this and pass these two proposals, what is that going to open up? Tolsona is a recreational use area. The ones that claim residency there don't live there full time. They come and go for recreational use. So I would just like to point that out.

Another that Karen had mentioned was the trawling that we see down in Chitina under the bridge. I personally saw it. I was down there for a different project and there was a big group of us.

0321

1 Even a trooper was with us. Dunleavy was with us and
2 we saw it personally that these dipnetters on boats
3 were just shutting their engines off, coasting. As
4 soon as they would get to that boundary they would rev
5 their engines up and go back up and start dipnetting
6 right where that boundary line is where all the salmon
7 sit there and rest from their long travel up.

8

9 Right now Ahtna InterTribal Resource
10 Commission they have been conducting a project studying
11 the health of our salmon. Imagine how much stress that
12 is on a salmon to be feeling that vibration going back
13 and forth, back and forth as they're just resting from
14 their travel up. Trying to make it up to their
15 spawning grounds. So I just want to leave that with
16 you guys.

17

18 Not only that. If this is passed, more
19 -- we're going to see more of that in our region.
20 We're going to see more of that. We're not inviting
21 them to do that. This is all Federal and State
22 agencies that are inviting these people into our lands,
23 allowing this. Who is going to enforce that? Because
24 we don't have the enforcement other than coming here
25 and speaking on our behalf.

26

27 As I had stated earlier, all the elders
28 from when I was a child they fought hard for our
29 rights. So it's hard. It's hard to sit here and see a
30 community come before you guys with an incomplete
31 proposal asking you guys to justify their pattern use
32 of customary and traditional use that's not even there
33 when we have fought years for our rights.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
38 Deanna. Any comments for Deanna on her presentation --
39 testimony today.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I appreciate
44 you carrying on your legacy. Keep it up.

45

46 MS. PITKA: Just to be clear you oppose
47 the C&T determination, right?

48

49 MS. KOSBRUK: Yes.

50

0322

1 MS. PITKA: Okay. Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The next blue
4 card we have here is Jim Simon. We're going to call
5 him up, but he has also stated at the same time on the
6 cue I'm hoping Kirk Wilson could be recognized at this
7 time as he wants to speak after him.

8

9 So, Operator, if we could open up Kirk
10 Wilson's line and give him the opportunity to testify
11 and then we'll follow up with Jim Simon.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
16 Wilson, thank you so much. Just for everybody who is
17 online we have a number of people now raising their
18 hands and lining up in the cue online as well as our
19 cue here in the room. So I will remind folks that are
20 listening if you are joining via a phone number, you
21 can raise your hand and join the cue by pressing star
22 five and then star six to mute or unmute yourself. If
23 you're on Teams, I think you can raise your hand using
24 the little hand icon at the top of your screen.

25

26 So just as a reminder for folks if
27 you're online star five. If you're using a phone to
28 call in that will raise your hand to get you in the cue
29 and star six will help you mute and unmute.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Wilson, you
32 may proceed.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 the Board. Thank you for your time and dedication and
36 patience. My name is Kirk Wilson. I serve on the
37 local ADF&G in Glennallen. I've served on the Prince
38 William Sound Aquaculture Board as the subsistence
39 advisor to the Copper River Native Association. I've
40 just been appointed to the Southcentral RAC Board.
41 I've served many other boards in my community.

42

43 My objective here today are to restore
44 and preserve the Ahtna culture and traditions and stand
45 for all qualified subsistence users. This is going to
46 address both of the proposals on the table right now.
47 I couldn't hardly separate it.

48

49 I need to talk just a little bit about

50

0323

1 our -- we heard Karen talk about the salmon. She's
2 done a very good job there. We need to talk about our
3 caribou really in Unit 13 too. Right now it's at a
4 historic low. The Fish and Game is saying 10 to 15
5 years until they can have a season on them. Our moose
6 is in total decline and you heard Karen about the
7 salmon. Most of you know what's going on there. I'm
8 not going to go in-depth into it.

9

10 As most of you know, the road system in
11 Unit 13 is the hardest hunted and fished area in the
12 state of Alaska. Hunters are increasing and the game
13 is declining. This can't last forever. It just can't
14 last forever.

15

16 I'm just going to say a little bit
17 about my community and what's going on here and the
18 numbers we've been hearing thrown back and forth at
19 these meetings here. We have 11 people living around
20 Tolsona Lake at the lodge and around that area. We
21 have three neighbors that live just down the road from
22 us. They're our closest neighbors.

23

24 This group consists of one Alaska
25 Native and the rest are among the oldest and the
26 longest residents in the Tolsona community. None of
27 these full-time residents knew about this proposal or
28 either proposal until after they had been submitted.
29 We need to be heard.

30

31 Tolsona has never been a Native
32 community. In the recent history the Tolsona community
33 has voted that a private landowner and business owner
34 in the Tolsona community can be a resident of our
35 community and can vote and serve on the board in the
36 Tolsona community.

37

38 Right now we have a lot of residents
39 living in the post office in Glennallen and mailboxes
40 out along the highway because I just told you there's
41 14 of us. You told us there was only 11 and those 11
42 that you're talking about they certainly have not
43 included us in their group.

44

45 We need to be very careful adding new
46 user groups at this critical crossroad in our area. We
47 also need to be very careful we are not creating
48 something that looks like a sport hunt.

49

50

1 This proposal -- and I'm talking about
2 the hunting proposal now and the fishing proposal --
3 has the potential to invite hoards of trespassers to
4 Ahtna's land as they own all the lion's share of
5 private property in lands along the Copper River that
6 border the Park and Preserve.

7

8 I am opposed to this proposal and I
9 have plenty of opportunity on other State land and
10 Federal land to feed my family. I'm 70 years old and I
11 still can do that. My family has lived a true
12 subsistence lifestyle right there in our little place
13 at Tolsona Lake.

14

15 I just thank you all for listening to
16 me today. Any questions?

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
19 Wilson. We appreciate it. Any questions here. Frank.

20

21 MR. WOODS: Frank Woods here, the new
22 Board member. So you're a resident of Tolsona and
23 you're opposed to the -- correct?

24

25 MR. WILSON: I am opposed to this and I
26 don't believe -- I know all those initials on that
27 thing that that lady showed you today that Karen was
28 talking about. They're talking about Ken Bunch who was
29 a guide that guided over in they weren't subsistence
30 users. Gene White, that's Clare's brother, he was a
31 guide. He worked for Frank Pease down in Copper Center
32 and they hunted over in the Wrangells. He wasn't a
33 subsist -- wasn't using subsistence.

34

35 I don't really know any subsistence
36 old-timers from the Tolsona community as I grew up and
37 I shared lots with the old-time members in my
38 community. Most all of the old-timers in my community
39 hunted right where they were or at Crosswinds Lake. I
40 just -- I'm the only person I know that would qualify
41 to do this and I'm certainly not asking for it.

42

43 MR. WOODS: Thank you for answering
44 that question. The second one was how does Tolsona
45 declare a citizenship? We've heard that non-resident
46 proposals, testimony. And what's the criteria as far
47 as -- on a second note I'm kind of unclear on census
48 information for testimony and submission to the Board.

49

50

0325

1 MR. WILSON: If you just give me a
2 second I'll try to clear that up for you. They've
3 written into their bylaws that a private landowner and
4 business owner is a resident of the Tolsona community
5 and a judge in Valdez decided that. Now what that
6 means for residents, the residents for us in this
7 subsistence world, you need to be a resident of Alaska,
8 not Tolsona. I think there's a lot of mix-up here on
9 that.

10

11 MR. WOODS: Thank you for that
12 definition. I guess my specific question is how -- so
13 you stated that the majority of this impact is going to
14 be from non-residents that don't live there. The
15 second one is my, as a Board member, due diligence and
16 ask how do we classify Federally qualified subsistence
17 users? Be it by census and/or residency? I know a
18 Federally qualified subsistence user has about the same
19 qualifications as a State resident, a year and then
20 membership.

21

22 I just want to be clear for myself, the
23 Board and the public that we vetted this fully for my
24 own comfort.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. WILSON: This would be one of my
29 questions about this thing. There's a lot of lots for
30 sale in Tolsona, Alaska. All you have to do is be a
31 resident of Tolsona to qualify to hunt in this park.
32 There's going to be a lot of -- there's sport hunters
33 that will buy them lots.

34

35 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This
36 is Hannah Voorhees and I can add a little bit to this
37 discussion.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

40

41 MS. VOORHEES: I just wanted to clarify
42 that a Federally qualified subsistence user for the
43 Chitina subdistrict would need to be living -- so first
44 they would need to be living in a community that is
45 rural that has a customary and traditional use
46 determination for salmon in the Chitina subdistrict.
47 They would have to have lived in Alaska for a year and
48 be a permanent resident. This needs to be their
49 full-time place of residence or usual place of
50

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1 residence.

2

3

4 MR. WOODS: So is there any -- I guess
5 I heard testimony that people from a non-rural area can
6 go and hang out at Tolsona, but how do you check? Is
7 there -- I'm looking at the map. The reason I was
8 looking at the map I was looking at who is going to
9 enforce this, how is this going to be implemented and
10 -- I guess this is a deliberation question. Thank you
11 for your answer. I just wanted to thank you for the
12 great report and the testimony helps support my
13 clarification.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: One second, Mr.
Wilson. Ken is going to take the floor here. He has a
point of clarification.

MR. LORD: The phrase used in our
regulations is that Tolsona would have to be their
primary place of residence. So if they have more than
one, it has to be the primary.

MR. WILSON: I understand that fully.
I totally understand that.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
questions from the Board for Mr. Wilson.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
Wilson. We appreciate you for taking your time to
testify today.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair. Just one more
comment. I think my community has done this once
before and we were turned down and it's been like 20
years ago. I mean nothing's changed.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
that.

MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Members of the Board. For the record my name is Jim
Simon. While I'm a consultant with Ahtna InterTribal
Resource Commission, I'm speaking just on my own behalf
as a former Federally qualified user of this area.

1 If you look on the map in Figure 1 of
2 the Staff analysis, you can see -- you know, my
3 extended family during my lifetime has spanned from
4 Glacier View, which is where my grandfather first
5 established the Glacier View School District in order
6 for my relatives to go to school, and he helped upgrade
7 the Glenn Highway in 1951 that created all of this
8 access. And then between Eureka Roadhouse and Glacier
9 View is Sheep Mountain and that's where my place is
10 now.

11
12 I now steward my great grandmother's
13 cabin there. I have an electric bill. I could pose as
14 a Federally qualified user, but I know better than to
15 do that. And then I grew up in Nelchina, which is, you
16 know, talked a lot about in this analysis, and then
17 also had relatives in Mentasta.

18
19 My aunt used to live in Mentasta and
20 actually went to school with one of the authors of one
21 of the written testimonies that was just passed out.
22 Neither my aunt or that individual has lived in the
23 area for decades. We've already had one person testify
24 in person before you who has not lived in Tolsona for
25 decades.

26
27 So it's a peculiar situation to me
28 where we have clearly non-Federally qualified users
29 speaking to their customary and traditional use as if
30 they were rural residents. It makes me wish that the
31 Staff analysis and that OSM anthropologists could do
32 more primary fieldwork on their own rather than just
33 rely on the State of Alaska Subsistence Division
34 research, which is great.

35
36 I spent 14 years working for the
37 Subsistence Division as a regional supervisor. I'm
38 very familiar with the subsistence efforts over the
39 past more than 20 years with the Board of Fish and the
40 Board of Game and the Ahtna efforts ongoing challenges
41 to try to protect their customary and traditional way
42 of life.

43
44 I think that Karen Linnell's testimony
45 really speaks to what a customary and traditional
46 pattern of use looks like with respect to salmon. I
47 want to now hopefully try to help the Board understand
48 where all of this is coming from. It's very -- it's
49 maybe not as contentious as your non-rural discussion,
50

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1 but this is really hard, right, you know, because of
2 these challenges of whether or not people should be
3 able to participate.

4
5 Your policy to have broad, expansive
6 customary and traditional use determinations is
7 problematic and you're going to find yourself looking
8 at a lot -- in my opinion -- in looking at a lot of
9 ANILCA .804 subsistence user prioritization analyses in
10 the future if you continue to do that.

11
12 I think what most members of the public
13 may not be as familiar with is that if there's not
14 enough to provide for an expanding Federal subsistence
15 use allocation, then we're going to end up in .804 and
16 people are going to -- Federally qualified users are
17 going to end up getting a random draw opportunity as to
18 whether or not they can continue to practice their
19 customary and traditional ways of life.

20
21 That concerns me because I have
22 dedicated my professional career just as my late dad's
23 buddy Kirk Wilson has said, another non-Native, from
24 this region of helping the Ahtna people conserve their
25 way of life and the resources that they have stewarded
26 for, you know, millennia.

27
28 So what's going on here? First of all
29 let me give you some more background. Both RACs oppose
30 both FP25-03a and b. For you to override RAC deference
31 and make a positive C&T determination, it will be to
32 the detriment of existing Federal customary and
33 traditional uses upriver from the Chitina Subdistrict.

34
35 This past fall the Eastern Interior RAC
36 adopted an interim Federal subsistence use amount for
37 salmon in the Glennallen subdistrict that is consistent
38 with the Alaska Board of Fisheries amounts necessary
39 for subsistence finding.

40
41 Subsistence harvest upriver of Tolsona
42 have not met the lower end of the amount necessary for
43 subsistence or the interim Federal subsistence use
44 amount has not been met from Tolsona to the Gakona
45 River mouth since 2018. The lower end of the Federal
46 subsistence use amount for salmon upriver from the
47 Gakona has not been met since 2015.

48
49 As Karen Linnell has indicated, the
50

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1 Department of Fish and Game has said that the upriver
2 users have not been putting in sufficient effort.
3 There are fewer permit holders. As Karen pointed out,
4 there are so few fish in the river up there people
5 can't afford -- it's not economic and efficient for
6 each household to build -- spend thousands of dollars
7 to build and operate their fishwheel, so they're
8 pooling effort.

9
10 When I was a kid 40-some years ago, we
11 didn't fish directly on the Copper River. We bartered
12 with Ahtna and non-Ahtna friends to get a truckload of
13 salmon. Now there is no way that any of our close
14 friends and allies could do that when you get 60 fish
15 in a month of fishing effort, right? We would get
16 hundreds of fish from one day of that fishwheel's
17 operations.

18
19 Those days are way gone. Way past.
20 It's history. So how do I get my fish now except those
21 that are shared with me? My family goes to Chitina and
22 dipnets in the personal use fishery. Other subsistence
23 users, Ahtna people, have moved to fish with relatives
24 down closer to the bridge, closer to the Chitina
25 subdistrict, because there's still some fish in the
26 river there, right.

27
28 So what we see with this proposal in
29 particular, 25-03a, they already are Federally
30 qualified in the Glennallen subdistrict, but there are
31 so few salmon that make it through the gauntlet of
32 fisheries. Of commercial at the mouth, the new Federal
33 fishery that you established in the Cordova area, and
34 then a continuing, expanding personal use dipnet
35 non-subsistence fishery.

36
37 You see people moving downriver to try
38 to get their fish, which is only exasperating the
39 problems that Katie John spoke about to the Alaska
40 Board of Fish in 1996, that the fish are not coming.
41 There are tributaries that no longer supports salmon
42 that used to. Now Ahtna InterTribal Resource
43 Commission is in the process of hiring a fish habitat
44 restoration biologist to try to address some of those
45 issues that those late elders have identified.

46
47 So this proposal is building on, as
48 Kirk said, uses for sport and recreational guided
49 opportunities to be able to now reclassify that as
50

0330

1 Federal customary and traditional patterns of use and
2 that is a problem. To adopt this proposal in
3 opposition to the Regional Advisory Council's
4 recommendations would be detrimental to subsistence
5 uses and Federally qualified subsistence users.

6
7 Now I know a C&T determination process
8 is supposed to be a discreet process, but I want you to
9 understand the consequences, you know. We shouldn't
10 use bureaucratic barriers to dismiss the potential
11 conservation concerns that keep occurring here as you
12 add more and more Federally -- you know, people to the
13 Federal pool of qualified users.

14
15 The escapement goal for king salmon has
16 not been met a number of times. I think four times it
17 has not been met in the past 10 years. Every
18 indication is that it was not met again this year.

19
20 The Board of Fish through much effort
21 of the National Park Service that Karen spoke about
22 early on, you know, got the Board of Fish to delay the
23 commercial fishery at the mouth of the Copper River by
24 a week and to delay the personal use non-subsistence
25 dipnet fishery managed by the State for three days and
26 disallowed the retention of king salmon in that fishery
27 until July 1st.

28
29 If you adopt this proposal, all of
30 those dipnetters that could use a fishwheel or dipnet
31 in the Glennallen subdistrict will now be going
32 starting May 15th instead of June 10th and they will be
33 allowed to retain king salmon. So please follow your
34 deference to the RACs.

35
36 Do your part to help ensure the
37 conservation of Copper River king salmon and that the
38 interim Federal subsistence use amounts upriver of the
39 mouth of the Tonsina might actually have a chance of
40 being achieved and to continue the Federal customary
41 and traditional patterns of use of Copper River salmon.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Jim.
46 Any questions from the Board for Jim and his
47 presentation.

48
49 (No comments)
50

0331

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
2 seeing none. Thank you, Jim, for that. Operator
3 online we do have in the cue, so we'll take them in
4 order as they are. Please state your name for the
5 record.

6
7 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
8 first person in the cue has a phone number ending in
9 1016. If you have not given comments, please unmute
10 yourself by pressing star six. Phone number ending in
11 1016 you can unmute yourself by pressing star six.
12 You're unmuted, please go ahead.

13
14 MR. WILSON: I've already spoken. This
15 is Kirk Wilson.

16
17 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Kirk. You can
18 lower your hand by pressing star five. Thank you.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Okay.

21
22 MS. LAVINE: Next in line is a phone
23 number ending in 0623. You can unmute yourself by
24 pressing star six. Oh, they've lowered their hand.

25
26 MS. PETE: Hello. Can you hear me?

27
28 MS. LAVINE: Yes. Please provide your
29 name.

30
31 MS. PETE: My name is Linda Pete. I'm
32 here to testify in opposition of the two proposals
33 before you. I am a resident in Copper Center, but I
34 grew up and lived in Gakona Village all my life. I got
35 a cold, so that's why I'm not there. I'm here
36 testifying again on the phone regarding this.

37
38 I support everything of what everybody
39 said before me like Karen and Deanna and Jim and Kirk.
40 I don't think there is enough evidence here to make a
41 determination on this. They don't even have data to
42 support the permitting. Like everybody said before,
43 people come and go. We don't know who's a resident.

44
45 I don't know -- a lot of people come
46 there just for our resources and that's not right. To
47 make a determination I think you guys need to take it
48 seriously and listen to the people that live there.
49 I've lived there all my life and I'm not leaving
50

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1 anywhere and my family is from there. My dad is from
2 Gulkana and my mom is from Gakona.

3

4 Also, you know, they talked about
5 trolling down there below the bridge. I see it down
6 there in Copper Center where I've got my fishwheel. We
7 see them people on the boat with their dipnetting and
8 it's not fair. Some places they just get dropped off.
9 It's not regulated or anything from the State side, the
10 State of Alaska. Here we're trying to survive and keep
11 our families fed and put away stuff for the winter.

12

13 The last couple years we had record
14 snowfalls and the river was so high you couldn't hardly
15 get any fish. This year it's been too warm. I don't
16 know what our fish is going to be like for this year.
17 You know, we live and depend on that resource.

18

19 I don't think people -- you know, under
20 the State law every Alaskan is subsistence user. I
21 hope you guys protect our customary and traditional
22 rights. Make the right decisions for the users, you
23 know, subsistence users. I don't like to refer to it
24 as subsistence because that's not -- that's another
25 term that somebody made up, I don't know who, but our
26 traditional rights, our tradition.

27

28 I don't want to take up too much more
29 of your time and I'll just leave it that I'm in
30 opposition of this.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
35 taking the time to call in. Any questions from the
36 Board for the testifier.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none at
41 this time. Operator, can we get the next one in the
42 cue, please.

43

44 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
45 believe some of the people who actually had their hands
46 up for the cue may have accidentally lowered their
47 hands. I'm going to let 0295 know that their hand is
48 up. They're next in the cue. 0295 may press star six
49 to unmute themselves and address the Board. Everyone
50

0333

1 else -- I would suggest I see no other hands up. If
2 that is not your intention, press star five once to
3 raise your hand. In the meantime, 0295 you may address
4 the Board. Thank you.

5

6 MR. KANANOWICZ: Hello, can you hear me
7 okay?

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear.
10 You have the floor. State your name for the record,
11 please.

12

13 MR. KANANOWICZ: Yes. My name is
14 Dennis Kananowicz. I've been a resident of Tolsona for
15 nearly 20 years. Probably maybe even more. I first
16 moved to Copper Valley in early 2000 and I lived around
17 Copper Center and then around 2003-2004 I moved out to
18 Tolsona.

19

20 I'm asking you to support Proposal
21 FP25-03a, Chitina Subdistrict salmon customary and
22 traditional use. As a long time resident of the Copper
23 Valley I believe the Federal government should
24 recognize and acknowledge these vital rights that fall
25 under the definition of customary and traditional use.

26

27 Not only do these rights provide
28 significant means of natural unadulterated quality
29 nutrition they also provide culturable aspects as well.
30 From time immemorial dipnetting in the Chitina
31 subdistrict has provided the people -- the people of
32 the Copper Valley with a substantial food source that
33 has not only allowed the people to survive but is also
34 the driving force that promotes a healthy lifestyle and
35 contributes to the identity of the people of this area.

36

37 From the act of catching the fish, the
38 cleaning, the preparing, to smoking and drying, canning
39 and freezing and cooking. This has all been passed
40 down for generations. I would like to continue passing
41 that knowledge in true subsistence fashion onto my
42 family and friends that reside in this area as well. I
43 thank you for your consideration in this matter.

44

45 And then I'd also like to read
46 something about basically my history of dipnetting and
47 harvesting the fish on the Copper River. I apologize
48 for not being very well prepared today. The process of
49 all this has been quite confusing to me. Kind of at
50

0334

1 the last minute I've had to put a lot of things
2 together, but I'm going to do my best.

3

4 I'd like to tell you about my
5 experience of subsistence fishing on the Copper River.
6 When I first moved to this area in 2002 I remember
7 dipnetting below the bridge at Chitina. I remember
8 thinking how easy it would be just to stick a net in
9 the water and pull a fish out. For the first time with
10 no experience, boy, was I wrong.

11

12 As a young man in his 20's I was
13 ignorant of the correct gear to be used, the location
14 of where the fish were on the river, the behavior of
15 the river such as the current, and the never-ending
16 pileup of the silt and what to do with the fish when I
17 actually caught one.

18

19 As the years passed, I learned how to
20 become more successful with the help of other local
21 people. To be perfectly honest, after a few seasons
22 dipnetting below the bridge near Chitina I turned my
23 attention and efforts to permits above the bridge.
24 This I did simply because the usual 35 fish allotted
25 for personal use was simply not enough to subsist on.

26

27 Let me ask any of you present here
28 today. Is 35 salmon plus 10 more for each family
29 member enough fish for you? Is it enough for your
30 family to dine on two to three nights a week? I
31 seriously doubt it. Therefore, I started obtaining
32 permits for above the bridge where I could catch up to
33 200.

34

35 The problem with above the bridge is
36 this: unless you know somebody with a fishwheel that
37 is willing to let you use it -- excuse me. Unless you
38 know somebody with a fishwheel that is willing to let
39 you use it, you are limited to the use of a dipnet
40 where access to the river is not only difficult due to
41 private property issues, but practically impossible
42 without the use of a motorized jet boat.

43

44 My experience above the river goes like
45 this. For many years I've worked with a man in
46 Glennallen that had a fishwheel. I wasn't the only
47 person wanting to use it. In fact there were scores of
48 people from various parts of the state coming to use
49 it. My name would be added to a list. Oftentimes I
50

50

0335

1 would get to use it for only one day. Usually a
2 weekday when I wasn't working and usually when the run
3 wasn't coming in strong.

4
5 It was frustrating seeing other people
6 from Valdez, Anchorage, Kenai and other parts of the
7 state taking home over 100 fish when I was lucky just
8 enough to get 50. In the recent past I've given up on
9 the fishwheel and have gotten permits for above the
10 bridge with the use of a dipnet. The permit for above
11 the bridge only allows one method of catching; either
12 dipnet or fishwheel.

13
14 As mentioned, access to the river above
15 the bridge is practically impossible by foot;
16 therefore, a boat is necessary. For the past three
17 years or so I paid taxi services to drop me and my wife
18 off in order to hopefully catch the salmon we need for
19 the year in a weekend. The cost of doing this in this
20 area is about \$300 per trip for two people. You can
21 see how this type of system comes if we don't catch
22 enough on one trip.

23
24 This is why I'm asking you to support
25 FP25-03a. As mentioned by Matt, below the bridge has
26 been used by the people in this area for centuries,
27 including the residents of Tolsona. As other sources of
28 protein come into question, for example the caribou,
29 subsisting on salmon has become more crucial to me and
30 my wife.

31
32 As mentioned in my previous testimony,
33 not only does it provide a quality food source, but
34 also promotes a healthy lifestyle and contributes to
35 the identity of the people of this area. Once again I
36 ask you is 35 fish enough to truly subsist on? Is it
37 enough to can, to smoke, make strips, to freeze? Is it
38 enough to teach and show others how to traditionally
39 handle the fish? Is it enough to share with -- how the
40 people of Ahtna continually talk about how they share?
41 Is 35 -- if you have 35 fish, would you be sharing?

42
43 I respect the Ahtna Tribe rights and
44 history. I admire. I think it's wonderful. But why
45 should somebody that has just moved to the Copper
46 Center have more rights than I do when I live 10 miles
47 from Glennallen. I work in Glennallen. I buy my
48 groceries in Glennallen. I see these people. Is that
49 fair? I don't think so.

50

0336

1 As far as trawling goes, these are some
2 comments I've been writing down as I've been listening
3 as far as the trawling goes. These are from -- they're
4 Chitina. These are from people that have a personal
5 use permit that are only getting approximately 35 fish,
6 maybe 10 more for each family member, or these are
7 people from your community that have a subsistence
8 permit. These are not people from Tolsona. I highly
9 doubt it.

10

11 I strongly disagree that if you support
12 this proposal and allow the people of Tolsona to come
13 and fish below the bridge, that it's going to put a
14 huge dent in the population. I seriously doubt it. I
15 think the solution for the problem in the upper
16 portions of the Copper River that Ms. Linnell has been
17 talking about need to be addressed in a different
18 manner through the catching method.

19

20 It doesn't matter if I'm pulling 200
21 fish out above the river -- excuse me. It doesn't
22 matter if I'm pulling 200 fish out above the bridge or
23 below the bridge. It's still going to have the same
24 effect on Ms. Linnell's lack of fish in the upper
25 portion. The only thing it's going to do is like you
26 guys have addressed it, it would allow me to come in a
27 month earlier and catch fish. Still, the population of
28 Tolsona is so small the people that want to do this is
29 so little that it would have -- I would doubt any
30 effect whatsoever.

31

32 So basically I would say this proposal
33 does not threaten the future of your salmon stocks. Of
34 our salmon stocks. I just don't see it happening. I
35 think there's other things that are going on that are
36 responsible for what has happened and that perhaps is,
37 yes, the personal use.

38

39 I, myself, as a resident of the Copper
40 Valley have just as much right as anybody else to go
41 down to Chitina and fish. I moved to Alaska in 1997.
42 I've been a resident of the Copper Valley for over 20
43 years. The reason I live here is because of my ability
44 to subsist. I'm just asking for what is right for me.
45 That is all I'm asking.

46

47 Thank you very much.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for

50

0337

1 your testimony. Any questions from the Board.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
6 taking the time to call in and share your perspective.
7 Is there anybody else in the cue?

8

9 MR. KANANOWICZ: Can I add one more
10 comment?

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A short one,
13 please.

14

15 MR. KANANOWICZ: I am a resident of
16 Tolsona. I'm a full time resident. I am a rural
17 resident and subsistence person. I am not a person
18 that lives in Anchorage. My residency has been and
19 always will be Tolsona. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
22 Appreciate that. Is there any wishing to be
23 recognized?

24

25 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 There is another phone number with their hand raised.
27 That phone number ends in 0039. So if your phone number
28 ends in 0039, press star six to unmute yourself.
29 Please address the Board and provide your full name.
30 Thanks.

31

32 MR. WARNICK: Good afternoon. This is
33 Matt Warnick. I'm a Tolsona resident. Are you able to
34 hear me?

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. You have
37 the floor.

38

39 MR. WARNICK: Thank you. So there's a
40 lot that's been said so far and I'd like to really
41 thank the OSM analysis and the presentation that Hannah
42 put on. That's the group that did the most extensive
43 analysis on this. They applied the evidence that was
44 shown against the criteria for C&T and they determined
45 that there should be a support recommendation. That's
46 the group that did the most heavy lifting on this.

47

48 You heard me talk the other day and
49 I've given you my full speech on this. I'd like to
50

50

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1 just cover a few points today, kind of
2 administratively, about how this developed. There's
3 been talk about why our people who are not currently
4 Tolsona residents testifying and I will answer that
5 question.

6
7 I started building this proposal and
8 started researching the history of Tolsona and the
9 history of subsistence use. I wanted to get the best
10 picture possible of what happened from as early as I
11 could go.

12
13 So there's a couple people that are
14 instrumental in that because they were born and grew up
15 in Tolsona pre-statehood and they can speak to what
16 Tolsona residents were doing in 1940s and 1950s. Those
17 people are Clare and Sharon. They still maintain
18 extensive ties to Tolsona. Things happen in life.
19 They now live in their primary residence or in other
20 locations within Alaska.

21
22 So we had Tolsona residents provide
23 evidence. We had Alaska residents provide evidence and
24 we even had an out-of-state Oklahoma resident provide
25 evidence because he used to be a Tolsona resident. I
26 was providing the most accurate picture I could. It's
27 disingenuous to point out some of these people and say
28 their testimony is invalid. The decades they spent
29 living a subsistence lifestyle in Tolsona is invalid.
30 So please take their testimony and bring it into your
31 analysis.

32
33 I'd also like to talk about how the
34 Tolsona Community Corporation developed in support of
35 this proposal. We had many, many, many Tolsona
36 community meetings. This issue was discussed. People
37 who are now saying they had no input was at that
38 meeting. So it's disingenuous to say there was not
39 input. If they didn't attend the meetings, I'm not
40 sure what to say about that. If they attended the
41 meeting and now say they weren't at the meeting, I'm
42 not sure what to say about that.

43
44 This is a very inclusive proposal. We
45 had multiple Tolsona Community Corporation meetings.
46 People who came to those meetings are full-time primary
47 residents.

48
49 Before I ask if there's any questions
50

0339

1 for me, I'd like to just leave you with three final
2 thoughts. The first is that, again, as mentioned in
3 the proposal, as mentioned in the analysis, this does
4 not change quotas, this does not change take. What
5 this changes is where we can fish.

6
7 Traditionally Tolsona residents did not
8 fish above the bridge. There might have been a
9 secondary fishing spot. The primary spot, as shown by
10 testimony, personal stories, photographic evidence is
11 that there was dipnetting below the bridge. This is
12 for the reason that Dennis has clarified or has stated.

13
14 Back in the '40s access above the
15 bridge was even more difficult than it is today. One
16 of the primary tenants of subsistence is going after
17 the resource in the most efficient and effective way.
18 That was below the bridge. That's what they did in the
19 '40s. That's the primary spot for Tolsona residents.

20
21 Just to close, the OSM did the heavy
22 lifting. They did the heavy analysis. They applied
23 the criteria. They looked at the evidence and there's
24 a support proposal. So I would like to mirror that and
25 ask you to support this.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
30 taking the time to call in. Any questions from the
31 Board for our testifier.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing or
36 seeing none, we'll go ahead and call on Clare Jaeger.
37 You have the floor. Robbin, was that all the hands
38 online?

39
40 MS. LAVINE: Yes.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 Appreciate that.

44
45 MS. JAEGER: This is Clare Jaeger.
46 Chairman, I appreciate your time for me to go ahead and
47 elaborate a bit about my background. Again, I'm not
48 personally claiming subsistence for this. I'm
49 testifying about my history, my family and the
50

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1 community of Tolsona to defend that they are a rural
2 community and that they are a part of Glennallen.

3
4 Glennallen has been determined to be
5 rural and certainly Tolsona is less. Tolsona is a very
6 underemployed community. It's not anything different
7 from Glennallen. I mean you've got the census bureau.
8 They come in, you know, decades after this and draw
9 lines on a map and come up with 11 people. That's not
10 a sustainable community. There's no store. There's no
11 nothing.

12
13 You know, I mean I graduated from
14 school 50 years ago. We all went to school in
15 Glennallen. Everybody now goes to school in the Copper
16 River School District. The school is in Glennallen.
17 The Post Office is in Glennallen. I don't understand
18 why to take a small community which does have quite a
19 few local residents. I mean the Census Bureau
20 identifies 11, but there is more actual homes than
21 that.

22
23 Then they moved the boundaries, whether
24 it's 14 miles from Glennallen or 12 miles from
25 Glennallen. The reason for all this local bickering
26 about where the boundaries are is that's driven by
27 Department of Commerce, Community Development, DCCED
28 and how they do revenue sharing.

29
30 It's an entirely different subject.
31 There is no other local form of government. It's the
32 Unorganized Borough of Alaska. I grew up there. I was
33 born there in 1952. I went to school there. There's
34 no employment there. Pretty much that's the -- other
35 people in here have admitted, you know, were people on
36 the board. You know, you're driven to go where you
37 have to go to earn a living.

38
39 But it doesn't take away the fact that
40 for nearly 80 years my family and other families there
41 and the residents are now in Tolsona are entitled to
42 these subsistence rights. So tomorrow if a school
43 teacher moves into Glennallen and one year they have
44 subsistence rights -- you know, if the Park Service
45 hires new employees and they reside within that
46 boundary drawn on the map, they get the subsistence
47 rights.

48
49 Matt Warnick, Dennis Kananowicz and
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1 other residents of Tolsona who live there today and
2 rely on these rights to hunt and fish, based on the
3 subsistence rights that basically go with the land and
4 who lives there and within one year you're entitled.
5 Both of these individuals have been living there for
6 substantially more than a decade.

7
8 So, you know, that's the point. It's a
9 rural community and it shouldn't be segregated off and
10 penalized just because it's 10 miles from another
11 arbitrary line on a map that says Glennallen. It's
12 rural. No one is going to deny that. It's more rural
13 than Kodiak or Ketchikan, Palmer or these other places,
14 you know. Not that Palmer is a subsistence area, but
15 that's the point I want to make.

16
17 This has been going on for decades.
18 People move to the territory of Alaska at the will --
19 you know, encouragement of the Federal government to
20 homestead and help to build this country out. Our
21 parents did that. These were people that survived the
22 Depression. They were officers in the different
23 services in World War II. They survived it and they
24 came to Alaska for a fresh start, like many other
25 pioneers that move out.

26
27 So people who are still living that
28 life and living in this land under those circumstances
29 -- I mean if tomorrow I move back to Glennallen, within
30 a year if I actually live -- I have a house there. If
31 I move there, then I become entitled. If those folks
32 there move away, they lose it.

33
34 So when you go in to get subsistence
35 permits, you have to go in like you do for anything
36 else and you testify that you're living there. It's
37 not just an electric bill. You have to write down that
38 that's your primary residence. Even other people that
39 testified on this today they go other places. They go
40 on vacation, they're away for a month.

41
42 I'm not splitting hairs. If they write
43 on the form and they say they were there, that's on
44 them. You know, that they are -- they're entitled to
45 that subsistence access at that time because they're
46 living that way. To give only -- to restrict those
47 people to some, you know, obtuse combination where they
48 don't have land access and it's not a reasonable place.

49
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1 We all always dipnetted down south of
2 the bridge. I mean that's what everybody did until
3 these rules come and then they wonder why there's not
4 too many permits in the last 10 to 15 years. It's
5 because they've been frozen out. You know, people
6 aren't going to go down -- the average person go down
7 and say they're living there full time or this or that
8 when the agencies say they're not eligible. That's --
9 you know.

10

11 So we were doing this long before the
12 Park came. We were doing it before the State of Alaska
13 came and there's still people out there that live this
14 life and they really do need the fish like other people
15 need it. I'm not saying we don't need to manage other
16 layers of this, but under the rules that we're hearing
17 now and the way we understand the processes they're
18 eligible.

19

20 So I hope that you find in favor of
21 them because they're in the Glennallen area and it's
22 arbitrary that they're not included.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 Clare. Any questions for Clare from the Board.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
30 coming to testify. Thank you, Clare. One more in the
31 cue? Thank you.

32

33 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, I would also --
34 Clare's testimony reminded me that we have the Park
35 Service online to respond to some of the questions
36 about how they verify residency and they're online if
37 you wish to take their testimony.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think Frank
40 had that question. I didn't know if you were satisfied
41 with the answer.

42

43 MR. WOODS: Yeah, I got clarification
44 from.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Rhonda
47 has a question. Thank you, Frank.

48

49 MS. PITKA: Yeah, sorry. Does the

50

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1 person who wished to testify go first and then I'll ask
2 my question?

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Certainly. Thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. The next person in the cue has the last four
6 digits of 8799. This is the last and only person in
7 the cue. Once you've given testimony I understand that
8 we would have questions for Park Service Staff who are
9 online. 8799 please press star six to unmute your
10 line. There you go. You may address the Board.

11

12 MS. MCLEOD: My name is Sharon Mcleod
13 and I'm actually calling in from Fairbanks where I
14 live. What? My hand is lowered?

15

16 MS. LAVINE: You're fine. We can hear
17 you.

18

19 MS. MCLEOD: Oh, okay. Something in
20 the recording said that my hand was lowered. So I will
21 continue. All of you should have before you the email
22 that I sent in with my testimony for this meeting and
23 I'm not going to belabor that by going through all of
24 it again.

25

26 What I want to say is I am in favor of
27 these proposals. I am one of Clare Jaeger's neighbors.
28 I grew up with her and her family and several others
29 along the road system. What she states about our
30 fishing and hunting and living in the area, actually
31 building the area up, is true.

32

33 My parents both drove into Glennallen
34 during their respective employment careers for work. I
35 also drove in to Glennallen for work during the summers
36 when I was home from college. Everything that we
37 participated in was in Glennallen. That's where the
38 phone company is, the electric company is, the banks
39 are there and it's where all the commerce basically
40 happens.

41

42 Mail does come by truck from Palmer and
43 it did get dropped off at our house along the way, but
44 that was the only thing that was perhaps not as linked
45 to Glennallen as it could be. I think mail still shows
46 up at the house. We never had a postoffice box in
47 Glennallen.

48

49 But prior to the 1980s, before the big

50

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1 revenue-sharing started and before Tolsona Community
2 Corporation came into being we were all part of the
3 Glennallen census area. That change is basically an
4 arbitrary and almost whimsical change that occurred
5 because the people in our area -- my mother Myrtle
6 McLeod, Clare's mother Marcy White and Helen Lee --
7 thought that it would be advantageous to get rid of the
8 tin can piles that were housed on our property that
9 drew bears and have a small community dump that was
10 easier access than going all the way to Glennallen.

11

12 Additionally, fire service didn't exist
13 at all. That meant that if our house caught on fire --
14 and ours did a couple of times -- that depended on us
15 calling all of our neighbors. In the beginning, thank
16 goodness for the party line where you could do -- I
17 forget if it was four shorts or four longs, but it was
18 one of those -- and everybody would pick up and they
19 knew there was an emergency. You could say we've got a
20 fire and everybody would show up and help.

21

22 Having that community corporation
23 allowed for a volunteer fire service. We didn't have
24 to wait for the neighbors or later the fire department
25 from Glennallen to show up. That's how arbitrary this
26 boundary situation is. People from Tolsona, Nelchina,
27 Mendeltna were all part of the Glennallen system.
28 Essentially they still are. I think that's where a big
29 crux of this matter is rearing its head and causing an
30 issue that really shouldn't be an issue at all.

31

32 So I'm just going to summarize and say
33 please do vote in favor of these proposals that are in
34 front of you.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
39 calling in. Any questions from the Board.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
44 seeing none. We appreciate that. We'll open up the
45 floor now for Rhonda to have a question of the Park
46 Service.

47

48 MS. PITKA: Hi. Is Barbara still on
49 the line? So on Page 52 in the proposal analysis for
50

0345

1 FP25-03a there's a line in there that says that no
2 permits were issued to residents of Tolsona for the
3 State Chitina Subdistrict dipnet fishery between 2002
4 and 2023.

5
6 So later it was shown that Tolsona
7 residents have instead fished in the Federal
8 subsistence Chitina Subdistrict fishery under permits
9 issued in error to people who were not Federally
10 qualified subsistence users for the area.

11
12 In the note, number 4, it says the
13 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Staff
14 make a concerted effort to screen for permit
15 eligibility; however, Chitina subdistrict permits have
16 occasionally been issued in error to Tolsona residents.
17 When errors are identified the permittees are notified
18 that the permits had been issued in error.

19
20 So I think I need a little bit more
21 background on that. Can you provide some clarification
22 on the permit process, please.

23
24 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, I can do that.
25 Thank you for the question. For the record this is
26 Barbara Cellarius and I'm the cultural anthropologist
27 and subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias
28 National Park and Preserve. In terms of how we issue
29 permits, people come in to the office in person to
30 apply. We require that they provide proof of Alaska
31 residency and proof of their local physical address.

32
33 Also, in signing their permit, we let
34 them know that they're making a legal declaration that
35 they meet the eligibility requirements. We do try to
36 balance in asking for two pieces of proof of residency
37 plus the signature. We're trying to balance being
38 diligent about screening with burdening true
39 subsistence users.

40
41 And then with respect to the permits
42 that are issued in error, those individuals were likely
43 Federally qualified subsistence users; however, they
44 did not have -- their address was at a location that
45 was not in an eligible community.

46
47 So it's not that the permits were
48 issued to somebody from generally an urban area or a
49 non-rural area, just occasionally when doing the
50

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1 screening our seasonal Staff -- we do a really -- make
2 a diligent effort to train them on what communities are
3 eligible for which permits. There is a difference
4 between the eligibility for the Glennallen permit,
5 Glennallen subdistrict permit and the Chitina
6 subdistrict permit, but every once in a while there's
7 some confusion and we do our best to clear up the
8 confusion when we discover it.

9

10 So I'll stop there and hopefully I
11 answered your question.

12

13 MS. PITKA: Yes, a little bit, but now
14 it kind of raises another one because it doesn't list
15 out the Glennallen and Chitina personal use subsistence
16 fishery because it says that the permits are
17 confidential. So I was kind of wondering just, you
18 know, like how many permits were issued in error do you
19 think and what going forward is a process for people to
20 I guess have a more rigorous permit process maybe. I
21 don't know.

22

23 MS. CELLARIUS: I thought -- so I don't
24 have the same page numbers that you do because I
25 downloaded the document from the web and it doesn't
26 have the page numbers. I thought when Hannah gave her
27 presentation she said something like 13 permits over 20
28 years had been issued in error. Maybe Hannah can help
29 me out there. We've sort of identified this as an
30 issue and have placed more emphasis on it in recent
31 years.

32

33 So we just -- when we identify an issue
34 that comes up frequently, we spend more emphasis on it
35 when we do our training. Also just make sure the Staff
36 know -- that our front desk Staff know that they should
37 call the subsistence team if they have questions.

38

39 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This
40 is Hannah Voorhees. Just building on what Barbara
41 Cellarius shared, I wanted to note, Member Pitka, Table
42 2 actually refers to State Chitina subdistrict personal
43 use fishing as well as Glennallen subdistrict
44 subsistence fishing again under State opportunity. But
45 to answer your question, yes, between 2014 and 2023 a
46 total of 13 Federal subsistence permits were issued in
47 error to residents of Tolsona for the Chitina
48 subdistrict.

49

50

0347

1 MS. PITKA: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sara, you
4 have the floor.

5

6 MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 More of a comment. Just over the course of the
8 testimony, listening to kind of the mix of language in
9 the testimony and thinking back to the decision we had
10 before us yesterday, I just wanted to be really clear,
11 I guess, for listeners. Before us today is not a
12 rural/non-rural determination. Tolsona is rural. It's
13 a C&T determination.

14

15 I just wanted to -- unless I'm really,
16 really tired and not tracking. I've heard that come up
17 a lot, the rural word, and that's not what's before us
18 today. Okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
21 putting it on the record, Sara. I just wrote that down
22 here to make sure so I was clear about it, you know,
23 that they do have rural access. So I'm just making
24 sure.

25

26 I think that concludes public
27 testimony. No, it does conclude. Regional Advisory
28 Council. Sorry, Donald, I'm going to move on for the
29 order of business. Council recommendation.
30 Regional Advisory Council recommendation. Chair, you
31 have the floor.

32

33 MS. CAMINER: This is Judy Caminer,
34 Vice-Chair of the Southcentral Regional Advisory
35 Council. As you see, the Council opposes FP25-03a.
36 There does not appear to be a long-term history of
37 passing on traditions. It's unclear if the proponent
38 has a history in the area. The Council had questions
39 about the individual's names as having histories of use
40 in the proposed area.

41

42 Discussions indicated that many of
43 these individuals had not lived in the area for a long
44 time or might be deceased. It's unknown if there is
45 support for this proposal from the community -- at
46 least that's what we heard at the time -- and more
47 information is needed.

48

49 The Council encourages proponents to

50

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1 attend the meetings of the Council in the future. That
2 would have offered an opportunity for some of these
3 back and forth questions that are going on now.
4 Written and tribal testimony in opposition to the
5 proposal was also a compelling factor for our opposing
6 and Eastern Interior Council also opposed the proposal.
7 Additionally, we know there is a conservation
8 concern for the resource.

9
10 Thank you very much.

11
12 MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Judith.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Next we have
15 the Eastern Interior RAC if there's no questions from
16 the Board. Thank you, Charlie, you have the floor.

17
18 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
19 Council. The Eastern Interior -- on Proposal FP25-03a,
20 Tolsona C&T salmon in Copper River, the Eastern
21 Interior Council opposed FP25-03a. The Council opposed
22 the proposal because they did not feel that enough of
23 the eight factors for determining customary and
24 traditional use were met.

25
26 The Council noted that there was not
27 enough evidence or intra-generational transmission of
28 knowledge and practices of historical uses of the
29 resource. Additionally, there are conservation
30 concerns and the amounts necessary for subsistence have
31 not been met recently for salmon in the upper bounds of
32 the Copper River.

33
34 I'd also like to add a little bit more
35 personally. That was the RAC report. I have a hard
36 time personally supporting this proposal on the Copper
37 River. Escapement goals are not being met. Federally
38 qualified users are being limited on the upper end of
39 the drainage. The fish are fewer and smaller. That's
40 a direct sign of a problem to me. I've lived through
41 one of these and I'll continue here a little bit to
42 explain myself.

43
44 While visiting the Copper River for a
45 meeting with AITRC an elder there told me the Copper
46 River can't feed the whole state and follow the Yukon
47 and lose the fish if we don't be careful.

48
49 Also I'd like to add in my own words
50

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1 define historically or historical use. I will use my
2 ancestors' old village near my village of Rampart where
3 I grew up. To be clear, I mean no disrespect to no
4 one. I just want to use this as an example. The
5 fireplace in my ancestral village the archaeologists
6 have found salmon vertebrae dating back 10,000 years.
7 That to me defines historical.

8

9 On the Yukon you all know we don't have
10 enough fish to feed our people. I would sure hate to
11 see the qualified users of the Copper River Valley be
12 put in this position of not being able to feed their
13 families because we have overharvested the river
14 commercially or any other way. We need to think
15 sustainably and conservatively going forward because of
16 all the uncertainties we are living with at this time.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all I
19 have.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
22 questions, Charlie. Sarah, you have the floor.

23

24 MS. CREACHBAUM: I have a question for
25 both RACs, please. Charlie, was there any testimony
26 from the residents of Tolsona at your RAC meetings?

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: If any, very little that I
29 remember. Sorry, it's been a while now. I can't
30 answer you 100 percent, but I know of very little. I
31 know of the trickery too that was talked about here
32 today that some of the references had deceased some
33 years ago. So I offered -- I asked them not to use
34 trickery any more in the future at our meeting because
35 it's not fair to the people that are trying to really
36 do their work and live on this river.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda.

41

42 MS. PITKA: Oh, I was just going to say
43 your Council Coordinator can provide that if she's
44 available.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. If you do have
47 any, Brooke, please bring it forward.

48

49 MS. McDAVID: Through the Chair. To my

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1 knowledge we did not have anyone from Tolsona call in
2 to the meeting to provide oral testimony. The only
3 comments we received were the written testimony that
4 has been included. And we did also hear testimony from
5 Ahtna or from AITRC in opposition at the meeting.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
10 other questions for the RACs. We're on the Regional
11 Advisory Council. Discussion. Judy, do you have
12 additional comments to follow Charlie.

13

14

(No comment)

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Do you see her
in the cue?

18

19

(No comments)

20

21

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, okay.
We'll go ahead and move on then. I think we got a
satisfactory answer there.

22

23

24

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
comments. Mr. Mulligan.

25

26

27

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know I'm not
on the RAC but I wanted to second Southcentral and
Eastern Interior's comments. Thank you.

28

29

30

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Let the record
reflect -- Mr. Mulligan, you have the floor.

31

32

33

MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, sir. For the
record the Department is neutral on the C&T
determination on this proposal. Thank you.

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
that. Any questions from the State -- for the State.

37

38

39

(No comments)

40

41

42

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
Mulligan. We'll move on. InterAgency Staff Committee
comments, ISC.

43

44

45

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
InterAgency Staff Committee provided their standard
comment.

46

47

48

49

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 We'll move on to the Board discussion with Council
3 Chairs, State Liaison. An opportunity here to ask
4 additional questions.

5
6 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, this.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
9 the floor. Is that Barbara? That was.....

10
11 MS. CAMINER: This is Judy again.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I mean Judy.
14 Sorry.

15
16 MS. CAMINER: Sorry. I haven't been
17 able to get on. Yeah, we wished someone had been at
18 our meeting because we could have had a more full
19 discussion. We really do appreciate it and prefer that
20 proponents be at the meeting, especially for something
21 as important as C&T. If this proposal is deferred or
22 if there's going to be further discussion, we would
23 look forward to having people from Tolsona at our
24 meeting or calling in to our meeting.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
29 Judy. Any other questions, clarification from the
30 Board, from our RAC Chairs.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
35 seeing none. We'll open up the floor for Board motion.
36 Sarah, you have the floor.

37
38 MS. CREACHBAUM: Mr. Chair, I move to
39 defer action on Fisheries Proposal FP25-03a. If I get
40 a second, I'll provide the rationale for my motion.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ken, you have
43 the floor.

44
45 MR. LORD: Point of order. I've just
46 learned something new myself. We've been chatting how
47 the process should work under Roberts Rules of Order
48 for a motion to defer. That process is that there was
49 a motion to adopt the proposal as we normally would do
50

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1 and then before that motion is voted on someone --
2 well, you or someone else could then make a motion to
3 defer. If that motion to defer is voted up, of course
4 everything gets deferred. If it's voted down, then you
5 refer back to the original motion. I guess I learn
6 something new every time I do this.

7

8 MS. CREACHBAUM: Alrighty. So I'm
9 moving to adopt FP25-03a.

10

11 MR. WOODS: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The motion has
14 been made and seconded.

15

16 MS. CREACHBAUM: Now I'd like to make a
17 motion -- no? Oh, discussion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
20 open for discussion, but at this time.....

21

22 MS. CREACHBAUM: My discussion would be
23 to make another motion.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That would be a
28 discussion. If anybody is in opposition to that
29 discussion at this time, then we would have this
30 opportunity to get on Sarah right now.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Nobody wants
35 to. Sarah, you have the floor again.

36

37 MS. CREACHBAUM: I'm sorry, everybody.
38 Now I'm making my motion to defer, correct? Mr. Chair,
39 I move to defer action on Fisheries Proposal FP25-03a.
40 If I get a second, I will provide the rationale for my
41 motion.

42

43 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife seconds.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
46 floor.

47

48 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you. Before
49 today's testimony there was limited information

50

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1 available on the history of salmon use by residents of
2 Tolsona in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper
3 River District. The primary source of information came
4 directly from the proponent.

5
6 As part of their proposal, Tolsona
7 Community Corporation included written testimony of
8 individuals residing in Tolsona from 1946. However, it
9 is unclear whether there is continuity of customary and
10 traditional subsistence practices between the
11 individuals listed in present day residence.

12
13 There was no clear information that
14 Tolsona's pattern of use of salmon in the Chitina
15 Subdistrict included the handing down of knowledge from
16 generation to generation regarding the means of
17 processing and storing fish or fishing skills, values
18 and lore.

19
20 We have received new written
21 information provided to the Board as part of the
22 written comment opportunity during this Board meeting.
23 We've also heard substantial new oral testimony at this
24 meeting providing additional evidence in support of the
25 eight factors to consider for C&T of salmon use by
26 residents of Tolsona and Chitina, a subdistrict of the
27 Upper Copper River. We also heard public testimony
28 today in opposition of the C&T request.

29
30 Therefore, I recommend deferring this
31 proposal at this time, which will allow the Eastern
32 Interior and Southcentral Regional Advisory Councils to
33 consider the new information and make an updated
34 recommendation to the Board.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
37 Discussion. Rhonda and then Frank.

38
39 MS. PITKA: I generally oppose motions
40 to defer on principle just because it annoys me because
41 we've had a ton of information. We've all read the
42 book. We've heard public testimony. It's a public
43 process. I respectfully disagree that we should defer
44 because we've had so much information on this. There's
45 like three pages of citations. The analysis was
46 thorough and everybody had a weigh-in, you know.

47
48 I hate to say this because it's so late
49 in the day, but I just feel like today I've been tested
50

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1 to my patience because of how many things that we've
2 deferred. My apologies and I don't mean to be
3 disrespectful to anybody.

4
5 MR. WOODS: So, with that follow-up I
6 guess I'll be quiet. The census data was real clear
7 for me. It outlined basically the parameters on how we
8 qualify non-subsistence users and subsistence users,
9 residents and non-residents. The most compelling
10 testimony is from the users and the residents.

11
12 The State came in with personal use
13 fisheries. The Staff reports were excellent. Like she
14 said, we had a lot of information and I'm wanting to
15 vote on it yea or nay. With that said thank you for
16 the -- I think it's a good idea to move on this because
17 we have enough information and basically it's a
18 proposal -- both proposals we'll be voting on are
19 pretty straightforward for me.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
24 discussion, deliberation about the motion to defer. We
25 have two motions on the table. The first motion is to
26 defer.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
31 seeing no action, call for roll call.

32
33 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. Public Member
34 Raymond Oney.

35
36 MR. ONEY: Motion to oppose.

37
38 MS. LEONETTI: Forest Service, Chad
39 VanOrmer.

40
41 MR. VANORMER: Chad VanOrmer. Forest
42 Service opposes the motion to defer.

43
44 MS. LEONETTI: BLM, Erika Reed.

45
46 MS. REED: Can you repeat what you just
47 said, Chad?

48
49 MR. VANORMER: I opposed the motion to
50

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1 defer.

2

3 MS. REED: All right. I'll oppose. I
4 will also oppose the motion to defer.

5

6 MS. LEONETTI: Chair Tony Christianson.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll go with
9 Rhonda and oppose the motion to defer based on her
10 rationale. I will state no more.

11

12 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Chief
13 Rhonda Pitka.

14

15 MS. PITKA: I oppose the motion to
16 defer. Not only based on principal because we've had a
17 complete and clear analysis of the proposal already.
18 Thank you.

19

20 MS. LEONETTI: BIA, Jolene John.

21

22 MS. JOHN: BIA will also oppose the
23 motion to defer at this time.

24

25 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Charlie
26 Brower.

27

28 MR. BROWER: Public Member Charlie
29 Brower opposes it too.

30

31 MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife
32 Service, Sara Boario.

33

34 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service
35 opposes.

36

37 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Frank
38 Woods.

39

40 MR. WOODS: Public member Frank Woods
41 opposes to defer.

42

43 MS. LEONETTI: National Park Service,
44 Sarah Creachbaum.

45

46 MS. CREACHBAUM: Well, in the face of
47 insurmountable odds, I still support my motion to
48 defer.

49

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1 MS. LEONETTI: Mr. Chair, the motion
2 fails. One in favor, nine against.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. With
5 that we revert to the main motion. It's on the floor
6 for discussion at this time. Any discussion on the
7 C&T.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
12 Board discussion.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Seeing no
17 jumping jacks. Call for the vote. Roll call, please.
18 Call for the question. This is on the (a). Can we
19 reread the motion for the vote, please.

20
21 MS. LEONETTI: The original motion is
22 to adopt FP25-03a.

23
24 MR. WOODS: We need a motion to
25 adopt.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No. We have a
28 motion on the floor. It's been seconded. We're in
29 discussion to vote on it. So if you want to talk about
30 the proposal and deliberate, that's what we're going to
31 do or we're going to do a roll call vote to support or
32 not support the C&T. We're at that point. Any other
33 discussion or comments or questions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
38 Roll call, please.

39
40 MS. LEONETTI: The motion is to adopt
41 FP25-03a. Let's see. I like to mix it up.

42
43 Forest Service, Chad VanOrmer.

44
45 MR. VANORMER: The Forest Service
46 opposes the motion to adopt FP25-03a in deference to
47 the Resource Advisory Councils.

48
49 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Frank

50

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1 Woods.

2

3 MR. WOODS: Move to oppose Proposal
4 25-03.

5

6 MS. LEONETTI: National Park Service,
7 Sarah Creachbaum.

8

9 MS. CREACHBAUM: The National Park
10 Service opposes and would like to read the
11 justification for it. There's limited information
12 available on the history of salmon by residents of
13 Tolsona. The primary source of information comes
14 directly from the proponent. As part of their
15 proposal, Tolsona Community Corporation included
16 written testimony of individuals residing in Tolsona
17 from 1946. However, it is unclear whether there is
18 continuity of customary and traditional subsistence
19 practices between the individuals listed in present day
20 residence.

21

22 There is no clear handing down of
23 knowledge from generation to generation about the means
24 of processing and storing fish or about fishing skills,
25 values and lore.

26

27 The Office of Subsistence Management
28 analysis identifies supporting evidence for several of
29 the eight factors considered in customary and
30 traditional determination. However, the Southcentral
31 and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils did not
32 find the evidence to support these eight factors
33 adequately.

34

35 We defer to the Councils with great
36 respect to the SRC of Wrangell-St. Elias and their
37 sincere determination -- or deliberation on this issue.
38 With great respect to the SRCs we defer to the
39 Councils' recommendation since they're local experts in
40 the region.

41

42 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

43

44 Public Member Chief Rhonda Pitka.

45

46 MS. PITKA: I oppose FP25-03 in
47 deference to the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence
48 Regional Advisory Council and in deference to the
49 Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
50

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1 Council based on their justification on Page 57 of the
2 Board book.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

7

8 Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.

9

10 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service
11 opposes for the reasons articulated by my colleague at
12 the Park Service and out of deference to the
13 Southcentral and Eastern Interior RACs.

14

15 MS. LEONETTI: BIA, Jolene John.

16

17 MS. JOHN: The BIA votes to oppose as
18 recommended by both the Councils, the RAC Councils.
19 Based on the discussions they had during their meetings
20 indicated that there was insufficient evidence for the
21 C&T request.

22

23 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

24

25 Public Member Charlie Brower.

26

27 MR. BROWER: Public Member Charlie

28 Brower opposes.

29

30 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Raymond

31 Oney.

32

33 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney opposes 25-03a
34 due to conservation concerns.

35

36 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

37

38 BLM, Erika Reed.

39

40 MS. REED: To be clear, are we talking
41 about 23a only? Okay. So BLM opposes for the reasons
42 given by the National Park Service and in deference to
43 the Southcentral and Eastern Interior Alaska
44 Subsistence RACs.

45

46 MS. LEONETTI: Lastly, Chair Tony

47 Christianson.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oppose as

50

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1 stated.

2

3 MS. LEONETTI: Mr. Chair, the motion
4 fails.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
7 Appreciate all the work. That was kind of a long one.
8 We'll take a 5, 10 minute break and come back and
9 finish up B. We only need to discuss that and we'll
10 get this out of our way.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
17 Thank you. It looks like we have a quorum here. We'll
18 allow our Staff here to provide the analysis on 25-03b.

19

20 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Good evening, members of the Board. This is Hannah
22 Voorhees, anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
23 Management. I'll be presenting Proposal FP25-039b
24 which begins on Page 63 of the Board book.

25

26 This proposal submitted by Tolsona
27 Community Corporation, requests that the Board
28 recognize the customary and traditional use of
29 freshwater fish in the Copper River drainage upstream
30 from Haley Creek by residents of Tolsona.

31

32 The proponent's justification repeats
33 that given in my previous presentation for FP25-03a.
34 The proponent further states that lake and river fish
35 are important resources for the community of Tolsona.

36

37 In regulatory history the Board adopted
38 the current customary and traditional use determination
39 in 2001. In 2002 the Board rejected proposals to add
40 Lake Louise and Paxson. This was in deference to the
41 Southcentral Council, which stated that there was
42 insufficient evidence or proximity.

43

44 As I have already presented on
45 Tolsona's community characteristics I will not repeat
46 that information here. I will also refer you to my
47 earlier presentation for an overview of the eight
48 factors and information on Tolsona's broad pattern of
49 subsistence use.

50

1 Next, use of freshwater fish. During
2 the 2013 study year survey Tolsona households harvested
3 six species of freshwater fish which contributed
4 relatively small amounts of food in terms of weight,
5 but which were still important in terms of a percentage
6 of households using the species.

7
8 For example, 75 percent of surveyed
9 households used burbot and 63 percent used rainbow
10 trout. Other species harvested included lake trout,
11 grayling, humpback ground and unknown whitefish.

12
13 Burbot were harvested with subsistence
14 ice fishing gear whereas rainbow trout and grayling
15 were caught with rod and reel. Burbot was the most
16 shared freshwater fish with 50 percent of households
17 receiving burbot and 25 percent giving them away. For
18 the 2013 survey freshwater fish search and use areas
19 were mapped for the three East Glenn Highway
20 communities combined.

21
22 So in the analysis again it was
23 impossible to separate information out about Tolsona's
24 fishing areas. However, the State's comments indicate
25 that residents of Tolsona did harvest freshwater fish
26 in the Copper River drainage during the study year
27 according to internal data.

28
29 For the earlier 1982 to 1983 study year
30 Division of Subsistence surveyed the East Glenn Highway
31 area as a single entity. That year about half of the
32 households surveyed reported freshwater fish harvest,
33 especially lake trout, rainbow trout, grayling and
34 burbot with most of the fishing occurring locally.

35
36 We also look to harvest data when
37 considering C&T proposals. Currently, residents of
38 Tolsona can fish for freshwater fish in the Copper
39 River Drainage upstream from Haley Creek under State
40 sportfishing and State subsistence regulations.
41 However, information on Tolsona's fishing under these
42 opportunities is unfortunately not available.

43
44 If this proposal is adopted, residents
45 of Tolsona would become Federally qualified to harvest
46 freshwater fish in the Copper River drainage upstream
47 from Haley Creek. If the proposal is rejected,
48 residents continue to fish in the area under State
49 subsistence and sport fishing regulations.

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1 The OSM conclusion is to oppose
2 FP25-03b. Significant gaps in knowledge about the
3 characteristics of Tolsona's use of freshwater fish
4 exist. Specifically there's a lack of information
5 about the location and time-depth of residents
6 freshwater fish use.

7
8 Thank you, that concludes my
9 presentation.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
12 questions for Staff from the Board.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
17 seeing none. Thank you. Summary of written public
18 comment.

19
20 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 This is Hannah Voorhees. One public comment was
22 received which was in opposition of the proposal. This
23 is the same comment that I shared earlier in reference
24 to the Tolsona Community Corporation's request for a
25 customary and traditional use determination for salmon
26 in the Chitina subdistrict, so I will not repeat it
27 here. Again, this single comment was received during
28 the initial open public comment period.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
31 questions. Robbin.

32
33 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 During the course of this meeting we received seven
35 comments emailed to our reception desk. They were
36 printed out and you have them now before you. I
37 summarized them earlier, so they have not changed. All
38 were in support of both C&T proposals.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 Summary of tribal ANCSA corporation. Native liaison.

44
45 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chairman. Board
46 members. Orville Lind, Native liaison for Office of
47 Subsistence Management. During those consultations we
48 did not have any questions or comments.

49
50

0362

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
4 Orville. We'll call on tribal/Native organization
5 testimony.

6

7 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 For the record my name is Karen Linnell. I'm the
9 executive director of Ahtna InterTribal Resource
10 Commission, which is comprised of eight Federally
11 recognized tribes along the Copper River and in
12 Cantwell.

13

14 As previously stated, there are
15 resources closer to home. The trout, the burbot, the
16 ling cod. Those are closer to their home and there's
17 no need. They don't have a traditional use of fishing
18 those species on the other side of the river. Just the
19 economy of it and being able to harvest those species
20 right outside their back door. Tolsona Lake, Lake
21 Louise, Ewan Lake, much closer to home and more
22 economical in order to be able to reach all of those
23 species.

24

25 You know, it's one thing to -- for
26 Ahtna people who live there on the river and who were
27 born on the other side of the river within Wrangell-St.
28 Elias National Park. In talking with my elder, Faye
29 Ewan, she pulled out a map and we were doing a mapping
30 project, trying to document traditional stewardship of
31 the lands. Rather than place names she put family
32 names of where families fished and hunted and lived on
33 the other side of the river, which is now called
34 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

35

36 That long-term history and the use of
37 that is something that I'll never forget. You know, I
38 was thinking along the lines of western ways and how to
39 document things, but she was putting family names on
40 their family camps and where they would separate out to
41 hunt and fish. In the summertime we'd come back to the
42 Copper River to fish for salmon. In the fall and
43 winter we'd go back out and separate and have smaller
44 camps for our hunting and our fishing. Some all the
45 way between what is now Alphabet Hills and Tyone Lake
46 and those kinds of things, and then others were into
47 the base of Mt. Sanford and Mt. Drum.

48

49 My family is in the upper reaches of

50

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1 the Copper River and my dad's trapline is on -- across
2 the river at Boulder Creek and into Sanford River.
3 That's where my dad's trapline is, you know, and my
4 Uncle Jerry. We have those camps and Katie John's camp
5 at Batzulnetas where she fished and was born Doris
6 Charles and was banished onto an island across from
7 Batzulnetas because she refused to marry somebody.

8
9 So that stuff, that family lines and
10 history and use of what is now called Wrangell-St.
11 Elias National Park is deeply ingrained in our people
12 and our use of those resources that are closest to our
13 backyard. Sometimes we have what we call or were told
14 as zones to save for later should there be a hardship
15 in starvation time. Those places are known and we
16 don't like to share where they're at because we don't
17 want other people to go there and start to exploit
18 those resources.

19
20 It's for trout, for burbot, for
21 grayling. It's not customary and traditional to go so
22 far from home that you can't bring it back in a usable
23 state. So I just want to say that there's a lot of
24 opportunity for those species, dolly varden, et cetera,
25 right there in their backyard.

26
27 Thank you for your time and I
28 appreciate the work that you folks put into knowing and
29 understanding what's going on within the Copper River
30 Basin and I appreciate your time and effort.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
35 Karen. Any questions from the Board.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
40 Thank you. Operator, is there anyone online who would
41 like to be recognized at this time for Native
42 organization.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
47 Advisory group testimony. Any online.

48
49 (No comments)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: State ACs,
2 SRCs.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
7 I'll open the floor to -- huh? Any public testimony
8 here or online.

9
10 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
11 just like to remind people online that if they would
12 like to provide testimony to the Board they can press
13 star five to raise their hand. Star five to raise your
14 hand and we'll call on you.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It looks quiet
19 online. We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council
20 recommendation. It looks like we have Staff to present
21 that report. Thank you.

22
23 MS. PILCHER: Hello. This is Nissa
24 Pilcher for the record. Council coordinator for
25 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. The Council
26 opposes FP25-03b. Several significant data gaps exist.
27 However, there does not appear to be a long term
28 history of passing on traditions. It is unclear if the
29 proponent has a history in the area and the Council had
30 questions about the individuals named as having
31 histories of use in the area in the proposal.

32
33 Discussion indicated that many of these
34 individuals had not lived in the area for a long time
35 or are deceased. It is unknown if there is support for
36 this proposal from the community and more information
37 is needed. The Council appreciated receiving written
38 comments from the proponent during the meeting and
39 encourages proponents to attend their meetings in the
40 future.

41
42 The Council also noted that they were
43 surprised that the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
44 Resource Commission did not act on this proposal.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
49 questions from the Board for the presentation from the
50

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1 RAC.

2

3

(No comments)

4

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and seeing none. Thank you for that presentation. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Oh, Eastern Interior was listed on that as well. Sorry.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal FP25-03b, Tolsona C&T no salmon fish in Copper River. The Eastern Interior Council opposed FP25-03b. The Council opposed the proposal because not enough of the eight factors for determining customary and traditional use were met.

Although the Council noted that significant conservation concerns are not present for non-salmon fish as they are for salmon. They reiterated that there was no strong evidence presented for long-standing historical use or passing on of knowledge and practice through generations.

That is all, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr. Wright. Any questions for the RACs.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate your presentation. Mr. Mulligan.

MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Department is neutral on whether or not this Board should adopt this C&T determination. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr. Mulligan. Any questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: InterAgency Staff Committee. ISC chair comments.

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The ISC gave their standard comment.

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Robbin. Open the floor for Board discussion with the
3 Chairs and State liaison. Any conversation.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
8 seeing none. We'll move to Board motion and action.
9 The floor is open. Sarah, you have the floor.

10
11 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Mr. Chair, I move to adopt FP25-03b, requesting the
13 Board to recognize the customary and traditional use of
14 freshwater fish in the Copper River Drainage upstream
15 from Haley Creek by residents of Tolsona. If I get a
16 second, I'll explain why I intend to oppose my motion
17 in deference to the Eastern Interior and Southcentral
18 Regional Advisory Councils.

19
20 MR. VANORMER: Forest Service seconds.

21
22 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you. There's
23 limited information available on the history of
24 freshwater fish use by residents of Tolsona. The
25 primary source of information comes directly from the
26 proponent. As a part of their proposal, Tolsona
27 Community Corporation included written testimony of
28 individuals residing in Tolsona since 1946. However,
29 it's unclear whether there is continuity of customary
30 and traditional subsistence practices between the
31 individuals listed and present day residents.

32
33 Despite public and written testimony
34 presented to the Board at this meeting there is no
35 clear information available that Tolsona's pattern of
36 use of freshwater fish in the Copper River Drainage
37 upstream from Haley Creek includes the handing down of
38 knowledge from generation to generation about the mens
39 of processing or storing fish or about fishing skills,
40 values and lore.

41
42 The Office of Subsistence Management
43 analysis as well as the Southcentral and Eastern
44 Interior Regional Advisory Councils identified minimal
45 evidence for several of the eight factors considered
46 for customary and traditional determinations and
47 opposed this proposal. We defer to the Council's
48 recommendations since they are the local experts in the
49 region.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Sarah. The floor is now open for discussion or
3 deliberation on the motion.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
8 seeing none, we'll call for the question.

9
10 MR. BROWER: Question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
13 has been called. Roll call, please.

14
15 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Charlie
16 Brower.

17
18 MR. BROWER: Public Member Charlie
19 Brower oppose.

20
21 MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife
22 Service, Sara Boario.

23
24 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service
25 votes to oppose in deference to the EIRAC and
26 Southcentral RAC and based on the OSM analysis.

27
28 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Frank
29 Woods.

30
31 MR. WOODS: Public Member Frank Woods
32 oppose. The testimony of the RACs, I appreciate their
33 recommendations and moving forward. Thank you.

34
35 MS. LEONETTI: National Park Service,
36 Sarah Creachbaum.

37
38 MS. CREACHBAUM: For the reasons stated
39 in my motion the National Park Service opposes.

40
41 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Raymond
42 Oney.

43
44 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney moves to
45 oppose.

46
47 MS. LEONETTI: Forest Service Chad
48 VanOrmer.

49
50

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1 MR. VANORMER: Yeah, the Forest Service
2 opposes for the reasons provided by the Park Service
3 and in deference to the Regional Advisory Councils.
4 Thank you.

5
6 MS. LEONETTI: BLM, Erika Reed.

7
8 MS. REED: BLM votes to oppose for the
9 reasons given by the National Park Service and in
10 deference to the RACs.

11
12 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Chief
13 Rhonda Pitka.

14
15 MS. PITKA: I vote to oppose FP25-03b
16 in deference to Southcentral Alaska Subsistence
17 Regional Advisory Council and the Eastern Interior
18 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And as
19 stated by the National Park Service. Thank you.

20
21 MS. LEONETTI: BIA, Glenn Chen.

22
23 MR. CHEN: The BIA votes to oppose
24 FP25-03b in deference to both the Southcentral and
25 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils. We also
26 concur with the justification provided by National Park
27 Service.

28
29 MS. LEONETTI: And Chair Tony
30 Christianson.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oppose for
33 reasons stated.

34
35 MS. LEONETTI: Mr. Chair, the motion
36 fails.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
39 Thank you for the Staff, thank you for all the audience
40 participation. You guys do a lot of good hard work.
41 Recess until 9:00 a.m. Have a good day.

42
43 MS. PITKA: I'd like to thank all the
44 Federal agency Board members who have really given all
45 of their time this week in the face of incredible
46 workload and executive orders that have been coming
47 down nonstop. They've given so much dedication to this
48 week. I really appreciate it. You guys have been back
49 here clicking away, working and paying attention
50

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1 diligently. I really appreciate that.

2

3 Thank you all for making this public
4 process easy.

5

6 (Applause)

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing, contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING taken electronically by our firm on the 6th day of February 2025;

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 Anchorage, Alaska, this 21st day of February 2025.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26