

0001

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

DOLLY'S HALL
February 18, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nanci A. Morris Lyon, Chair
William W. Trefon, Jr.
Dan O. Dunaway
John C. Rhyshek
Richard J. Wilson
John I. Christensen, Jr.
Walter M. Kanulie
Kenneth R. Nukwak, Sr.

Regional Council Coordinator, Leigh Honig

Recorded and transcribed by:

Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp
877-261-2495
Info.@lighthouseonline.com

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Naknek, Alaska - 2/18/25)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, guys. Well, I'd like to welcome everybody to our Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council this morning, and I'd love to start with a blessing. Orville, if you wouldn't mind giving that to us. I would certainly appreciate it.

MR. LIND: Thank you, Madam Chair, Board members. Good morning, everybody. We all stand, please, and join me in giving thanks. Heavenly father, Lord, we want to thank you first of all for another wonderful day you've given to us. Father, we are gathered here together to work together, get to know each other. Father, we're just so happy that you allowed us to come together. In the Genesis chapter 1 Father, verse 26, he said -- you said, let us make man in our image according to their likeness and let them rule over all fish of the sea and over the birds in the sky and the cattle and all over the earth. Father, in Proverbs 27:23, you also said, know, will the conditions of your herd your flocks, and give attention to your herds. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to work together to come together. We ask for your wisdom and your knowledge throughout the days ahead here to get things done. Thank you again. Bless each and every one of us here Lord and so that our ideas and the decisions and the smallest accomplishments may bring you glory. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you so much Orville. Okay, I'm going to go ahead and call this meeting to order. And hand the microphone over to Leigh for a roll call.

MS. HONIG: Good morning. Leigh Honig for the record, Council coordinator. Okay, Nanci.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Here.

MS. HONIG: William Trefon.

MR. TREFON: Yeah.

MS. HONIG: Dan Dunaway.

0003

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Here.

2

3 MS. HONIG: Kenneth Nukwak. Are you
4 online?

5

6 (No response)

7

8 So, as a reminder, if you're calling in,
9 you may need to push star six to unmute yourself. Okay,
10 John Rhyshek.

11

12 MR. RHYSHEK: Here.

13

14 MS. HONIG: Richard Wilson

15

16 MS. WILSON: Here.

17

18 MS. HONIG: John Christensen, were you
19 able to call in?

20

21 (No response)

22

23 Robert Hill.

24

25 (No response)

26

27 And Walter Kanulie.

28

29 (No response)

30

31 Okay. We have a quorum.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 Okay. And we're hoping to have John and
38 Kenneth join us via phone. Is that the word you have
39 received? Okay, so hopefully, if somebody knows that
40 they've called in, can they notify me as well, please?
41 In case somebody gets a message. Okay, thank you. And
42 then meeting announcements, that's you as well.

43

44 MS. HONIG: Alrighty. Leigh Honig again,
45 for the record. So, welcome everybody to the winter
46 meeting of the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory
47 Council. For those that are attending our meeting in
48 person, please make sure to sign in at the front counter.
49 We have a sheet over there. And if you would like to
50 address the Council during the meeting for folks in the

1 room, we do have blue testifier forms, and you'll find
2 those at the front table as well. You can fill those out
3 and hand it to any OSM staff member or myself, and we'll
4 get you called on. And for all participants that are on
5 the phone, please remember to mute your phones when
6 you're not speaking. If you'd like to address the
7 Council, you can push star five to raise your hand and
8 we will then call on you by announcing the last four of
9 your phone number and you'll have the opportunity to
10 speak. And if you would like to -- if you're on the
11 Team's platform, you can just simply raise your hand too
12 and we'll see that and call on you that way. I have a
13 quick ethics statement to read. So, a reminder to all
14 our meetings are conducted by Robert's Rules, which
15 helps us provide structure and maintain order throughout
16 the meeting. All participants, Council staff and public
17 members are expected to be courteous and respectful in
18 all interactions as a matter of meeting etiquette. It
19 is understood that the nature of some of the issues
20 discussed at these meetings can be difficult and
21 controversial. Although some comments shared throughout
22 this meeting may be passionate, no insults or foul
23 language will be tolerated in this public meeting. If
24 any kind of unruly behavior or insulting language from
25 anyone occurs during the meeting, please be advised that
26 I, as the designated Federal Officer, can intervene.
27 Okay. Thank you very much for those short meeting
28 announcements.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thanks,
31 Leigh. I appreciate that. I just wish to welcome
32 everybody here. I'm glad to see we have one of our long-
33 standing Board members who has since stepped down, Dan,
34 welcome. I'll let you introduce yourselves here. We're
35 going to do introductions. What -- the way I'd like to
36 do this is just to go around the table and for the oard
37 members, just state basically your name and where you're
38 from, and then we'll go into the audience and onto the
39 phone to find out who else [sic] participating today.
40 But, I appreciate everybody being here, and I look
41 forward to hearing your voice during our meetings. John,
42 do you want to start us off, please?

43
44 MR. RHYSHEK: John Rhyshek, King Salmon.

45
46 MR. KANULIE: Walter Kanulie, from
47 Togiak.

48
49 MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson right here
50 in warm, old Naknek.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MR. DUNAWAY: Dan Dunaway, Dillingham.
And I want to welcome new member Walter and Kenneth to
the Board and howdy to Dan.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes. Nanci Morris
Lyon with -- from King Salmon and also Walter, welcome.
We're looking forward to having you on board. You with
-- and the addition of Kenneth gives us some greatly
needed perspectives from your area. So, we look forward
to hearing from you.

MR. TREFON: Billy Trefon, Nondalton.

(Pause)

MR. O'HARA: I can say hi to you -- I can
say hi to you guys? Okay. Well, it's nice to see the
Council again. Walter, nice to have you on Board. I'm
sure I've looked at your boat at one time or another as
a marine surveyor but, we'll be watching real careful
to make sure you get all of the things right. Anyway, I
was on the original Council, and it had been -- just for
your information, you probably already know it, the
Council came about because of the land claim settlement
that we did in Alaska. By the way, us Native people were
the only ones who ever got a settlement from the
government, and somebody in DC decided that we needed a
little more of a boost. So, they decided to give us
Title VIII, Madam Chair. And so, I served on your Council
for many, many years. And I see Nanci, are you original?
And Dan? No. Is there anybody else original from --
okay. A couple of us have been around for a long time,
and I'd like to make mention that if you walk into my
house and you go straight into my house and right, stick
to the wall and you'll see in the living room area,
you'll see a painting there, and I got that from you
people for being on the Council for many years. And it's
Orville, of course, he's the artist, you know, and
there's a funny little story that goes with that
painting. So, I have my place. The house is downstairs,
and that's where the painting was going to go. As I was
coming through. My wife saw it. She said, what do you
have there? And I said, I've got a painting. And she
said, let me see it. So, I showed it to her, and she
said, oh, you know, it goes with the decor of our house
up here. I said, no, it's going downstairs. She said,
no, it's not, it's going right on that wall. So, if you
come to my house, you walk in there.....

1

2

But, you know it's interesting that when Title VIII comes, what we call Title VIII comes out of Congress -- I wasn't really too happy about the two management system. And then, Nanci, you know that we were kind of taken aback, what do we do here? But I think it was the Council reaches down to a little more personal things for us and what we would -- might do at the Fish board or Game board or something.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And I'll give you an example on that. We had a proposal -- we ended up with a proposal that this Council and it was put in by the recreational people, not our recreational people. And then the title -- and the proposal came and said that only the recreational people would be able to harvest and use a -- everything except rainbow trout. That didn't sit very well with us. We have 10,000 years of Alaska history, and we've eaten our rainbow trout for 10,000 years. And now we come before the Federal Board. By the way, there's seven of them, from the seven departments that make up the Board, and on an annual basis, the Chairman goes and represents the Council, which I went there. And we had this proposal where we would not be able to use a rainbow trout for our personal use and subsistence. I don't like the word subsistence. I -- personal use is better. Sounds like I'm on the Board here, but I'm not, okay? So here we are in front of this Federal Board, and they are planning on passing that. And I thought to myself, boy, if you know, if there's going to be a dogfight, it's going to be right now. And we were in the Captain Cook Hotel and they put us up in the top floor. And I mean, that place was packed. There was a lot of people interested in making sure that rainbow trout is only for recreational use whatever. And so, we got into it, and I remember sitting here like this, and then the Chairman put up front and there was a television camera right here, you know, because he knew what we were going to say. Dan and Nanci, you know how that was going to go. And finally, I just took that time and said, why don't you just get that thing out of my face, okay? We got a big thing going on here now, and I don't need that camera in my face. And we won 4 to 3. And that's how close it was of having something that we'd have to come back to, which you might never recognize again, you know. And that was one thing. The second thing I'll tell you is a funny little story. Okay, then I'm going to leave it. And I'm so glad that you come here to our community.

So, Orville and I, and Nanci were making

1 a trip to Nondalton in the early part of the Council to
2 meet Richard with a -- Nondalton Village Council. They
3 kind of wanted to know why we would come there and have
4 a meeting. So, we went out, and Nanci and I were sitting
5 in front of the final (indiscernible). Got pretty rough
6 down at the end of the lake, about 25-30 knots. And when
7 we go to Nondalton, we bypass the Iliamna and go through
8 what they call a notch, and you go behind the mountain.
9 It might have been blowing 40 into the lake, but had
10 blown a lot more than that when we went through there.
11 And I kind of apologized to Nanci. I said, Nanci, I'm
12 sorry. We're gonna -- if we go through the notch, I can
13 go up the river, but it's going to get pretty rough. She
14 said, oh, it doesn't bother me. I said, oh okay. She
15 said, I fly all over Alaska. I said, you fly all over
16 Alaska? And I said, well, what do you -- what do you do?
17 She said, I was a guide and a pilot, and I've flown to
18 all these places. I said, oh, okay, we'll just go through
19 the notch, okay. Thank you very much. Yeah, yeah, it was
20 okay. But it's good to see you guys, and we thank you
21 for your work. And I think we've -- Dan and Nanci, we've
22 kind of integrated into the dual management system
23 pretty well. It was pretty rough starting in and
24 something we had to come to. But thank you for your
25 service.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Dan
28 O'Hara, and thank you for, yeah, giving so much of your
29 time in the past. It's -- I must say that nowadays it
30 tends to be a lot easier. They -- with the implementation
31 of adding indigenous voices to the Council, it's become
32 a lot easier to be heard. And now, with the addition
33 even of three more, including Frank Woods from over in
34 Dillingham, which we appreciate so much, we really are
35 getting heard to the fullest, I feel. And it's, you
36 know, what started with you having to struggle through
37 seven. This now allows us a much smoother and easier
38 voice to be heard, because now ANILCA is it -- there's
39 a better chance for it to be followed than it has been
40 in the past, because we've seen a lot of times when
41 agencies have struggled because they have their own
42 rules and they don't always follow ANILCA. So now we
43 have ways to overcome that and yeah. No, so it's way
44 different than you were here. And, but we always still
45 appreciate your wisdom, your thoughtfulness.

46
47 MR. O'HARA: It's interesting that when
48 we started, when the Council started, we had a project
49 manager and her name was -- she was from Unalakleet,
50 Native lady. And boy -- what was that? Helga, for the

1 first name, yeah. I tell you what, you know, there was
2 two construction foremen walking down the street, and
3 one guy turned to the other guy and said, you know, Rome
4 wasn't built in a day. And the other guy said, well, I
5 wasn't pushing the job, or it would have been built in
6 a day. When Helga walked in the room, she had a baseball
7 bat in each hand, and I could see the feds running like
8 rats from a sinking ship, they went into with her, and
9 she was a fed. I tell you what. Yeah, we had, I think,
10 what we called, Dan and Nanci CDs that we had to get
11 done within a year's time, and that was an inventory of
12 everything. We were done in about eight months. I just
13 could not believe it. When she sat down with us. It was
14 straight business. I mean, I wasn't determined, it was
15 somebody else's. And it's quite an adjustment to take
16 on a, you know, state of Alaska. And since -- that'
17 salmon and that caribou, he doesn't know what boundary
18 he's crossing in those streams. And it's been a good
19 taste to look at both sides. And, I think the feds
20 learned something somewhere along the way. Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks, Dan.

23
24 Yeah. Why don't we just do that? Thanks
25 Pippa.

26
27 MS. KENNER: So, everyone come around and
28 introduce themselves. Hi, I'm Pippa Kenner and I'm an
29 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management,
30 or OSM in Anchorage and welcome. And I'm so happy to be
31 here.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 MS. SANDERS: How's that? Oh. Morning,
36 everyone. I am Suzy Sanders. I'm the natural resources
37 program manager at Katmai National Park.

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 MS. ZHAROFF: Oh, okay. Mallory Zharoff
42 Katmai liaison and subsistence coordinator. Nice to meet
43 you guys.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'm sorry. Could you
46 give us your name again? I couldn't understand.

47
48 MS. ZHAROFF: Mallory Zharoff.

49
50 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks, Mallory.

1

2 MS. VANDE VOORT: Good morning. This --
3 I am Amy Vande Voort. I'm Alaska Department of Fish and
4 Game wildlife biologist.

5

6

7 MS. GREDIAGIN: Good morning. Lisa
8 Grediagin, wildlife division supervisor with the Office
9 of Subsistence Management.

10

11

12

13

14

15 MR. STRUM: Good morning, Madam Chair.
16 It's Mark Sturm, superintendent Katmai National Park and
17 Preserve, and also Aniakchak National Monument Preserve
18 and the Alagnak Wild River.

15

(Pause)

16

17

18

19

20 MR. ADERMAN: Morning, this is Andy
21 Aderman.

20

21

22

23

24 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Madam Chair,
25 Members of the Council. I'm Kendra Holman, wildlife
26 biologist with OSM.

24

25

26

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Morning, everybody. Bryce
29 Woodruff, mammal biologist for Alaska Peninsula and
30 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge.

28

29

30

31

32

33 MR. WEHAUSEN: Good morning. My name is
34 Brian Wehausen and I'm the newly installed refuge
35 manager for Alaska Peninsula/Becharof. I'm new to Alaska
36 so, still enjoying it. Thank you.

33

34

35

36

37

38 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning, Madam
39 Chair, members of the Council. Dillon Patterson
40 anthropologist with the National Park Service regional
41 subsistence program in Anchorage.

38

39

40

41

42

43 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Good morning. Jenya
44 Anichtchenko. cultural resource manager. Katmai National
45 Park, Aniakchak National Monument, and Alagnak Wild
46 River. Thank you.

43

44

45

46

47

48 MR. LIND: (In Native) Good morning,
49 Madam Chair and Council members and welcome to the new
50 one. And good to see family and friends and good to be
back home. Orville Lind, native liaison for OSM.

48

49

50

MS. SKORA: Good morning, everyone. I am
Leslie Skora, wildlife biologist at Katmai and
Aniakchak.

00010

1

2 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you and
3 now I would like to go ahead and have everybody online
4 introduce themselves. John, could we start with you just
5 to have you introduce who you are and who you represent,
6 please.

7

8 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Good morning. John
9 Christensen from Port Heiden. RAC Board member, and
10 tribal president Port Heiden, Aniakchak SRC and quite a
11 few other hats. But I'm here till my plane picks me up.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. John, I'm
14 really glad you made it online. We always appreciate
15 having your voice, and I'm sorry you couldn't be here
16 in person. Other folks online. Go ahead and take a turn
17 and introduce yourselves, please, so we know who we have.

18

19 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Madam Chair and
20 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the Bureau
21 of Indian Affairs subsistence branch chief.

22

23 MR. KANE: Good morning, Madam Chair and
24 Council members. My name is Bill Kane. I am here
25 representing Igiugig village. I have the privilege of
26 serving as the Tribal Stewardship Director here for the
27 tribe.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Bill.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 MR. LARSON: Good morning, Madam Chair.
36 This is Cody Larson with the Bristol Bay Native
37 Association's Natural Resources Department.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Welcome, Cody.

40

41 MS. HAYDEN-PLESS: Good morning, Madam
42 Chair. This is Greta Hayden-Pless. Assistant area
43 management biologist, Bristol Bay Sport Fish Division
44 for Fish and Game.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Greta.

47

48 MR. CAWFIELD: Good morning. This is
49 Jonathan Cawfield, a fish biologist for Togiak National
50 Wildlife Refuge.

00011

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks, John.

(Pause)

Anybody else online?

(No response)

Okay with that. We'll go ahead and get started by getting our election of the officers out of the way, and I'll hand that back over to you, Leigh.

MS. HONIG: Thank you. For the record, Leigh Honig for Council Coordinator. In accordance with the Council Charter, Council members elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for a one-year term. The term usually starts at the beginning of a calendar year. So, I would like to open the floor for nominations for the Council's Chair, and the nominations do not need to be seconded.

MR. TREFON: I like to make a motion to keep the Chairs and the Secretary as it is, as Nanci as Chair Dan as Co-Chair and Richard Secretary.

MS. HONIG: Great. So, we'll start with the Chair, and then I'll hand it back over. So, Ms. Nanci Morris Lyon was nominated to serve as the Council's Chair. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MS. HONIG: All those opposed say nay. Okay. That passes. So, I will pass the gavel back over to you, Nanci.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. And thank you, everybody, for your vote of confidence in me. Then let's go ahead and we'll take the motion now for Vice Chair, if anybody cares to make it.

MR. TREFON: Billy. I did like to make a motion to nominate Dan as Co-Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Are there any other nominations?

(No response)

00012

1 Okay, call for the question. All in
2 favor of having Dan continue as Vice Chair. Please
3 signify by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed, same sign.

8
9 (No response)

10
11 Okay. That passes. Nominations for
12 Secretary.

13
14 MR. TREFON: Billy Trefon, to make
15 nominations that Richard Wilson remains Secretary.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any other
18 nominations?

19
20 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair, once again, if
21 somebody else would like to have that seat sitting here,
22 I'd definitely entertain that.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'm not seeing
25 anybody jump on the table, Richard.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll call for the question.
28 I think Richard's done a great job. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Question's
31 been called. All in favor, please signify by saying aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed, same sign.

36
37 (No response)

38
39 And then the motion passes as well. So,
40 welcome again, to my other Board members as well. And
41 thank you for the support. Okay, let's do a quick review
42 and adoption of the agenda. This -- has somebody had a
43 chance to take a look at it, and would anybody care to
44 put it on the table?

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan, I'll move to adopt.
47 But I do have a question. We have a supplemen I've
48 never seen yet. Is there any.....

49
50 (Simultaneous speech)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, let's.....

MR. DUNAWAY: Is there a revised agenda from the original book or how.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, let's get the motion on the table and then we'll have it -- I'll give it to you for discussion. Would anybody care to second it?

MR. WILSON: I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you. Richard, we've got a motion and a second. Dan discussion.

MR. DUNAWAY: I was just curious. I have a printed handout. I got the supplement here, and then I have the original. Okay, thanks, Pippa. So, there's changes from the original, the first book we got and -- because I haven't seen the others. Thank you.

MS. HONIG: Yes. Thanks, Dan. There are a few changes and additions. So first of all, let's see here. So, we moved the WP24-01. It was down in the -- let's say the other business, but we moved that up to the action items as the result of the actions taken at the Federal Subsistence Board. So, that's going to be 12B as in boy now. And then, we do have a request -- this one didn't make it onto the agenda, but I'll make it a note for the reappointment of Mr. Christensen to the Aniakchak SRC. And then just some housekeeping under the Reports section, we moved the Office of Subsistence Management, and some reports around up there. And so, that will be the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update, the Partners and then a general update just under reports. And this isn't related to the agenda, but I did forget to -- forgot to mention that Orville is going to be holding a tribal engagement session today during lunch. And so, those folks that are interested in learning more about that, we do -- we have some chili available too. We have some moose and black bear chili. If anybody wants to stay and be a part of that tribal engagement session. So, okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Dan.

00014

1 MR. DUNAWAY: With that I'm wondering,
2 we have a motion that -- can I amend my motion to adopt
3 the latest version of the agenda?

4
5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Absolutely, if your
6 second agrees.

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: And let's see. Also, there
9 was -- I got a request to discuss D1 at all. Did you
10 hear about that, Nanci or do we want to add even just a
11 note on D1?

12
13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So, while we're in
14 discussion yeah, I -- we had -- we, meaning Leigh and I
15 had talked about it a little bit and we were going to
16 put it under or just bring it up under... There it is,
17 Correspondence, right? Yeah. 14A as the information on
18 that has been proposed to be put in there. So, I would
19 recommend that we save our discussion on that, not add
20 it to the agenda, but put it -- discuss it under
21 Correspondence.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Just take it up on that.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Correct.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: See who is my second? Do
28 you agree as well.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'll second the
31 revised edition here.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, perfect.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. One thing I also
36 wanted to mention is that I really like that all the
37 action items are put together and fairly early in the
38 agenda. That's -- I was -- I only noticed that last
39 night. It's really helpful I think so, and was there
40 another item that you thought we should add Leigh, to
41 the agenda?

42
43 MS. HONIG: That's it.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

46
47 MS. HONIG: Well -- sorry, the SRC
48 appointment.

49
50 MR. DUNAWAY: SRC appointment. Yeah. If

00015

1 we can add to SRC appointment, where's the right place
2 to add that?

3
4 MS. HONIG: I believe -- I think the best
5 place for that, in my opinion, is under action items.
6 And putting that before the future meeting dates.

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, so E1.

9
10 MS. HONIG: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes.

13
14 MS. DUNAWAY: Okay, that's my motion.
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: All right. Anybody
18 have any questions on those changes? Has everybody
19 followed along with the new draft? Any further
20 discussion?

21
22 (No response)

23
24 Okay. Hearing and seeing none. I'll call
25 for the question. All in favor of adopting the agenda
26 as revised. Please signify by saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Motion
31 passes. Then let's move on to previous Meeting Minutes.
32 Hopefully everybody's had a chance to look those over.
33 Anybody care to put those on the table?

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.

36
37 MR. TREFON: Second.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Can we have a motion
40 and a second to adopt the previous meeting minutes as
41 presented. Any discussion? Go ahead, Dan.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: I looked this over the
44 other day. They seem pretty thorough to me. I didn't
45 find any obvious errors or omissions. Thanks to the folks
46 who do that hard work.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Anyone else?

49
50 (No response)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

Yeah. Not having been here, I read them, and I felt like I got a pretty good overview of what the meeting had been. But, I'm certainly not qualified to let anybody know if anything was missed. So, I thank you guys are doing that work.

MR. WILSON: Dan did real good in your absence.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Perfect. Perfect. Don't say that too much.

(Pause)

Okay. All in favor of approving the minutes as presented, please signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay.

MR. WILSON: Might want to give a date to that. Nobody's -- they said former minutes, but they didn't give a date to the minutes that we're talking about.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. The previous meeting minutes. I'm sorry. Which would have been October. There's no date on here but, the October minutes. Okay, opposed same sign.

(No response)

Okay. That motion passes as well. With that, let's move on to our Council member report. John will start on your end again if you care to share what the winter -- anything you'd like to share with us at this point?

(Simultaneous speech).

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead.

MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, the winter was extremely mild, no snow. And the caribou had -- wasn't able to come into town here. So, very little caribou harvested, lots of ptarmigan and that's about it.

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. You sound like
2 what I think most of us are going to have for report
3 but, thank you for starting us off, John. Mr. Rhyshek,
4 would you like to take it up next?

5
6 MR. RHYSHEK: Yeah. If you guys can look
7 outside. We're entering our fourth month of October.
8 This has been a very atypical winter. As you can see,
9 it's 40 degrees today. We're going to get a high of 40-
10 some degrees. Ptarmigan numbers have been essentially
11 non-existent this winter, as opposed to last winter
12 where we were seeing them essentially every single day.
13 Our snowshoe hare numbers, right now in this vicinity,
14 are absolutely in the toilet. And that has to do with I
15 mean, you know, you have a white piece of fur, you know,
16 with a brown backdrop. They are just getting absolutely
17 hammered by the predators and our local hunters. Moose
18 this past fall was really, really great. I was fortunate
19 enough to, you know, obtain a moose in September.
20 However, the winter moose hunt here, due to the
21 conditions, I virtually believe that -- and Amy might
22 be able to verify this but, I didn't hear of a single
23 antlered bull being killed in the in the winter hunt.
24 There's no snow to access them. You know, the rivers are
25 wide open so, the hunting for moose and caribou in the
26 winter here is virtually not even happened. And that's
27 essentially about all my report.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Walter,
30 would you like to give us a report for what things have
31 been like in your area here this winter?

32
33 MR. KANULIE: It's pretty much like
34 around here. We had some snow. I mean, it froze up, the
35 bay froze up, and then I think three times, and then
36 it's -- ice just went away. I think -- well, by now
37 people would have been going upriver for like, ice
38 fishing but, that's not possible. When the snow showed
39 up and when the slough froze, people went smelting. There
40 was a moose opener, and I heard some people went up with
41 their skiffs, and I don't know how -- I heard people
42 caught some moose. Of course, there's like hunting up
43 in the bay. I heard one guy went up with his snowmachine
44 somewhere, but probably not too far. You know, I -- you
45 know, with the bay now, I've seen a lot of people go out
46 with their skiffs, for like seal hunting. And then
47 there's that usual bunch of birds that stay around there
48 when it's not freezing. The mergansers, those -- the
49 ones with those (distortion). I forgot what they were,
50 but anyway, that's pretty -- it's pretty much like around

00018

1 here. So, it's easy on the heating fuel.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

4

5 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. You
6 know, in the last couple of weeks here in this building,
7 you know, our new administrator -- village
8 administrator, has been working with some of the
9 electricians around here, and they put in -- they've
10 done a lot of work in this building with electronics and
11 things. And so, we can appreciate what they've done for
12 us here and getting ready for this meeting. But, boy, I
13 think not only confusing this winter but, just I think
14 animals and everything is [sic] in confusion just the
15 way this winter's been. I don't think we've ever seen a
16 winter hang on quite as long as this one has, at least
17 in my years. And Mr. O'Hara -- had a discussion with him
18 not long ago and I don't think he ever remembers anything
19 quite so drastic as this one. But, we've had an
20 opportunity to do some hunting in September. We tried
21 to get in on that early, early part of the season, but
22 there was so much foliage out there. Nothing was moving
23 and so, we didn't end up getting a moose this year. Of
24 course, winter moose hunt, unless you're on foot
25 somewhere and want to go camp that's kind of out of the
26 question, you know, and rightly so. Everybody's trying
27 to be cautious. You know, there's we've had some losses
28 in Alaska. People have taken chances on ice conditions
29 and there's so -- it's so different. And people are
30 getting anxious and want to give it a try anyways. And,
31 and it's just not a good idea. So, we've been pretty
32 much stuck to where we can move. And the little towns
33 and flocks that have been having locally here, I see
34 getting smaller and smaller all the time just because
35 they're so easy to spot, you know. And our smelt, we had
36 a good -- in December when we first rose up. The smelting
37 was very good, and everything went away and so did the
38 smelts. And so, we've been trying since then and haven't
39 -- for just a single run or belugas were -- we had a 40-
40 50 in the river early on in the year and when the ice
41 pack was out, and I haven't seen them lately, but don't
42 see a whole lot of seal here on -- at least what I've
43 been down in this portion, but quite different. But we'll
44 get through it.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Richard.

47 Dan.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: I hear everybody else gives
50 me more and more ideas. The same kind of anomalous winter

1 in Dillingham. And people are enjoying the less wear and
2 tear on their boilers and furnaces. But that's also kind
3 of been a problem with collecting firewood for those who
4 depend on firewood. And so, that's kind of a concern.
5 Same thing, I'm starting to wonder what this kind of
6 weather is going to do to our berries next year. We're
7 going to get wind burn hillsides and such like that or
8 if there's not enough water in the ground to feed them.
9 Similarly, I talked to commercial biologist, Tim Sands
10 and he's concerned about lack of snowpack and what it
11 might mean for next summer if we have a warm summer,
12 what that'll do. We had some die off in Igushik River
13 from a few years ago, 2019. I've been worried as we've
14 had some really hard rains in and some of the creeks are
15 really flooded, and I hope we're not getting scouring
16 on our salmon spawning beds. So, maybe I'm a worry wart,
17 but there's seems to be plenty to worry about.

18
19 Getting back to moose, I think we had a
20 decent moose season. The state extended it in the fall,
21 and I think we caught like 170 moose. And so, there was
22 no winter season opened. Plus, they couldn't do a survey
23 'cause [sic] the lack of snow. And some people are pretty
24 frustrated by the lack of a winter hunt but, travel
25 conditions are really poor. Ptarmigan, I'm seeing more.
26 Maybe it's because there's no snow. I'm seeing more
27 ptarmigan around Dillingham than I have for years. It's
28 kind of seeing these living bowling pins standing
29 around, and then they take off.

30
31 We have seem to have a lot of rabbits
32 around Dillingham. Anytime I get a skiff of snow, there
33 must be a really fat one living under my bird feeder,
34 but I'm seeing him in the neighborhood and seeing him
35 around. Caribou, with this lack of access, people can't
36 get down to the Nushagak Peninsula to shoot caribou, and
37 that could affect -- we probably just talk about it
38 later -- affect trying to keep that herd from
39 overgrazing. I even thought about seeing if a bush pilot
40 would fly me down on land on a Tundra the way it is, but
41 that's -- man, the way the weather switches is kind of
42 a scary prospect. I haven't heard of people smelting.
43 The conditions are kind of prohibitive.

44
45 Another thing that's going to be looming
46 for some of us in the Dillingham area who are not members
47 of either BBNC or particularly Choggiung (UI 43:22)
48 tribe members, that they've adopted a new, more
49 restrictive land use policy that I still don't have an
50 entire handle on but, for non-members, the parts of the

00020

1 Nushagak drainage will be closed for the first ten days
2 of moose season. And that's kind of a new thing that the
3 area is going to have to adjust to. And the announcement
4 left quite a few questions as well as these new
5 statements. So, I'm yet to figure that out. What it all
6 means. But it's going to affect the community and that's
7 enough, boy!

8
9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Dan.
10 Billy.

11
12 MR. TREFON: Okay. Listening to pretty
13 much what everybody is saying about the weather, which
14 is playing a pretty big role in my area where the season
15 started off pretty good. I mean it -- it's October was
16 October when it was brown up, and November we had ten
17 inches of snow for maybe two weeks, and that was the
18 only time I've driven my snow machine, which I only
19 driven twice up to the airport and up to the store, and
20 I have not driven it since. After that little snowstorm.
21 It warmed back up. It stayed around 32, sometimes it got
22 up to 52. It was a really strange summer -- winter. The
23 lake, the lake froze up really good for almost month and
24 a half and it always does. But this year it froze up,
25 people were crossing, the trucks were crossing it. Then
26 it warmed back up beginning of the year and it caught
27 everybody off guard. And these -- this family just moved
28 in that was new to the country, he was taking a lot of
29 chances. A lot of people that move in take chances just
30 because they know. You could tell them that it's not
31 good ice, but they know. But, anyway, he was on the
32 south side of Fish Camp and it was warm weather and
33 water on the ice. And where he went through, I mean, a
34 lot of people went in right there. It's shallow. But,
35 he was very lucky to a shallow so he got wet up to his
36 knees. But if he was further out nobody would have known.
37 And the other last couple of nights, I mean, it's just
38 green honeycomb, which is unusual. Sloughs and rivers
39 that doesn't [sic] open up until March month, April for
40 ice fishing, they're open now. Things are really weird.
41 Nobody got any moose in the winter hunt. And three -- I
42 think three moose were taken in the fall, but most people
43 got their meat through Port Alsworth, one of the hunters
44 up there, they know families up there. So, they get the
45 meat early in the season when it's still good. So, if
46 you know people in Port A, that's a good way to get a
47 lot of meat. But fishing, we get our fish all the time.
48 Every year, everybody gets their fish that they go after.
49 And ptarmigan, I haven't seen ptarmigan they've been
50 talking about. No porcupines. Nobody hasn't [sic] seen

1 porcupine in a long time. But it's got a lot to do with
2 this weather. And we've had discussions of evolution and
3 climate changes. And the last discussion I had with some
4 friends was about the poles tilting several degrees. And
5 with that discussion in science-term, that's what we're
6 dealing with this.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thanks,
9 Billy. Kenneth Nukwak too, I understand that you've been
10 able to join us, and I welcome you. Can you introduce
11 yourself and give us your report, please?

12
13 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. Good morning, Kenneth
14 Nukwak, Sr. I apologize for forgetting to call in early.
15 Been a busy week. Had a horrible winter. I had a chance
16 to shoot a moose right across the tundra. But I didn't
17 shoot it. I was expecting my son to knock it down at
18 close range, but that didn't happen. And our river is
19 Igushik River is open. Oddly enough some people have
20 been boating up to the lake to check it out, see what
21 they can get. But they haven't been getting anything.

22
23 And nobody's gone with the snowmachine
24 anywhere. We -- only got 2 or 3 weeks ago when there was
25 a cold snap. My son-in-law and daughter went across the
26 Tundra to get pike, and they got a few to put in the
27 freezer after making a breakfast out of them. And then
28 there's been deaths here in Manokotak, (distortion -
29 indiscernible). Just one -- We're going to have a funeral
30 today at 2:00, my neighbor. And as we are -- all we can
31 see the Tundra out there. Nothing but brown. That's all
32 I got to say for now. I'm completely blanked.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, well, thank
35 you, Kenneth. I appreciate you taking some time out of
36 your busy week to join us. And I look forward to your
37 input here on the Council throughout. And my -- my report
38 isn't much different than anybody else's other than I
39 just -- thank you guys for forgiving me for not making
40 the fall meeting. I had an opportunity that I just felt
41 I couldn't pass up. And I appreciate you understanding
42 that. But my experience is pretty much mirroring what
43 those of you have said. I, too, am worried about what
44 these conditions are going to bring for our summer. For
45 our berries, for our fish and for our animals. I think
46 that, you know, there's probably going to be some
47 repercussions from this type of weather that we're not
48 even able to foresee yet or forecast but be interesting
49 for those who are the biologists in the area to record
50 what this brings about. So, in the future, we'll know -

1 - we'll know what to look for and see if we can mitigate
2 it, hopefully in the future as well. So, with that, I
3 thank everybody for your reports, and your time and your
4 knowledge and sharing it and putting it out there, and
5 we'll see where it takes us. At this point we open it
6 up for non-agenda items for discussion. I have no blue
7 cards in front of me. Billy, go ahead.

8
9 MR. TREFON: I -- yeah, just making one
10 more comment about this weather that we're dealing with.
11 I'm talking with the people at Fire World. We -- I mean,
12 this discussion doesn't come up in meetings like this
13 about wildfires and we talk about -- and we have been
14 seeing these really extreme, unusual fire behaviors,
15 especially on the West Coast, which was unheard of ten
16 years ago. And with this weather, this winter, we had -
17 - we're expecting it to be a little more interesting.
18 That's the word I'll use for now.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, I would
21 imagine everybody's going to have to take extra care,
22 and caution and be extra alert come this summer, unless
23 we have a major change between now and May. So anyway,
24 back to the non-agenda items. At any point, yeah, the
25 blue cards. Thank you, Pippa. Fill those out if anybody
26 has anything that they'd like to discuss that's off
27 agenda. But I'm also fairly easy in doing that throughout
28 the entire meeting. So, if you know somebody also that
29 wants to come join us and couldn't do it this morning
30 to meet our agenda requirement for this present time,
31 please encourage them to do so because we'll be happy
32 to hear them. And from their Council Member Training.
33 Do I turn that over to you?

34
35 MS. HONIG: Yes. Kendra Holman from OSM
36 is going to be doing the Council training.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, yeah, that
41 would be great if you could get it up on Teams so the
42 people online could follow along because they don't have
43 access to supplemental, so.

44
45 MS. HOLMAN: All right. Good morning,
46 Madam Chair, members of the Council. I'm Kendra Holman,
47 wildlife biologist with OSM. So, we are currently in the
48 Wildlife Open Call for Proposal, which ends April 4th.
49 So, for the Winter 2025 Council Meeting Training, I'm
50 going to give a brief -- briefly cover proposing changes

1 o federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations.

2

3 So, slide two. There are two main ways
4 to change federal subsistence regulations via special
5 action or proposals. The key difference between the two
6 is special actions are for temporary and short-term
7 changes and can be submitted at any point, whereas
8 proposals change codified regulations and can only be
9 submitted during these open periods. Since we are
10 currently in an open period, I'm going to walk through
11 the proposal submitting process. If the Council -- so
12 slide three. If the Council would like to submit a
13 proposal, all we need is for one of you to make a motion
14 and have a vote to submit the proposal on the record,
15 and the OSM staff will help draft and get it submitted.
16 This can happen at any point in time during your meeting.
17 Any member of the public can also submit a proposal via
18 mail to our office. Hand it to me or any staff during
19 this meeting, as well as submit it through the
20 regulations.gov website.

21

22 So, slide four. When submitted by the
23 public, please make sure to include who is submitting
24 the proposal, including contact information, what
25 regulations you want to change, in which unit, what you
26 want the regulations to say, why you want it to change,
27 and any supporting information that can help the Board
28 evaluate this proposal. So, slide five is -- sometimes
29 we get proposals that are invalid, but it is -- will --
30 but it will be because they pertain to things outside
31 of the Board's jurisdiction. Examples are habitat,
32 marine mammals, migratory birds, and non-federal lands.
33 Slide six. So, for reference, the subsistence
34 regulations that can change through regulatory proposals
35 can be found in the code CFR, the Code of Federal
36 Regulations in subpart C and D. So, slide seven covers
37 a wide variety of regulations from general, such as
38 sealing requirements and definitions to more specific
39 regulations like harvest limits, seasons, permit
40 requirements, and customary and traditional use
41 determinations. And then we have slide eight. So, thank
42 you. Please remember that we are currently in the open
43 period for proposals. They do need to be submitted by
44 April 4th. If you have any questions or examples, I do
45 have some further down and they're in your book as well.
46 If you wanted to see any examples or if you have any
47 questions on those. Madam Chair.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. We've got
50 another place on the agenda there after we do the ones

1 we're hearing for a call for federal wildlife proposals.
2 So, we'll -- yeah. Okay. Anybody have any questions then
3 for Kendra on her presentation? Everybody got a pretty
4 clear understanding of how we can go about making the
5 changes and what it will take. Walter.

6
7 MR. KANULIE: So, if somebody from the
8 village wanted to make a proposal on federal land. So,
9 what would you do -- I mean, would they -- would you to
10 be the person to address it to or...?

11
12 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, there
13 is the regulations.gov website they can go to and submit
14 it. There's also a mailing address. I'd have to look at
15 where exactly the mailing address is, but we can get
16 that for you. But, yes, any member of the public can
17 submit them. The mailing address is on slide three. I
18 knew we had it somewhere. So, on slide three, they can
19 send it by mail, or they can go online and submit it
20 there. If they have any questions or whatnot, they can
21 also contact any of us staff and we can help give them
22 any guidance needed or whatnot that answer any questions
23 for them.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Dan.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: We can also, I believe,
28 develop a proposal right here among us and submit it as
29 well.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That is correct, and
32 we do have a spot on the agenda to do that. So, be
33 thinking of that because that will be coming up as soon
34 as we review these proposals so, we'll have [sic] in
35 front of us. Anybody else?

36
37 (No response)

38
39 All right. Thank you very much, Kendra.
40 And you may as well stay up there. Well, you know what?
41 I'll go ahead -- everybody says I don't give enough
42 breaks. So, let's take a break before we jump into the
43 proposals. And we'll just take a five-minute break.
44 Refresh your coffee. Use the restroom. And then let's
45 start on our proposals and we'll see where we get.
46 Thanks.

47
48 (Off record)

49
50 (On record)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, let's move on to our next action items. And we're going to start with our wildlife closure refuse [sic]. And let's start with WCR 26-05, Unit 9C, Naknek River, December moose station closure to non-federally qualified users. Kendra, go ahead.

MS. HOLMAN: So, Madam Chair, members of the Council, my name is Kendra Holman, and I am going to -- so, this is not actually an action item. So, we are -- we -- I'm not sure how that got missed but -- so we are presenting the closure reviews now that the Board will be reviewing at the 2026 meeting, but this provides the Council during the call for proposals and opportunity to submit proposals regarding these. So, we are presenting them to you early for informational purposes, and then you will be able to help guide you if there's any -- because that -- of what the Board -- opportunities and the things that the Board can do for closure reviews is limited. So, it's limited to -- I just total -- so, it's very limited to number of permits just, you know, season modifications and things like that. So, this provides the Council an opportunity to if, based on what the closure review says, if you would like to submit a proposal, you will be able to do that for the Board to see in this regulatory cycle.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you, Kendra. Then I've got a point of order, I guess, for you, Leigh. So, do you want us to go through the presentation procedures for proposals on this, on these reviews when they're not really looking for action or do we just want to go through it and have the Board members listen to it and then decide if they want to do a proposal to move forward that way?

MS. HONIG: Let's do it the second way, where we'll hear the presentation. And then if the Board wants to take action to submit a proposal on it, then we'll do it that way.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Just want to make sure my Board understands then what we're going to do. So, we'll listen to these and decide if we want to develop proposals afterwards. Okay. Okay. Please proceed, Kendra.

MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, this closure review can be found on page 15 of your

1 meeting book. So, this is the Unit 9C, that portion that
2 drains into the Naknek River from the south, public lands
3 are closed during December for the hunting of moose,
4 except by federally qualified subsistence users. So, a
5 little bit of the regulatory history -- I'm going to
6 make this -- try and make this short and brief here. Of
7 course, in 1990s, the Department of Fish and Game issued
8 the emergency orders, closing the December antlerless
9 moose season and all parts of the Naknek River drainage
10 and Unit 9C. In 92 that was changed. The harvest limit
11 was changed from one moose to one bull in the entire
12 drainage. As a result, this action -- of this action,
13 the Naknek River drainage, has divided into two hunts,
14 and the December hunts are closed except by federally
15 qualified subsistence users. The area draining into the
16 Naknek River from the north, and the areas draining into
17 the Naknek River from the south.

18
19 Additionally, at this time, that action
20 closed the federal public lands to moose during
21 December, except for federally qualified subsistence
22 users. So, in 2022, this closure was reviewed by the
23 Board as well. At that point in time and the State at
24 that point in time also lengthened the moose season in
25 Units 9B and 9C, to align hunt -- and aligned hunt areas.
26 This extended the moose season in Unit 9C by 20 days,
27 five days at the end of the fall, and 15 at the beginning
28 of the winter season. So, biologically the moose have
29 been expanding their range accompanied by a dramatic
30 moose population increase in the 1960s, when they began
31 to peak and then began to decline. Assessments of the
32 moose populations and trends in Unit 9 are very
33 difficult.

34
35 They -- these difficulties include low
36 moose densities, snow and weather conditions that are
37 frequently inadequate for surveys. In 1991, the Alaska
38 Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuge also
39 started conducting surveys of the moose. These surveys
40 provide the bull-cow ratios and calf-cow ratios, along
41 with total density estimates. These can be found on
42 figures 1, 2, and 3 on pages 24 of your meeting books.
43 Alaska residents harvest moose in Units 9B and 9C
44 occurred by registration permit, and then nonresident
45 moose harvest in Unit 9B and 9C under -- occurs under a
46 separate registration permit. While reported moose
47 harvest can be parsed out by subunit, it is not possible
48 to distribute between -- pull it out by hunt areas. So
49 therefore, the number of moose harvests reported only
50 within the closure review is not available, although

1 reported moose harvest within Unit 9C provides some
2 insight. From 20 -- 2000 to 2023, total reported moose
3 harvest in Unit 9C averaged 29 moose ranging from 16 to
4 43 per year. Approximately 90% of that, though, occurs
5 during the fall season. Figure 4 can be -- shows the
6 breakdown of the reported moose harvest in Unit 9C. So,
7 figure 4 is on page 28 of your reading books. And then
8 on page 29, you have the reported moose harvest table.
9 The total harvest broken down between the fall and that
10 winter season for the months of December and January.
11 If this closure is rescinded, non-federally qualified
12 users would be able to harvest moose on federal public
13 lands within that portion of Units 9C during the Naknek
14 -- draining into the Naknek River drainage from the south
15 in the month of December. It may also result in increased
16 moose harvest. Although this increase was expected to
17 be minimal as winter conditions make this area very
18 difficult to access. While 2022 and 2023 moose density
19 estimates within the closure area are above State
20 management objectives for moderate density moose
21 populations, this low moose density population
22 fluctuates within a dynamic equilibrium. Unit 9C bull-
23 cow ratios are above management objectives currently and
24 could sustain additional bull harvest. Calf-cow ratios
25 indicate a stable population, while bull-cow ratios
26 within the area are above -- are -- so bull-cow ratios
27 within the area are below management objectives. Ratios
28 in the adjacent area that's surveyed, TCA are high, and
29 bull harvest is much more likely during the fall when
30 federal lands are open. Conservation concerns do not
31 warrant maintaining the closure, although OSM looks to
32 hear forward to hearing from the Bristol Bay Council on
33 local conditions, knowledge and continuation of
34 contribution from subsistence users. So OSM's
35 recommendation right now is actually to rescind the
36 closure.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I have a quick
39 question before I open it up for Council questions. So,
40 when is this -- will this current -- oh, I guess that I
41 answered my own question. So, this as it's currently
42 written in the books, this will not go away, correct?
43 This is permanently in there. So, if we chose to rescind
44 it, we would have to make a proposal to do so?

45
46 MS. HOLMAN: Through -- no, Madam Chair.
47 So, at this point, if the Council is in agreeance with
48 this -- leaving it as it is, a proposal does not need
49 to be seen. This will go before the Board in April of
50 2026, as is, and the Board can rescind it based on this

1 closure review.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. So that -- I
4 guess that's my question. No action is required, we can
5 choose to recommend to rescind, we can choose to keep
6 it in place, or we can choose something entirely
7 different.

8

9 MS. HOLMAN: Correct, Madam Chair.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. So that'll be
12 down the road. Okay. Now I'll open up for questions for
13 my Council. John.

14

15 MR. RHYSHEK: Yeah. So, I read over this,
16 I believe that this does not need to be rescinded. I
17 believe it just needs to be left alone. My reason why
18 is essentially -- making this in common terms, this is
19 like placing a speed limit on a road that doesn't get
20 traveled. And I say that because this winter moose hunt
21 in this area is so difficult just for the locals, yet
22 to have somebody come from outside, say Anchorage and
23 facilitate or plan the logistics of trying to obtain a
24 moose in the December season is so logistically
25 difficult, it essentially doesn't happen. I called some
26 of my constituents, I heard of about four antler bulls
27 being taken in this area over the last ten years, all
28 by locals, zero by non-locals. So, you know, my vote is
29 just to leave this alone. It doesn't it doesn't get
30 utilized by non-subsistence individuals to begin with.
31 So why even muddy the waters?

32

33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

34

35 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
36 Kendra, I noticed on your -- as you talk about moose
37 densities, I've -- ever since I've said on this Council,
38 I've always looked for some real numbers and looking
39 through all this information that provided here [sic]
40 over the years. The moose population or the densities
41 seem to change like some years or, you know, they're
42 good. The ratio between the bulls and the cow and the
43 calf and the cow and in other years, like just last
44 year, noticeably different. And I can attribute that
45 just because we're just looking at the density of moose
46 now, we're not looking at population. We're just looking
47 at the ratio between a bull and a cow and a cow and a
48 calf, anymore here, and you don't really have real
49 numbers in my mind. There's still no real numbers. I
50 mean, there --- that bull, you know, could have been out

1 of the area at that time you took these density
2 estimates. And so, to me, when I look at this kind of
3 stuff I don't have -- unless you can give me real numbers
4 on what the actual population is in these areas, you
5 know, to help me justify possibly opening it up to non-
6 residents or -- but that was one of my thoughts as I was
7 reading through this is that I don't see any real
8 numbers. It's just density populations. And I'm in
9 agreement here with John that you know, there's been
10 historically very few moose taken out of December in
11 that upper area in the federal lands there. So, it's I,
12 I wouldn't think that we're going to leave it as is. I
13 mean, that would be my thought. Thanks.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Richard.
16 Billy.

17
18 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'm in agreement with
19 what Richard was saying there and John. But I'm looking
20 at a chart here. Your figure 4, and it's showing local
21 users versus non-local users. At first my question, was
22 it local geologic -- geographically Bristol Bay region.
23 But -- or is it local Alaska. But it shows here in the
24 little table down here say it's non-local Alaskans and
25 non-residents in 2022 and 2023 more people from outside
26 of Alaska have been harvesting by this chart.

27
28 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, the
29 harvest data, because it is that registration hunt
30 through the State is where the harvest tickets come from.
31 The State doesn't break it down into subsistence users
32 and non-subsistence users. Their local users would be
33 those local to the area. Amy might be able to help
34 describe a little bit better of exactly where the local
35 comes from. But, then the non-local users to my
36 understanding would be like those coming from Anchorage,
37 places like that.

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 It's described by the customary and
42 traditional use.

43
44 MS. VANDE VOORT: Yeah, through the
45 Chair. Amy Vande Voort for the record. So, when we talk
46 about local harvest, we're talking about residents of
47 that Unit. So, residents of Unit 9, a non-local Alaska
48 resident, would be anyone outside of that Unit. So,
49 people from Anchorage or other communities.

50

00030

1 MR. TREFON: It's noted here, non-local
2 Alaskan residents.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes. So, they're
5 combined with somebody from Wisconsin as well as
6 somebody from Anchorage is going to be included in that
7 count.

8
9 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair. So, the non-
10 residents would be outside the State and then non-local
11 residents would be anyone outside Unit 9. So those are
12 still separated out.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: But, on the chart
15 there's only two so, yeah. Yes.

16
17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
18 record, if you look at the caption for figure 4, it
19 explains it. I mean, the caption under figure four says
20 non-local users are non-local Alaska residents and non-
21 residents, and local users are defined as those with a
22 customary and traditional use determination. And, I also
23 wanted to respond to Richard's question about moose
24 numbers. And if you look on page 22, it says between
25 1991 and 2023, the densities -- the average densities
26 correspond to an average of 132 moose, which ranges from
27 28 moose to 259 moose. So, that's kind of translating
28 densities estimates into actual moose population
29 numbers. And I also just wanted to emphasize that we are
30 seeking feedback from the Council right now on, you know,
31 whether this closure is necessary to continue
32 subsistence uses. I mean, from OSM analysis of the data,
33 it doesn't seem necessary to maintain for conservation
34 purposes, but if it's necessary for the continuation of
35 subsistence uses, that you guys could provide valuable
36 feedback and information to inform our analysis on
37 whether it's necessary to retain for subsistence uses.
38 And we're not looking for a formal recommendation, but
39 if you guys want to take any action outside the scope
40 of a closure review to address this hunt, then this just
41 kind of informs that decision.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you.
44 Richard.

45
46 MR. WILSON: Thank you for that
47 Clarification, but I, you know, I understand, you know,
48 ever since, you know, what they determined here, but
49 they determined it still in my mind and I don't think
50 the information is complete. I mean, you still get your

1 density populations and in those density populations,
2 you've estimated so many moose in these populations. And
3 to me, it doesn't -- it still doesn't give me a full
4 knowledge of what's actually going on there. So, I'm
5 still kind of standing by my thoughts of, you know, this
6 to keep it local and keep it the way it is. Thanks.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
9 Richard. Dan.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yeah, I read
12 this, and first I was surprised to even -- it's not
13 common to see a closure recommended to be rescinded and
14 surprised me. I knew were -- be teetering on the edge
15 of whether that was appropriate or not. I want to commend
16 the OSM for what their biological assessment seems to
17 warrant that recommendation. However, I'm not at all
18 surprised that folks really live here aren't at all
19 comfortable with it. So, I'm trying to sort out the
20 data, one thing that -- and as I'm getting farther and
21 farther away from my biological work. But these
22 graphics, figure 1, 2 and 3, you have a few data points
23 back in the 90s. Then you get this long line, that blue
24 line going all the way across to 2015, and I wonder if
25 that would -- I think it'd be more appropriate to not
26 have that line there if there's no data points to support
27 it. Which would also then support more, I think in my
28 mind, some of what the other folks are saying is that
29 that kind of implies that we know it is improving and
30 in reality, you don't know what was going on. I'm kind
31 of looking to the wildlife biologist to see if I'm
32 reading this right, and I'm kind of thinking that should
33 -- shouldn't be that long line there.

34

35 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, we
36 kind of went back and forth on this of I actually had
37 talked with Lisa at one point about removing some of
38 those versus having every year on there. So that is
39 something that we've talked about as far as what was
40 happening for surveys or anything, I just don't have the
41 data. I'm not sure if the Refuge or the State has or
42 knows if there was any data at that point in time. I
43 have been provided some information from the Refuge. I
44 would have to go back and look through all of that, just
45 because it has been a little while since I've looked at
46 it, to be able to tell you anything beyond that. But,
47 that long line with that big gap is something that had
48 been discussed when we were putting this together, but
49 with this being that more of the informal providing all
50 the information out there, it was kind of decided to go

1 ahead and leave that in there. Just so you guys have
2 everything.

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thanks for that. This
5 place is notoriously difficult, and I even kind of want
6 to pause and take my hat off for a minute. We were at
7 one of these meetings in the spring, like this. Lots of
8 discussion about moose numbers. And within a few days,
9 Tom O'Hara trying his best to help get out there and get
10 numbers, crashed and died. And I knew Tom a little bit,
11 and I always kind of get a lump in my throat when I
12 think of that. He was trying to help everybody get data,
13 and it didn't work out so good. But I'm kind of inclined
14 to support and agree with the folks that live right
15 here. That maybe it's a little premature. And then
16 particularly looking at that figure 4 where he got a
17 substantial non-local harvest, it can throw a real level
18 of competition that's if there's just a few moose out
19 there to get. If there's abundance and the biology
20 supports it, I'm glad to support it, but this sounds
21 like are just pretty marginal. So, thank you.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: John, then Richard.

24
25 MR. RHYSHEK: Also, Kendra, I think it
26 might be imperative for you to show on this graph 2020
27 was the year of Covid. It's also your smallest non-
28 resident number, and that's because of people were
29 limited to travel. And then also, I believe that this
30 is written over the winter subsistence season. Okay. And
31 this figure 4 graph is for both seasons put together.
32 These hashed lines that you have, that show, say 2023,
33 where the majority of the moose taken in our local area
34 was by non-residents. But, if you were to classify this
35 even further and show how many winter moose were taken
36 by non-residents, that simply wouldn't be on your chart
37 because they simply don't come here and hunt that time
38 of year. So, it's all I had to say.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, John.
41 Richard.

42
43 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'm just reminded here
44 on figure 4 or even figure 2, you know, in the Big Creek
45 corridor, here you have, you know, the bull to the cow
46 and the bull -- the cow to calf ratios definitely
47 declining. And I think -- maybe somebody can help me out
48 here, but the bear population in the area has increased
49 so much here in the last few years and that Corridor is
50 very well known for bear population. And this to me is

00033

1 -- looks like -- I mean to me, I could see this being a
2 very good bear year -- last year. And so, the moose are
3 not going to be in the same drainage as the bears. And
4 that's -- to me, that's -- this is what I'm looking at
5 with that red line there is that the decline in the
6 moose population in areas because of the bear density
7 and it just seems to correlate with it. Am I -- I believe
8 that's what I -- that's what I'm looking at.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Richard.

11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: Madam Chair, Council
13 members, I have one more data point from -- this is
14 Bryce Woodruff, Alaska Peninsula Becharof National
15 Wildlife Refuge. We did a trend count on Big Creek last
16 fall. So, we have one more data point to add to that
17 graph. And we got 60 bulls per 100 cows at that time.
18

19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Bryce.
20 Any questions for Bryce on that?

21
22 (No response)

23
24 Thanks, Bryce. Okay, any further
25 questions or comments? Well, what I want to do is, well
26 these are all valuable and I would appreciate it if you
27 guys would keep your notes. And then as soon as we're
28 done with these reviews on these closures and proposals,
29 when we have on -- Item C for the call for wildlife
30 proposals, this is when we'll take any actions should
31 we so desire to do so or make recommendations, okay? If
32 the board's agreeable to that. Okay.

33
34 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Hey, Nanci. It's John.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yep, go ahead John.

37
38 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I have to hop off. I'll
39 try to get back on. My plane is going to be here shortly,
40 so I got to get ready for that.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay.

43
44 MR. CHSITENSEN: Okay, thank you.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Go ahead,
47 Kendra.

48
49 MS. HOLMAN: So, Madam Chair, just
50 another point for everybody to go ahead and take a look

1 at as they're reviewing this. So, table 3 accounts for
2 just the winter harvest. So that's on page 29. So, that
3 harvest is broken down. The State does have a season,
4 of course, at this point during that season they can't
5 hunt on federal public lands. So, those numbers, -- but
6 that does give the 9C moose harvested the overall for
7 the Unit. And it breaks it down, comparing that fall
8 number -- those fall numbers, the total harvest as well
9 as just that December and January time frame when the
10 State does have a season at that time as well. Outside
11 of the federal public lands, just as an idea to help
12 give numbers of what outside that federal closure where
13 other harvesters are at during that season that -- just
14 to kind of help with those numbers.

15
16 MR. RHYSHEK: But these numbers are
17 inaccurate because these numbers, the way I interpret
18 them are for all of 9C but your closure is for south of
19 the river, okay? So why don't you give us the numbers
20 for the moose that are killed south of the river?

21
22 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. Those
23 aren't numbers that we have or can get is part of the
24 problem.

25
26 MR. RHYSHEK: I can get them for you and
27 that that number is virtually zero.

28
29 MS. HOLMAN: If we can get those numbers
30 there -- they are very helpful. But, from the harvest
31 tickets through the State, they don't break them down
32 that way. So, we're unable to get those numbers through
33 that method.

34
35 MR. RHYSHEK: Yeah. That area is just so
36 hard to get to in the wintertime. You know, you have the
37 freezing and the thawing of the Naknek River. You got
38 snow conditions, if the snow conditions allow. And then
39 you have this 30 day or, you know, six-week window to
40 hunt and if, if all the stars don't line up people just
41 don't go south of the river to hunt moose. So that's all
42 I really had to say.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you
45 John. Go ahead, Lisa.

46
47 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin, for
48 the record. So, I'm curious, I mean, yeah, as Kendra
49 said, I mean, quantitatively from the State Harvest
50 ticket data, we just can't -- they don't separate it out

1 by hunt area that way. But, obviously, from your local
2 knowledge and experience, you're saying no harvest
3 happens, people can't get there. But are you concerned
4 if we lift -- if we rescind the closure that people from
5 Anchorage or sport hunters could access that area in the
6 winter, like by a plane or something?
7

8 MR. RHYSHEK: They absolutely could.
9 Okay, I'm not going to deny that, but logistically, it's
10 an absolute nightmare. You know, and I mean, I hear
11 stories from back in the day, you know, where guys
12 actually did that and landed on a lake and, you know,
13 had to snowshoe two miles to go to go shoot a moose, and
14 then the weather conditions change, and they get stuck
15 in the tent and the plane freezes up. And it -- every,
16 every story I have ever heard has turned into a survival
17 story and a nightmare. So, people just don't do it. So,
18 it's like I started my comment earlier saying this is
19 like putting a speed limit sign on a road that nobody
20 travels. It just, you know, it just doesn't -- and I
21 thought -- and I thought when Amy -- when I report my
22 harvest ticket, I have to list the drainage and the
23 approximate GPS coordinates of where that moose was
24 harvested. And I do that so, why wouldn't that be any
25 different?
26

27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I guess Amy can
28 probably speak to this, you know, more definitively, but
29 it's not consistent. I mean, people aren't...
30

31 MS. VANDE VOORT: Through the Chair, this
32 is Amy Vande Voort. So, we request that, but we don't
33 make that public because that can affect guides and
34 outfitters and what actually gets reported people don't
35 want to report or don't want it made public where they
36 harvest the moose. So, we requested as a state agency,
37 but it's not made public, so.
38

39 MR. RHYSHEK: Understood.
40

41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, I have heard
42 that as well, Amy. And I guess actually in some ways,
43 you know, that's a good thing that you guys don't. But,
44 then when it comes to issues like this, it makes it more
45 difficult. Dan.
46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I could see not
48 publicizing individual reports, but as an accumulated,
49 you know, 20 moose are caught on Big Creek or whatever.
50 Is it really -- of course, if it's two people went

1 hunting, yeah, that does give a story away. But, anyway,
2 kind of curious. I'm more familiar with over Dillingham,
3 and I know Eunice, she'll get that information -- ring
4 that information out of people. But also, they'll say
5 lower Nushagak River has so many and there's usually a
6 lot of people. So anyway, maybe explanation. Thanks.

7
8 MS. VANDE VOORT: Amy Vande Voort again.
9 So, we can make generalizations when it comes to that.
10 But, again, like when you only get 1 or 2 people
11 reporting harvested, it's pretty well known in a small
12 community who those people are. And if that were to
13 become public, you know, you're -- it's -- it becomes
14 sort of a privacy issue with certain people. And yeah,
15 it's just protected data within the State, so.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks for that
18 explanation. Richard.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'm just looking at
21 this and wondering if we were to submit a proposal later
22 on its agenda and if it would look like say, to just
23 erase the closure on -- I mean, to eliminate non-resident
24 hunting in December in this area. History kind of proves
25 that there's really not a whole lot going on in December
26 for non-residents. And why do we -- I mean, we -- every
27 four years it comes up for review and those numbers are
28 always low. But why don't we just take it off the books?

29
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Kendra, did you have
31 a response?

32
33 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair.
34 Unfortunately, even doing that, it's still considered a
35 closure. So, if you're limiting the ability of any groups
36 within the federal regulation process, if there's any
37 kind of limitation that is considered a closure. So, we
38 would have to say get rid of the entire hunt which could
39 still be seen as a closure. So, unfortunately there is
40 that aspect. Lisa may have more information on that.

41
42 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, I just want to
43 emphasize, I mean, according, you know, it's to statute
44 to ANILCA, I mean, it's a pretty high bar to remain
45 closed. I mean, it's only if necessary for the
46 continuation of subsistence uses or for the conservation
47 of healthy wildlife populations. And so, you know, I
48 feel like sometimes once a closure gets in regulation,
49 people are like, well, we'll just keep it in there for
50 subsistence priority. And according to statute, that's

1 not what they're there for. I mean, it's only if
2 necessary, and that's why we're asking. I mean, to try
3 and demonstrate why this is necessary for the
4 continuation of subsistence uses and the rationale of,
5 oh, well, people just can't access it. They don't go
6 there anyway. That doesn't really meet the legal
7 requirements for retaining a closure for subsistence
8 uses. So that's -- yeah, I just want to emphasize this.
9 But, again, I mean, we're just seeking feedback now and
10 you'll have an opportunity in the fall to actually make
11 the recommendation for this. And I mean, it sounds like
12 there aren't any other changes with this hunt that
13 you're, you know, interested in making, but for
14 submitting a proposal.

15

16 MR. WILSON: Thank you for clarifying
17 that. So, we'll just revisit it every four years. Good
18 to know. Okay, thanks.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Billy.

21

22 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I got a question about
23 Well, then it's back to the non-residents and Alaskan
24 residents against get some. Do you guys have any numbers
25 of how much it is -- make that meat taken out of Alaska,
26 compared -- competing with the locals that are actually
27 trying to get meat, not just to hunt. See is there a
28 number available?

29

30 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, we
31 don't -- I'm not even sure if the State would have
32 records of how much of the meat is actually leaving the
33 State. Yeah.

34

35 MS. GREDIAGIN: Are you interested in,
36 like, pounds of meat or, like Moose? Like numbers of
37 animals?

38

39 MR. TREFON: If you want to put it in
40 pounds of for meat and moose, caribou. Because I, when
41 I used to hang around Port Alsworth, I used to see on
42 some of these logs, the decks where meat just sit and
43 rot and wanton waste, I guess as long as you bring it
44 back to the lodge is not wanton waste. But, I was just
45 curious about how much meat is actually going out that's
46 really being used, not just being utilized for the horns
47 that they got that was on top of that animal.

48

49 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, there
50 are still the wanton waste laws on the books in places.

1 And I know there are several -- a lot of places around
2 the State that do have programs or opportunities so that
3 when these hunters do come in they can, say donate the
4 meat back to the communities of the villages in the area
5 and things like that. I'm not sure if there's any actual
6 programs in that setup, or if people have ways to say,
7 contact village Councils or anything like that to be
8 able to do stuff like that. But I know it does happen
9 in a lot of places around the State where the hunters
10 will be able to donate any of the -- let's say if they
11 can't get it all in their cooler or they don't want to
12 take any, however that works, they are able to donate
13 it back to the local the local people, but...

14
15 MR. TREFON: Yeah. For Nondalton, the
16 people that do get that from the sport hunters is from
17 the lodges. If they know the lodges and so they know the
18 owners. And they'll ask the owners if they get a moose,
19 can they bring them some meat? And it's usually early
20 in the season before they go into full rut.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. And I'll just
23 add something kind of anecdotal here. Having jumped into
24 the air transportation business myself this past year,
25 we in speaking to the previous owner, the trend has been
26 surprising to me because I was kind of the mindset that
27 a lot of that meat wasn't getting used and stuff. I had,
28 I think it was one moose this year that they asked me
29 to find a home for of all the people that we had out in
30 the field, and -- which was really surprising, and we
31 had a longer list of people wanting meat. But that's
32 what I did, is I just reached out in the community kind
33 of knowing the people that would be interested. And we
34 certainly were unable to fulfill the requests, even
35 though we had great success in the field. So, that -- I
36 suspect personally that that number has gone down as
37 civilization as a whole is looking towards a healthier
38 lifestyle. They're recognizing the qualities of wild
39 game and they're taking it home with them.

40
41 MR. TREFON: And yeah, that's why I was
42 saying that people get the moose meat early in the
43 season, but once it goes in the fall rut is when it just
44 sits on their decks and nobody had [sic] no use for it.
45 Their pets wouldn't eat it, couldn't do nothing [sic]
46 with it. There was a guy at one meeting -- one of our
47 meetings here, said he had a cure for rut, how to cure
48 the rut in the animal at our meetings here, he was on
49 intercom, but he never did tell us.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Any other
2 questions or comments concerning the moose closure?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Okay, great. Thank you. Kendra, are you
7 giving us our next, our caribou Nushagak as well?

8
9 MS. HOLMAN: I am Madam Chair. So again,
10 for the record, Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist with
11 OSM. So, this closure review can be found starting on
12 page 35 of your meeting books. So, this closure is for
13 Unit 17A and 17C -- is so that the public lands are
14 closed to the taking of caribou except by federally
15 qualified users, unless the population estimate exceeds
16 900 caribou. So, the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou were
17 introduced in 1988. I'm going to kind of skip. So, in
18 2016, is when Federal public lands were open to caribou
19 harvest by Alaska residents. Harvest limit was
20 increased, subsistence harvest of Nushagak Caribou was
21 exempt from the prohibition of same day air travel.
22 Winter seasons were extended and then in 2016 through
23 2018, still more liberalization of the harvests. In
24 2016, Togiak and ADF&G requested the closure be lifted,
25 as long as the population remained above that upper
26 objective of 900. So, in 2018, this RAC voted to rescind
27 the closure due to concerns about long term
28 sustainability of the herd. The closure was modified to
29 only close caribou hunting on the Nushagak Peninsula,
30 except by federally qualified subsistence users, unless
31 the population exceeded that 900 number. In 2022, the
32 Board reviewed the closure and voted to maintain it while
33 opening the hunt to all users when the herd exceeds that
34 900 caribou, helps keep the herd within carrying
35 capacity of its habitat and prevents unnecessary
36 restrictions on non-subsistence users. In April of 2024,
37 the Board expanded that hunt area since the Herd has
38 expanded its range. The Board also recommended that the
39 Delegation of Authority Letter be changed to allow the
40 in-season manager to set harvest areas within that hunt
41 zone for that FC17-02 permit.

42
43 146 caribou were originally introduced
44 in 1988. The herd is cooperatively managed by the
45 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee, which
46 consists of the state, federal, tribal and local
47 representatives. The management population objectives
48 have been changed and are now 200 to 600 caribou, with
49 an optimum number of 400. Harvest objection -- or
50 objective, excuse me, is 10 to 30 caribou. Table 1 on

1 page 43 of your meeting book shows the sex, age,
2 composition and minimum counts population estimates.

3
4 So, habitat decline from overgrazing is
5 a serious concern. Between 20 -- 2002 and 2017, lichen
6 coverage over the peninsula declined from 48 to 30%.
7 Assuming the current rate of change continues, lichen
8 is projected to be at zero by 2026. If overgrazing
9 occurs, caribou will likely leave the peninsula and
10 start starving -- before starving. It is not known
11 whether the immigration will be temporary, seasonal,
12 long term. Some of these immigration and movements we're
13 already seeing, which is what led to that change in the
14 hunt boundary. So, from 1994 to 2020, excuse me, 2023,
15 I believe is what the numbers actually are. The harvest
16 ranged from 0 to 387 caribou, the 2023-2024 season was
17 the end of that data. 2016-17 year and the 2019-2020
18 years had the highest harvest and were likely
19 contributed to the population decline. So, the existing
20 closure strikes an effective management compromise,
21 particularly due to animal variability and the
22 population of the herd and harvest. The population
23 objective has been adjusted to that 200 to 600 caribou.
24 If the closure is lifted, federally qualified
25 subsistence users would lose their subsistence priority
26 and would be less able to meet their subsistence needs
27 because of competition with -- and harvest by the non-
28 federally qualified users. If the closure is made more
29 stringent, the herd would be more likely to exceed that
30 carrying capacity and overgraze its habitat. So, this
31 closure balances that concern of overharvest with those
32 of overgrazing. So, the OSM recommended preliminary
33 conclusion at this point is to modify the closure,
34 reducing that threshold from 900 to 600. So, that would
35 be the end of my presentation.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
38 Kendra. I'll open up for questions from the Council.
39 Questions or comments Council members? Go ahead, Dan.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. This is closer to my
42 country, and maybe Kenneth will have something to say.
43 I'm sitting here trying to remember what we were told
44 at the recent Nushagak Advisory Committee meeting last
45 Saturday. And I'm a little fuzzy on it because we had
46 some other issues we really wrangled on. But, yeah, we're
47 -- we haven't been able to really harvest 'cause the --
48 like I mentioned in my report, the rivers are all open
49 it's too dangerous to go down there. And some of the
50 last times I was able to get down there, it was pretty

1 obvious that caribou were in the normal lower end of the
2 Nushagak Peninsula. They were, you know, digging down
3 eating sedges, just feeding these little green spots
4 where they're digging down through the ice. But we've
5 had a lot of ice problems, even if we don't have a lot
6 of snow and it can be very real concern of overgrazing.
7 And like other folks, probably Kenneth knows better and
8 some of the Togiak folks, I think it was Jimmy Coopchiak
9 that pushed this enlarged hunt area that seemed like
10 some of the caribou are moving up to the north end and
11 moving off into more of what we call a mainland towards
12 Togiak, which has got some, from what Jimmy was saying
13 at that meeting last year, got good lichen. I think I
14 was told that because there's no snow it seems like the
15 caribou are in their more traditional south end of the
16 Peninsula. But the worry is, if we don't harvest any,
17 what's it going to be like come next summer? So, I'm
18 inclined to support this action. I know the Togiak Refuge
19 watches it really close. I have real confidence in the
20 biologists there. They have a lot of -- Andy Aderman has
21 a lot of experience and they've been watching this
22 closely. So, it's a balance because a lot of people
23 don't want to invite non-qualified folks in there, just
24 they don't want them there. But, if there's a biological
25 -- no good biological reason to prohibit them, and we
26 are worried about overgrazing, then in my opinion, some
27 should be allowed -- people should be allowed to take
28 it. And one of the deep oppositions in your more urban
29 areas for federal subsistence rules is because they feel
30 that they're arbitrarily excluded. And they shouldn't
31 be. There should be a good biological basis, and
32 subsistence needs basis should be legitimate. Not just
33 we don't like those guys coming here. So anyway, I'm
34 ranting now, but yeah, the -- we don't want them starving
35 or they could end up going off towards Goodnews and up
36 into Quinhagak or something. We won't have anything down
37 there for a while so, thank you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you,
40 Dan. Kenneth, knowing you're online do you have anything
41 that you'd like to ask Kendra or any comments you'd like
42 to make about this recommendation?

43
44 MR. NUKWAK: Yes. On the modification of
45 the closure to reduce the population threshold to 600.
46 That's -- I got a study into that a little more or pay
47 closer attention to it. What it actually is referring
48 to. Other than that, we haven't been able to hunt this
49 year, in this winter hunt, but we were able to through
50 the (In Native) river. That's our main river when we --

1 from Manokotak go down there to hunt for them. And we
2 are open to Togiak and Twin Hills if they come over
3 we're -- well I was willing to help them out, but they
4 just -- the airfare is always a little bit too steep,
5 expense wise. When the caribou was first introduced back
6 in 1988, I was a young man and my dad really made sure
7 that I understood it correctly even before I got onto
8 the Council, I didn't -- I wasn't even interested in
9 being on the Council back then. I was too young. That's
10 when my dad was alive and then he was making sure that
11 I understand that it only refers to -- it only is open
12 for the federal -- federally recognized communities that
13 were -- that are mentioned, Togiak, Twin Hills,
14 Manokotak Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point and Ekuk
15 were the communities that my dad would always make sure
16 that I understand that it is only open to those seven
17 communities. So, I got an -- I need to study back into
18 this Nushagak, I mean, Peninsula Caribou Herd.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
21 Kenneth. Kendra, did you have something?

22
23 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, I
24 guess I thought there might have been a question in
25 there about explaining the 600 number and what that
26 means. So, the 600 number in the regulation would be the
27 threshold. For any population numbers below 600 the hunt
28 would be closed to federally -- non federally qualified
29 subsistence users. When that population number goes
30 above 600, that is when the hunt would open up to anyone.
31 So, at this point currently that number is 900. However,
32 because that management population objective has
33 changed, that's why we are recommending that population
34 number be changed in the regulation. So, I guess that's
35 the easiest way to explain why we're recommending that
36 change and what that number is.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Kenneth, do
39 you have any questions about that?

40
41 MR. NUKWAK: Yeah. Okay. I understand
42 that now, but I think I'd leave it the way it is for
43 now. Leave it at 900 because we'll -- the communities
44 will be competing with other hunters for the caribou.
45 And when we hunt by boat, we wait for the caribou to be
46 adjacent to the river of the (indiscernible) and then
47 we hate to compete for meat, and I'll stop there.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. I'm sorry,
50 Kenneth. Go ahead, if you had more.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MR. NUKWAK: That's it.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, good. Thank you. Walter.

MR. KANULIE: I like this proposal to -- I mean, for it to extend towards (In Native). I know when I worked at BBNA, I used to go home with Penn-Air when Penn-Air was -- used to fly with Robert, he'd go like sometimes when the weather is good and like a scenic route. And going through those Kulukak Mountains on the east side I remember I used to see caribou along -- at that time even. I think it was like, in the, like in the fall time I've seen some, recently some. I haven't gone around -- I haven't fished in Kulukak in a while so, I have -- I know people have said they seen 'em [sic] along that coast, so. But then like people here, I mean, with the winter -- with the winters being funny anymore, we -- I mean, when going from Togiak to Dillingham, all the rivers, creeks were open, you know, I mean, just spots that were frozen over. So, and I was thinking, well, if there was any caribou being seen there, they probably take their skits over to (indiscernible), which would -- I mean if they were on a coast, you know but, you know, I -- and of course Andy and the folks over there, they like, they've always had their numbers, you know, they recorded the numbers and all that. So, as far as opening it up to people that aren't from around there, I know they're given opportunities to hunt somewhere. I don't remember, I don't know where they opened caribou in the Eastern Interior or somewhere. And I know the State has a lottery for hunting somewhere for Caribou. But, I just, you know, being new to this and the Board, I'm learning right now so, I just want to comment on this proposal. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. Thank you for your comments, Walter. Those are appreciated and we appreciate your participation. Richard.

MR. WILSON: I can see Andy over there just kind of crossing his fingers. For years he's been, you know, on top of this Herd and given us, you know, good updates. And he's just -- his worry is, oh, man, they're going to get so big that they're going to move on somewhere. And that was when the population was down, you know half of what it is now. It was -- the worry was hey, you know, don't want them to move out of their area. And here now we're you know, it's just -- it's

1 grown and grown, and I can just see him saying, okay,
2 when is enough is enough. You know, and, and his herd
3 is going to start moving because, boy, you know, it's
4 doing good but it's these seasons, sure do dictate how
5 the harvest levels are. But, I think Andy's done a great
6 job on working with this herd here.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes. Thank you,
9 Richard. John.

10

11 MR. RHYSHEK: Dan, do you know why the
12 locals over there went from just having, like, really,
13 really great harvests, you know, I see, like, you know,
14 378, 100, okay, they had a down year of 14 and then
15 another year of 300, and then all of a sudden, it's just
16 like the floodgates were just turned off.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Like Walter was
19 saying, it's all to do with access. I've been down there
20 a couple of those years where they had really good travel
21 conditions, and you could rip down there and yeah and
22 that is a balance thing here, because if you got good
23 conditions, look at that 180 caribou in March alone and
24 people go down there and whack them. But then we get
25 these multiple years of just can't get there. And which
26 is this year. And last year we had more snow, but it
27 never got cold enough to really freeze the rivers well.
28 So, that's the main reason. Thanks.

29

30 MR. RHYSHEK: So, the way I read this,
31 with all due respect, is you guys want to keep that herd
32 number around 600 or else they're just going to eat
33 themselves out at home and leave or starve off.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: That's a real concern if -
36 - quite a few years ago now, the Refuge started really
37 looking at the range conditions and yeah, they like I
38 say that one of those times I got down there and there's
39 the blown off areas, they were just eating it down to
40 nothing. (Distortion 2:04:18) And so, more and more
41 people were starting closer to Manokotak you know, I go
42 down, see ten caribou, you know, they start running and
43 you're a mile away from them because it's so flat and
44 they could never catch any. So, they're moving up to the
45 north of the Peninsula. And then, like I was saying,
46 they move even kind of northwest onto the more -- the
47 hills there around Kulukak and such. So that -- but
48 that's also the tricky thing. You make these rules for
49 four years, and no access. And in one good winter you
50 can really pound them down. But, yeah, how to hit that

1 balance is what we're all working on. Thanks.

2

3

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Lisa, go ahead.

4

5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin, for
6 the record, I just wanted to clarify. I mean, the
7 reduction in harvest levels is a combination of access
8 combined with setting permit numbers and harvest quotas
9 'cause, I mean, the population in 2016 was 1200, 1,200
10 Caribou. And then in 2020 it was 226. So, it went from
11 like over a thousand to about 200. And so, when the
12 population fluctuates that much, then they decrease the
13 harvest quotas, and the number of permits issued. But,
14 again, that high harvest was certainly enabled by easier
15 access. So, I think it's a combination.

16

17

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan, go ahead.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, it's one of
the few opportunities left around here so that's viable.
Any other comments?

(Simultaneous speech)

Go ahead Billy.

MR. NUKWAK: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Kenneth.

MR. NUKWAK: Sorry, Billy.

Yes, Ma'am, Madam Chair. The -- I don't know why
Dillingham, Ekuk, and Clark's Point and Aleknagik don't
come over to the Igushik River during the summer hunt.
That's a very good time to hunt them next to the river

1 corridor and they'll be much easier to bring down. And
2 you won't be -- they won't be able to chase them around
3 with snowmachine, just park the boat and wait for them.
4 That's what Manokotak has been doing. But we have not
5 seen any other communities in that river. Just have to
6 wait for the tide -- the incoming tide and outgoing
7 tide. Just making sure the mouth of the river of that
8 Tunuing River is deep enough to go inside. Once you get
9 past that first quarter mile not even a quarter mile.
10 Once you get past that, you'll -- they'll be able to
11 speed their way in. It takes about 40 minutes, 50 minutes
12 to get to the caribou where there's no mud. Where the
13 old cross, the old sod house start. I'll stop there.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
16 Kenneth. Appreciate that sharing of knowledge. Billy.
17

18 MR. TREFON: Yeah. I'm looking at page
19 49 here on the OSM preliminary conclusions. And it was
20 a modified closure. And I was also looking at the
21 alternative considerations. The people that's using this
22 caribou here, I mean, do they have any problem with
23 going from 900 to 6? I mean, that's just my question.
24 It's utilizing the caribou area.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.
27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think that's what
29 I was trying to refer to, that some folks just don't
30 really want non-locals to be there at all. But,
31 understanding the biology of it -- I don't know, they'll
32 have -- I'm sure they're -- Togiak Refuge is gonna [sic]
33 to be going to the communities and talking about this,
34 and then they have that caribou planning committee,
35 usually in late July, where they lay out their latest
36 data and explain what they think the advisable harvest
37 levels are, and then even -- it's pretty cool. I've sat
38 in on a bunch of them and how divided up among the
39 communities. One year we only had like ten caribou to
40 share among all the villages, and at first it was looking
41 like they weren't going to be any caribou for Aleknagik,
42 and the Dillingham folks realized that they probably
43 weren't going to be able to catch quite as many as they
44 were allocated, and they donated 1 or 2 animals to a
45 Aleknagik, which I just thought was pretty awesome. Make
46 sure to include all your neighbors. But, yeah, it's --
47 it makes them a lot of the people pretty uncomfortable.
48 But -- when usually Togiak Refuge staff can lay out a
49 lot of their reasoning and they've built, I think, a
50 pretty good rapport with the villages that they can work

1 out a plan for it. But that's also why some years ago,
2 we, I think in -- embraced a few more communities -- to
3 semi-local communities to have the -- be federally
4 qualified. I think that action was taken here partly to
5 make sure locals were taken care of. We tried to figure
6 out how to bring in Naknek and some of those, but I
7 think there wasn't quite enough traditional history to
8 warrant it. But.....

9

(Simultaneous speech)

10

11

12 MR. WILSON: Remember where those Caribou
13 came from.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, exactly. And I get
16 reminded every time I come over, and I respect that a
17 lot and we really did -- I think there were some just,
18 you know, bureaucratic issues that made it harder. So,
19 I'm not sure how it'll be received. So that's why I
20 think they're starting now to get the word out. Thank
21 you.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thanks, Dan.
24 Any other comments or questions, Willy?

25

26 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Just listening to what
27 you're saying. I mean, I understand that, and caribou's
28 a migrating animal, because it used to be in my country
29 by the hundreds of thousands. Now we're lucky if we see
30 100. And I was just wondering about the numbers. I mean,
31 to cut the numbers on as far as local versus non-local,
32 it's going to always come back to -- it's going to --
33 like he was saying, if we close it down, it's going to
34 close the hunt down. If we tried to do it under -- just
35 for subsistence use. I mean, I would like to see it for
36 subsistence use only, but a federal law saying if it's
37 -- we risk losing it, I guess we better come up with an
38 alternative.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: There's always that
41 fine line. Any other comments? Walter.

42

43 MR. KANULIE: I have a quick comment. I
44 remember, I think it was in the 90s when that bunch of
45 caribou came through from -- and that's probably what
46 these -- those numbers were -- those hundreds. Yeah, I
47 probably had heard, but they were -- they came from the
48 West and went through the village and stayed around for
49 a while. But, then -- even then then, you know, there
50 was hardly any people from the outside, you know, that

1 came, I guess they didn't know about it. But, I remember
2 a long time ago, my brother, my uncle and some of the
3 guys, they'd charter you there to hunt down here, and
4 we were locked down there somewhere so, they move around
5 I guess, when they -- when they're herds large enough.
6 But I just want to make that quick comment.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. No, thank you.
9 We had -- when we had our numbers of caribou here that
10 were large, we had a lot of people coming from the
11 outside to hunt our herds. And now we don't have them
12 and they're not coming. So, I guess it wasn't coming to
13 visit me or Richard or John. Okay, let's move on. And
14 we'll go on to Deferred Wildlife Proposal 24-01
15 Statewide Sale of Brown Bear Hides. Pippa, that's you.
16 In the supplement, correct?

17
18 MS. KENNER: So, we are talking about the
19 supplement that is not in your supplement materials.
20 It's actually separate. And the reason why is the Board
21 only asked us to bring this back to the Councils two
22 weeks ago when it met.

23
24 (Pause)

25
26 So, just to give you a heads up, we're
27 going to be talking primarily about the addendum. And
28 the addendum begins on page 18. And I'll explain why in
29 just a minute.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: This -- is this up
32 online too. So, Kenneth and John can access the
33 information on Teams. I'm getting a nod from Lisa. Okay,
34 so this is on the website, guys, if you're having trouble
35 finding it. Thank you.

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 MS. KENNER: Okay, well, thank you, Madam
40 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Pippa Kenner
41 and for the record, I'm an anthropologist with the Office
42 of Subsistence Management or OSM in Anchorage. Great to
43 see you all today. So, the Federal Subsistence Board
44 deferred action on the proposal. So, this is proposal
45 WP24-01 Deferred. So, the Federal Subsistence Board
46 first deferred action on the proposal, because adopting
47 it as submitted might conflict with the Convention on
48 International Trade in Endangered Species or also known
49 as CITES, an international treaty. And I'll tell you why
50 in just a minute.

1

2

3 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is
4 delegated to the State of Alaska Department of Fish and
5 Game, the authority to provide for the international
6 trade of brown bear hides only if ADF&G issues permits
7 reporting that the trade will not be detrimental to the
8 survival of the species in the wild. Therefore, a permit
9 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is required,
10 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game issues
11 permits, but only to sell the hide of a brown bear, but
12 only if the brown bear is taken in an area with a two
13 brown bear harvest limit, and the request from the
14 proponent is to allow the sale of the hide of a brown
15 bear harvested in an area with a 1 or 2 brown bear
16 harvest limit. As background to this issue, brown bears
17 outside of Alaska exist in much smaller populations than
18 in Alaska and the state of Alaska limit sales of hides
19 because unlimited sales might incentivize legal and
20 illegal hunting in Alaska and elsewhere in North
21 America. For this reason, the state of Alaska's purpose
22 is to prevent hides from entering commercial markets.

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

While limiting the sale of brown bear
hides as necessary for the hundreds of brown bears
harvested in sport and general hunts each year, in which
the edible meat need not be salvaged, the much lower
number of brown bears harvested for subsistence, and for
which the edible meat must be salvaged, does not need
the same level of restrictions on the sales of hides,
because you can only sell the height of a bear, that you
retrieve the edible meat -- you salvage the edible meat.
So, we have provided an OSM revised conclusion and just
to let you know, that conclusion begins on page 22 of
the document you have in front of you. And in just a
second here, I'll go ahead and summarize what this new
conclusion is. The conclusion is to -- just a second
here. I have missed an entire paragraph to tell you why
we're here.

Okay. So, the Board deferred -- okay,
this proposal was submitted by a resident of McCarthy
who requested that the Federal Subsistence Board allow
the sale of brown bear hides under federal regulations.
The Board deferred the proposal the first time in April
2024 and since then, OSM has added an addendum which
adds new information and a new revised OSM conclusion
to the end of the analysis. The addendum addresses the
Board's reasons for first deferring the proposal, and
the purpose of an addendum is to identify information
that Regional Advisory Councils had not seen when they

1 made their recommendations in the fall of 2023. The
2 Federal Subsistence Board again deferred action on this
3 proposal at its February 2025 meeting two weeks ago, and
4 at that time, the Board requested that all 10 Regional
5 Advisory Councils provide recommendations at their
6 winter meetings on the revised OSM conclusion in the
7 addendum. Now, this is a statewide proposal that will
8 be reviewed by all ten Regional Advisory Councils and
9 what we're looking for is for each Council to inform the
10 Board whether the regulation is culturally appropriate
11 for their region. As you know, there's some sensitivity
12 around bears in part of the State. So, I'm going to go
13 back to the conclusion now.

14
15 So, the revised conclusion on page 22
16 is to support the proposal with modification, that the
17 hides of brown bears, with or without claws attached,
18 may be purchased within the United States for personal
19 use and not to be resold. The hunter must request an OSM
20 customary trade permit and must return the permit.
21 Additionally, the modified regulation will align federal
22 sealing regulations with state of Alaska, sealing
23 regulations. So, let me break that down for you a little
24 bit as justification for this revised conclusion. The
25 Federal Subsistence Board deferred the proposal first
26 in April 2024, because adopting it as submitted might
27 conflict with CITES, the international treaty. And in
28 response, the Office of Subsistence Management
29 modification allows the sale of the hides of a brown
30 bear under federal subsistence regulation, and the bear
31 may be taken in an area with a 1 or 2 brown bear harvest
32 limit. The focus of the OSM modification is to limit
33 sales to purchases within the United States. CITES
34 limits only international purchases of brown bear hides.
35 This modification, allowing only domestic purchases,
36 aligns us with CITES. The following two elements of the
37 OSM modification will align federal regulations with
38 current State of Alaska regulations and permit
39 requirements. One is the purchase of the hide must be
40 for personal use and not to be resold, intended to
41 prevent a customary traded hide from entering a
42 commercial market, and two the seal number must be
43 included in any advertisement of sale, which allows law
44 enforcement to identify that a brown bear hide
45 advertised for sale on the internet for example, is from
46 a legally harvested brown bear.

47
48 The OSM modification then goes on to
49 allow the hide to be sold with or without claws attached
50 and will allow a federally qualified subsistence user

1 who removes a claw to incorporate it into a handicraft
2 to then sell the hide. And finally, the OSM modification
3 removes from federal regulations the requirement that
4 in some areas of Alaska at the time of sealing, the
5 sealing official must remove and retain the skin of the
6 head, and the front claws of the bear hide, destroying
7 the trophy value of the hide, and this will align federal
8 sealing regulations in these areas with current state
9 of Alaska sealing regulations. So, we're taking that out
10 of regulation. So current federal edible meat salvage
11 requirements will likely protect brown bears from
12 overharvest.

13
14 So, in conclusion, the OSM modification
15 complies with the provisions of CITES and allows
16 federally qualified subsistence users to legally sell
17 the hides of brown bears while balancing customary trade
18 and conservation. We're asking all 10 region -- I'm going
19 to remind you, we're asking all 10 Regional Advisory
20 Councils to provide recommendations on this revised
21 conclusion. In each Council, we're asking them to inform
22 us about what regulation is culturally appropriate for
23 their region. So, thank you for your attention. This is
24 the end of my presentation I am available to answer
25 questions. Now, what you did at your fall 2023 meeting
26 was to support the proposal as written. So, in that
27 sense, the proposal as written was to allow sales in
28 areas with a one brown bear harvest limit, which is what
29 this revised conclusion is doing. So, if you were going
30 to stay consistent with your recommendation that you
31 made in fall 2023, you would probably vote the proposal
32 up. And some of you may disagree with the Council's
33 recommendation that you made in fall 2023, and then you
34 would vote the proposal down or with modification.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, good. Thank
37 you for that. That was what I was wondering -- for
38 beginning. Any comments or questions then? Dan.

39
40 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I have more questions
41 from this -- for the State on this than feds. I know if
42 Amy can answer them or if we have to get John on, but...

43
44 MS. JENNER: Can I direct you to the
45 State's recommendation, plus have the state testify?

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that would be
48 helpful.

49
50

00052

1 MS. KENNER: Okay, let's find the page
2 number.

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: I think 21 might be it. I
5 think I've been trying to read it.

6
7 MS. KENNER: 21?

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. In the addendum,
10 addendum.

11
12 MS. KENNER: Yes, If -- well, it actually
13 begins on page 33 and it's the Alaska Department of Fish
14 and Game comments. And they supported the proposal as
15 modified by OSM in fall 2023, where you only could do
16 it in an area with a two brown bear harvest limit, and
17 you use their permit.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, that helps it a
20 little bit because I looked at the initial comments where
21 it said Fish and Game opposes it, but that's opposing
22 the current as modified.

23
24 MS. KENNER: Correct.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: So...

27
28 MS. KENNER: Oh, that's wrong then. Thank
29 you for pointing that out. I'll remember to correct that
30 in every meeting I go to this cycle.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm wondering, looking at
33 Amy, can she add anything to that or...?

34
35 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: My guess is they
36 haven't had time to review it yet, but.....

37
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39
40 MS. KENNER: Oh, actually -- no, actually
41 that wouldn't be wrong. They opposed the proposal. They
42 only support the OSM recommendation. There we go. The
43 first one.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Well not the one that's in
46 front of us that just got adopted in February of this
47 year.

48
49 MS. KENNER: Correct. Didn't get adopted.
50 Got deferred again to you.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MR. DUNWAY: Yeah. It's a hot potato obviously. Is there anything, Amy, that you want to add, or I have -- I might have some other questions for you as well. That's -- just have a...

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Have a seat, Amy.

MS. VANDE VOORT: Super. Yeah. Through the Chair, Amy Vander Voort. I have not received any information on this. As far as what our -- if we have a new stance at all. So, I'd have to defer to what our State person has put forth. And if they just met in February, I'm assuming we haven't had a chance to see any new changes.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Would you have any information on the numbers of brown bears, up to now, harvest under those state subsistence regulations described in page 21. Units 9B and 9.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. VANDE VOORT: So, as far as bears harvested under the subsistence permit, we get maybe one every couple of years is very few. Not many people want to actually salvage the meat and once they realize they can't take the skull out of the field, out of the Unit either, they typically don't. There's pretty strict regulations as far as the subsistence rules go.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, because I've even been wondering, we have that -- if we still have the Western Alaska brown bear subsistence harvest area up northwest of Dillingham, and I haven't even heard it talked about. I don't know if that's utilized at all or if you have any information on that.

MS. VANDE VOORT: I don't have any information as far as the Dillingham side. I just know for Unit 9 I think we've issued one permit the past two years I've been here and it wasn't harvested. No one harvested anything with it. We just issued it.

MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. While I still have you up there. Do you know what's become of all of the hides that are taken with the bear call going north of Dillingham?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MS. VANDE VOORT: Yeah. So, all those hides get shipped into Anchorage, and they get sold at the fur rendezvous with the rest of the hides that are from the DLP and stuff across the State.

MR. DUNAWAY: Do you know how strong a market there is for those hides?

MS. VANDE VOORT: I don't, I haven't been to that auction, and I don't know if they publish the results of that.

MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

MR. RHYSHEK: They do. I've watched the auction.

MR. DUNAWAY: And?

MR. RHYSHEK: I've seen some of the really nice hides go, in essence, you know, 4 or \$5000.

MR. DUNAWAY: Cus' [sic] I'm aware of 1 or 2 guides in the Dillingham area that have shot a couple bears and jumped through all the hoops, and they met difficulty selling them. And one guy even tanned it, I think, to try to make it more sellable. And I think he ended up by almost giving it away. So, I see this State has been wringing their hands over this for years, but my sense is that the market hasn't been too strong, and at one point I was delegated to try to look into it more and called Al Frenette [sic] on the Board of Game, who's also a tanner and a fur buyer and a trapper. And there weren't as many restrictions to sell that I thought there were. Except I think there's still a problem if a taxidermist. buys it, mounts it, the subsequent sale, it's tricky. But, that's impressive if they're getting 5,000 for a truly good hide, that would say there's a market that's.....

MR. RHYSHEK: And I've seen other hides go for, you know, 50 bucks.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Yeah, so just get it out of here. So, I also saw that Pippa was waving at me when I was asking Amy. So, I'll be interested to see what Pippa has -- added info.

1 MS. KENNER: Dan, I was waving because
2 you were asking about the state of Alaska, Western and
3 North-western Alaska, brown bear management areas. And
4 it's a great question. And I researched it, and I have
5 an answer for you but we might have some more testimony
6 over here. Well, what happened is those regulations got
7 integrated into the regulations. So, we no longer have
8 these designated special harvest areas. So, it's a
9 little bit complicated. I'm going to simplify it. The
10 seasons are September 1st through May 31st. You don't
11 need to get the hide or the skull sealed unless you are
12 removing it from the harvest area, which is usually the
13 Unit. You must get a State of Alaska permit, registration
14 permit, and then you must report your harvest. Whereas
15 in State general hunt and sport hunt, whatever non-
16 resident hunt, you only need to get the bear sealed. You
17 don't have to get that permit to report your harvest.
18 Those are the major differences and...

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 The other thing is that we did ask the
23 State if we could use their permit to sell the hide of
24 the skull of a brown or grizzly bear, and in an area
25 with one brown bear harvest limit, and they said they
26 couldn't take on the kind of administrative burden at
27 this time. And that's why we have suggested using the
28 federal permit, which is what the Board asked us to do.
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Dan, go ahead.

32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks. That's all I can
34 think of for now. But it just gets so complex and knowing
35 that some hides go for a fairly high price, I feel
36 cautious because some of the time when I hear -- I don't
37 -- when it was still a Western Alaska area, I had never
38 heard of it being used. It's a -- Amy seems to back that
39 up with the opportunities here. It's not huge. I think
40 you had to bury the head face in some direction up that
41 way or what was recommended. So, I'm just trying to hit
42 a balance that there's -- I think some people get grossly
43 overwrought over this. But I certainly don't want to see
44 a, you know, like for a while it was black bear
45 gallbladder industry going on in that Prince William
46 Sound. And that's awful. So anyway, thanks. I'll defer.
47 It looks like Pippa has something else she wants to say.
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Dan. Through the
2 Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. I just want to
3 remind everyone that in state and federal regulations
4 selling a trophy is illegal. And in federal regulations,
5 the proposal is to be able to sell the tanned or untanned
6 hide of a brown bear, whereas in state regulations it
7 must be untanned.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Amy, did you have
10 something to add too?

11
12 MS. KENNER: In the proposal, it would
13 be untanned. In the proposal it would be tanned or
14 untanned. You'd be able to sell it.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Billy.

17
18 MR. TREFON: I was just wondering about
19 -- you were saying that only maybe one person applied
20 for a subsistence hunt. What's the ratio for non-
21 resident? Because in my experience of traditional
22 subsistence use of brown bears is almost nonexistent in
23 my community anymore. My dad was one of the few last
24 bear hunters. And there's a reason for that. Because
25 they taste like fish.

26
27 MS. VANDE VOORT: Yeah. I think the
28 person that applied wasn't originally from Alaska. As
29 someone who moved in, who then qualified as a federal
30 subsistence user. But, yeah, we don't get much. Yeah.
31 We don't get a lot of people interested in that hunt,
32 so.

33
34 MR. TREFON: Traditionally, brown bears
35 did have a purpose. But now, I mean, far as food and
36 clothing, there's no more need for us in subsistence
37 uses, unless some crazy reason we all end up going back
38 to trapping and hunting. But I don't see that happening.
39 But, as far as my use of bear meat, which we live up
40 there, we used to do that a lot up in Kvichak, where the
41 bears migrate, some of them down here, they follow the
42 bears up there, they go eat fish and come back down.
43 But, as far as utilizing and hunting them, it's
44 nonexistent. They were blankets and shelter, basically.
45 Traditionally, nothing else now.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Pippa.

48
49 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Keener for the
50 record, OSM. Through the Chair. So yeah, I think what

1 we have to remember is that these places where the State
2 has subsistence regulations for taking the brown bear,
3 they're usually in the more remote areas and where people
4 are most likely to harvest a brown bear and salvage the
5 edible meat. However, we have to remember that these
6 areas are remote, and some of these areas, we haven't
7 done a very good job of establishing a permit and
8 reporting system. So, the evidence we have is -- one
9 piece of evidence we have is what's being reported. What
10 we don't have a good handle on is what's not being
11 reported. And of course, if you didn't take the brown
12 bear legally, then you would not be able to sell the
13 hide. It would have to have a seal on it. And the other
14 thing is in State regulations they make it difficult for
15 you to sell a hide in an area taken in these special
16 subsistence areas. Where these brown bear hides are
17 generally sold or from the general and sport hunt, who
18 can take the bear without using the edible meat but, you
19 can sell the hide so the majority of hides are taken in
20 sport in general hunts not in the State subsistence hunts
21 where they have regulations in there that they might
22 destroy the trophy value of the hide as you seal it. And
23 so, they're discouraging the sale of hides and
24 subsistence hunts. Thank you.

25
26 MR. TREFON: So, we're trying to
27 establish here how to start -- if we should sell
28 subsistence bear hides or bear hides in general?

29
30 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question.
31 This is Pippa, through the Chair. Whether to sell, how
32 to allow the sale of a brown bear hide taken under
33 federal regulations. So, any brown bear taken under the
34 regulations in this book in the, in the federal
35 regulations, you'd be able to sell you can already sell
36 the hide of brown bears taken in hunts in the state
37 regulation book, but they have to be taken from an area
38 with a two brown bear harvest limit. And also, where
39 they're doing predator control, if you take a brown bear,
40 you might be able to sell the hide.

41
42 MR. TREFON: What kind of federal laws
43 would we be creating from doing this, or any way of --
44 what kind of drawbacks is from this? If we if we
45 supported the use of selling bear hides from this
46 subsistence take which is nonexistent.

47
48 MS. KENNER: Well, thanks for the --
49 thanks for the question. That's really good. This is
50 Pippa Kenner with OSM, through the Chair. So, there are

1 some areas of the State where the Council has said they
2 don't want you to be able to sell the hide, nor
3 handicrafts. Federal and state regulations have
4 provisions for using the fur of bear for handicrafts.
5 Federal regulation, you can even use a cloth into
6 handicraft. But there are places in the State where They
7 have just decided they don't want this to be legal, and
8 one of them is the Y-K Delta Council.

9
10 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Just because Bristol
11 Bay region is basically all brown bears, I mean, we have
12 more brown bears than most people can shake a stick at.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Dan.

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thanks for all the
17 information. I'm just thinking back, this Council
18 originally was really pressuring feds on in enacting
19 predator control to reduce harm competition for meat
20 animals. And so, and both through the state and the
21 federal, various committees. And so that's where we came
22 up in some places like Unit 17, the two brown bear limit
23 but most people don't take advantage of it. And we went
24 to selling the hides, and most people don't take
25 advantage. We try to go to handicrafts, number one to
26 encourage harvest, to reduce predation but also, if
27 there's a way to put money in the pocket of a handicraft
28 or a local person. But now we're doing bear call north
29 of Dillingham, which is really blown up in the press
30 just in the last couple of days. There's an injunction
31 from somebody out of Anchorage complaining that they
32 couldn't see enough bears at Brooks because we're
33 killing 80 bears, 150, 160 miles northwest of here, north
34 of Dillingham. I just -- it's been -- that's partly why
35 I didn't read all this. I was reading the news last
36 night, but I even got -- personally put in a proposal
37 to open brown bear year-round in 17 to get out the lack
38 of reporting problem. We -- working with John, the
39 biologist -- state biologist and Dillingham, he felt
40 like the DLP justification can be really burdensome.
41 Right in the middle of summer, you're putting up fishes,
42 bears in your fish rack or on your set net, and there's
43 a lot -- it's not really onerous. So, we convinced the
44 Board of Game to adopt a year-round season with the
45 idea. You don't have to report quite as promptly. And
46 it's easier. And you don't have to go through a big
47 justification. You can shoot the bear, skin it, and be
48 done with it. So, I'm still leaning to support this.
49 It's a tangle. The State's supporting some stuff, but
50 then they're opposed to another. And I think it gets

1 down to the basic premise of the subsistence issues
2 wrapped around it here. But I appreciate all the
3 information that you've brought to us. And if there's
4 more, eager to hear it. Thank you.

5

6

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, great. Billy.

7

8 MR. TREFON: I'm going back -- Billy
9 Trefon, I forgot to start to introduce myself. Going
10 back to the traditional uses of brown bears in general,
11 from my culture, and I don't know what the culture is
12 on the coast but, my culture, brown bear was -- I mean,
13 as far as arts and craft is non-existent. I mean, I
14 don't know of anything that we did that out of a brown
15 bear that was arts and crafts. Maybe a button out of a
16 bone. But most of them were done for tools and shelter
17 and clothing. And those are things that we -- I have
18 never seen it in my lifetime used. I never even heard
19 people talk about traditional use of these animals
20 anymore. So, like, I support it. I mean, we don't we
21 don't use it. I mean, and if you kill it, it's basically
22 a wanton waste because when we kill brown bears, it's
23 usually because it's a protection of home and property.
24 So, you got an animal that you just killed and you're
25 just going to dispose of it.

26

27

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you.

28

Walter.

29

30

31 MR. KANULIE: Oh, Walter Kanulie from
32 Togiak. Back home the only time they hunted bear --
33 brown bears, was in the springtime when they were coming
34 out. I've never hunted bear but, I've heard men used to
35 long time ago. The brave ones would go in and then they
36 -- I -- and it's -- and they would say that they don't
37 fight back, you know, when they're inside the den with
38 them. And I know they nudge them out and somebody would
39 shoot them outside. But I've never, you know, -- and
40 traditionally, that's the way it was over there. I don't
41 know -- those are the only stories I know for brown bear
42 hunting. And as far as clothing and stuff. Anymore
43 there's, I mean, there's -- when I was a kid that --
44 there really -- I mean, for the -- I mean, the amount
45 of fish that they used to say went up the river and
46 probably others, I'm surprised there was not that much
47 when I was a kid, but now there's lots, lots of brown
48 bears. I mean, they're not as much of a nuisance like
49 over in Dillingham. The only time they really come around
50 is, like, in the fall, like fall time nuts. And the
authorities would probably because of the kids there,

1 you know, walk around, you know, they walk around a lot
2 and, you know play outside and that's -- I mean, it
3 doesn't happen every year, you know, it just -- once in
4 a while, brown bear would come around and refuse to
5 leave, you know. But that's -- and then I know the
6 predation stuff, you know, the predation control thing,
7 you know, I mean, how does that all fit into this? You
8 know, it just -- I was just wondering about that. Thank
9 you.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
12 Walter. Pippa.

13
14 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. This
15 is Pippa Kenner with OSM, for the record. Through the
16 Chair. So, predator control. I'm not familiar with
17 whether they're conducting predator control for brown
18 bears. Brown bears -- okay, so in state regulations,
19 bear taken in a designated predator control area, the
20 hide may be sold, and you don't have to salvage the meat
21 under state regulations. One of the things I'm going to
22 take this opportunity to point out is that one of the
23 issues for the proponent who is from McCarthy, which is
24 in South Central, is the harvest limit in his area is
25 only one brown bear per year. And so, he may not sell
26 those hides. And the state regulations don't apply on
27 National Park Service parkland and monument land. So
28 even if you take a brown bear in a two brown bear harvest
29 area, if you're on national monument or national park
30 land, you can't sell the hide. So that's one of the
31 effects of this proposal, is to allow the sale of hides
32 of brown bears taken on monuments -- in national
33 monuments and national parks, which you can't right now.
34 And he's near Wrangell-St Elias and that's one of the
35 reasons why this proposal came in.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you for
38 that clarification. Dan.

39
40 MR. DUNAWAY: Real quick. You said
41 McCarthy, my brain was saying McGrath where they had on
42 big bear control area. So, I was like, oh, duh. But,
43 interesting, she -- I might still support it.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead.

46
47 MR. TREFON: I was actually in McGrath
48 working on fires when you had your big predator control
49 thing, it didn't work. They actually took a bear from
50 McGrath, moved it 300 miles into Kantishna country.

00061

1 Dropped that bear off on top of a hill and they watched
2 it for three days. When it came to, it didn't freak out
3 or get excited or nothing. It just kind of sat on its
4 rump and stuck his nose up in the air. And it just sat
5 there, and I guess it got a whiff of McGrath. And at the
6 drop of a hat, it just beelined it right back where it
7 came from.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard, did you
10 have something?

11
12 MR. WILSON: Nope.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Anybody else?

15
16 (No response)

17
18 Oh, this is a -- thank you. This was a
19 -- this is a proposal that we do need to take action on
20 instead of deciding if we have any recommendations for.
21 So, we'll go through our tier here. Some of this we've
22 already heard. We've got the introduction and analysis
23 done. Report on board consultation. Orville, would that
24 be you?

25
26 (Pause)

27
28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
29 record. Since this is a deferred proposal, it just kind
30 of throws everything off because it's not a typical
31 procedure. So, some of this has already been presented
32 at your fall 2023 meeting when you considered this
33 proposal initially as part of the regular cycle. And so
34 now that it's deferred, we just want to give an
35 opportunity for any additional comments from federal
36 agencies or the public or the State on the new
37 information. And so, the tribal ANCSA Corporation
38 consultations, there haven't been any additional ones
39 held on the new information, except.....

40
41 (Simultaneous speech)

42
43 MS. KENNER: I'm just going to make one
44 correction on that. Yeah.

45
46 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay.

47
48 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with
49 OSM, that no public comments were made during tribal and
50 ANCSA Corporation consultation at the Board meeting

1 where this proposal was taken up. So, I think we can
2 safely say there are -- there have been no new comments.
3 Yeah.

4
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: And same with written
6 public comments. I mean, the written public comment
7 period was held, geez, back in 2023 and those were
8 presented. There weren't any at that time. And so there
9 haven't been any additional written public comments
10 submitted because there hasn't been an open public
11 comment period. So again, it's just deferrals are
12 confusing.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. So, then we
15 can take kind of the speed read on this proposal and
16 then John, I'll take your comment and then I'm going to
17 ask somebody to put it on the table so we can open up
18 discussion.....

19
20 (Simultaneous speech)

21
22 MS. KENNER: Actually, no, not a speed
23 read. This is an action item to be treated just like the
24 other regular.....

25
26 (Simultaneous speech)

27
28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Right, I'm just
29 saying that we can't go through it like a regular
30 proposal, because we don't have the information we need
31 from tribes and ANCSA Corporations because it's two
32 years old and this is new information.

33
34 MS. KENNER: Well, we did conduct tribal
35 consultation and ANCSA corporation consultation on this
36 proposal at the beginning of the Federal Subsistence
37 Board meeting. And there were no comments from tribes
38 or ANCSA corporations at that time. That was two weeks
39 ago.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. So, then I
42 should continue and ask about other agencies because
43 they've had time to review it?

44
45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. And certainly,
46 public comments.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. Okay. All
49 right, John.

50

00063

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MR. RHYSHEK: I was just going to advise you to call for the question.

MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to adopt so we can eventually call for the question.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Do I have a second?

MR. WILSON: I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. We've got a motion and an adoption. Pippa.

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Pippa Kenner, through the Chair. Is that to adopt with the OSM modification or to adopt it as written?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'll ask for clarification on my proposal.

MR. DUNAWAY: As recommended by OSM.

MR. RHYSHEK: I second.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Okay.

(Pause)

MS. GREDIAGIN: They probably don't want to. I'm just sorry. Opportunity to say no, we're not accepting comments.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, I didn't say we were not accepting comments. I have not heard any other comments. And I see nobody else.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Opening the floor to pull up testimony or federal agencies. And we just had anyone on the phone, in the room wants to provide any more comments to provide that opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We can do that even during our discussion here because we're a fairly liberal Council. Billy, did you have something you'd like to say?

MR. TREFON: Yeah. Billy, I had a question. I mean, it just dawned on me. If this passes

1 and the sale of brown bears hides do pass on the federal
2 level, would it be possible to put in there, amended so
3 that instead of having a wanton waste bear that we kill
4 in our yard where we could actually utilize the hide for
5 subsistence use? Something to throw out there and think
6 about.

7

8

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Pippa.

9

10 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the question,
11 Billy. Through the Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM.
12 So, the way the written are -- the way the regulation -
13 - the general regulation statewide are written right
14 now, it says so this is under federal subsistence
15 regulations, wildlife taken in defense of life and
16 property is not a subsistence use and wildlife so, taken
17 is subject to state regulations. So, we're talking about
18 brown bears taken in defense of life and property. So,
19 you have to follow state regulations. Yeah. Which is
20 that you have to turn it in and everything and the State
21 owns it. The State says game taken in defense of life
22 and property is the property of the State.

23

24

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: And I would also
25 point out, Billy, that we are only allowed to do federal
26 land things here. So that would eliminate that as well.

27

28

MR. TREFON: Thank you. I would just
29 something I thought about, I mean, it's sort of throwing
30 it away because I've seen a lot of brown bears get
31 disposed of and law enforcement are the one that told
32 me the three S's that shoot, shovel and shut up.

33

34

MR. KANULIE: Call for question.

35

36

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Question's
37 been called all in favor of accepting this proposal as
38 presented with the OSM modification, please signify by
39 saying aye.

40

41

IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'm listening for
44 Kenneth, and/or John.

45

46

MR. NUKWAK: Aye.

47

48

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you. All
49 opposed, same sign.

50

1 (No response)

2

3 Okay and that unanimously passes. So,
4 we'll be -- we will be -- sorry. Do you guys want to
5 tackle any recommendations on these first two that we
6 talked about before we take a lunch break? We still have
7 a good, solid half hour. So, if people already have in
8 mind a direction they'd like to go on either A1 or A2?
9 I'd suggest they could put a motion together and we can
10 move forward with that as well.

11

12 (No response)

13

14 Well, and if it's the wishes of the
15 Council, and they would like to contemplate it over lunch
16 and come back and start there. I'm happy to do that as
17 well. Whatever we think the most efficient use of our
18 time will be. Dan.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Well as a Naknek resident.
21 Would -- can you -- would you recommend we go to lunch
22 a little early to miss the rush or is it -- is there a
23 rush to fear into these days?

24

25 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I do not believe we
26 will be struggling with a rush, but we also have training
27 during lunch today too. How much time is the training
28 going to potentially take, or will...?

29

30 Okay, so I think we'll be okay either
31 way. What are the wishes of the Council, wait, do our
32 lunch break now or jump into it?

33

34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Wrestle one right
35 now? Everybody good with that? Okay, let's start with
36 one. I agree, and we've had a long discussion about it
37 already. So, this is a -- this is the Chair asking if
38 they want to -- if anybody wants to make changes on a
39 proposal, create a new language for the proposal or
40 accept the OSM conclusion to rescind the proposal. So,
41 who would like to start this. John.

42

43 MR. RHYSHEK I'd like to go ahead and
44 make a motion for WCR26-5 to retain the status quo.

45

46 MR. WILSON: I'll second.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. We've got a
49 motion and a second on the table. Lisa.

50

1

2 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin for the
3 record, I just wanted to clarify the opportunity for the
4 Council to officially make a recommendation on these
5 closure reviews is at your fall meetings. So, these are
6 -- these closure reviews are not action items. So, I
7 mean, I guess you could make a motion and vote, but
8 you're going to have to do it all over again in the
9 fall. The purpose of presenting these closure reviews
10 at this meeting was just to provide information so that
11 if you wanted to submit a proposal to address the
12 closures or anything outside the scope of the closure
13 review, now is your opportunity to submit that proposal.
14 But, to make the formal recommendations as -- during
15 your fall meetings.

16

17 MR. RHYSHEK: Understood and noted. So,
18 I believe that our discussion for the WCR26-05 has pretty
19 much taken place this morning. We can go ahead and table
20 this. That way we will know exactly how we plan to vote
21 in the fall.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That's fine. I need
24 to hear from the second that that would be agreeable.

25

26 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'll second that one

27

28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yep. Dan, did you
29 have a comment?

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: Just, I look forward to a
32 little more data. Hopefully have, you know, time to
33 provide a little bit more. Thank you.

34

35 MS. GREDIAGIN: And I also just wanted
36 to note that we actually received a public comment via
37 email on that closed review that we just now saw. I
38 think it was -- so yeah, just the way it got through the
39 email, but I mean, the gist of the comments that they
40 oppose -- they support retaining the status quo and
41 oppose rescinding. And just kind of to note that we did
42 receive a public comment on that closure review.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you.
45 Yeah. And so, knowing that we don't have to take action
46 on either one of these is there any comments anybody
47 would like to make on the record for the Unit 17 Nushagak
48 Peninsula Caribou, in addition to what we've already
49 said?

50

1 (No response)

2

3 Okay, then I guess that makes our
4 decision easy. Let's do our lunch break. We'll do an
5 hour and a half lunch break so that we can accommodate
6 our training. Do you want to do the training first,
7 guys, I think we'll listen better with empty gut than
8 with a full gut. So, Orville, if you don't mind.

9

10 I bet people would appreciate freshening
11 their coffee and using the restroom. So, can you set up
12 while we do that?

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead and take
19 your seats, guys. Orville is going to start his
20 presentation here. If you want chili or -- and I might
21 recommend it. It's excellent. There's moose and black
22 bear back there along with other snacks. But Orville is
23 going to wing it because we can't get technology to lead
24 us through it.

25

26 MR. LIND: I'm the best wing man this
27 side of Bear Creek. Okay so, consultation processes,
28 right? So, we started -- I started in 2014 as a Native
29 Liaison for OSM Office of Subsistence Management, and
30 from that point on to even today, the biggest questions
31 was, you know, what is consultation? What do we do? How
32 do we engage the tribes? You know, as it says in
33 Executive Order 13175, we are required to listen to the
34 tribes. And consultation again, is a communication, a
35 dialogue between the federal and tribal representatives.
36 And it takes place before decisions are made on the
37 resources. And it is a deliberative process that should
38 be resulted in effective collaboration and informed
39 decision making. As you know -- you already know as
40 you're sitting on the RAC, is that the process from the
41 hunter, the fisher comes to you with an issue and from
42 that point on, you guys bring it before the Federal
43 Subsistence Board. And so again why do we have tribal
44 and ANSCA consultations? Because basically it just
45 really good practice. It's good practice. It also builds
46 relationships too, it also honors the government-to-
47 government relationship, which we have with federal
48 recognized tribes. These are sovereign nations, and we
49 have 229 federally recognized tribes here in Alaska.
50 Total in our nations is 567 federal recognized tribes.

1 And it fosters positive relationships with the tribal
2 governments who help us achieve the mission of
3 preserving and protecting our -- Alaska special places
4 and our resources. So, I'm going to back up just a little
5 bit before I go to the next slide. We generally -- how
6 it works is anybody and anyone can request a tribal
7 consultation, and it's on any issue. We, for example,
8 have informal consultations. For example, we had an
9 informal consultation on rural status. And basically,
10 the tribe wanted to get the feeling of how the process
11 worked. Who can help us that type of deal, what do we -
12 - what's the next steps and so forth. And that's what
13 consulting is all about.

14
15 In the past, we've had a lot of issues
16 with not understanding the process. When we are dealing
17 with tribes and the resources, basically, their main
18 staples of foods, their subsistence foods. And with the
19 federal government, you know it's very important to get
20 the process right. And one of the most effective ways
21 is try to get the tribes engaged in to the RAC process
22 and into the federal RAC process.....

23
24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Just welcome,
25 Laura. Come on in. We just got started. So, Orville just
26 began, our technology is not working, so we're just
27 listening to that.

28
29 MR. LIND: Yes. Thank you, Laura, glad
30 to have you here. So again, who do we consult with? We
31 consult with the government-to-government. Based on over
32 200 plus years of treaties, political interactions to
33 govern the government with the tribes, it's a trust
34 responsibility we fulfill with the tribes. Now, with
35 ANCSA corporations, government to corporation, which was
36 congressionally mandated in 2004-2005 and appropriation
37 legislations. We don't have that tribal trust
38 responsibility. So, when we have our consultations on
39 regulation, special access and so forth, that's why
40 we'll have tribal consultations in the morning, and in
41 the afternoon, we'll have the corporation consultations.
42 Now, the only time we'll join those two is during a
43 regulatory Federal Subsistence Board meeting. During the
44 beginning of that Federal Subsistence Board meeting, we
45 will conduct consultations with everybody, with the
46 public, both tribes and corporations. They can just talk
47 about anything they want, bring up issues and what they
48 think is very important for them but, the main part is
49 just to remember that nothing takes place without the
50 process.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Hey, Orville, can you answer a question for me? So, are you required to have the same relationship with the corporations as you are the tribes? So, you don't have to reach out to them? That's more of a courtesy.....

7

8

MR. LIND: Yes.

9

10

11

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS:as well as their testimony?

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, and to add on to that, in some cases, you'll have a member of the tribe who's also a member of the corporation. So, there's many hats like tribal people wear as you know, all you all know that. The -- when is it required? The policy on consulting with tribes directs agencies, of course, mirrors to consult with the federal recognized tribes when taking action that may be -- that may have a substantial direct effect on a tribe. And you all know that a big issue in the whole State of Alaska now is our salmon. That's a big issue. And we get a lot of questions to our fisheries folks about stuff like that. Consultation again is needed and is earliest stages possible. And we're trying to get tribes -- if there's an issue, give us a call. You want a consultation, you want to talk with the Federal Subsistence Board? We're here. We're here to talk.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Again, it's a very ongoing process, and it requires repeating meetings or requests. We will have several consultations on one subject to make sure that we're assisting the tribe through the process. We'll have consultations when we have regulatory proposals and closure reviews. We'll have opportunities before regulatory meeting again, like I just mentioned. And again, upon any request. So, I had a cool map added to this process. So, we just revised this consultation information presentation -- tribal engagement presentation. We've had it since 2016 and we revised some stuff because basically they wanted to be more simplified. The tribes wanted to be more simplified, more understanding. Basically, you understand that hey, listen, if we have an issue we're going to bring it before the RAC and the RAC can bring it before the Board. So again, public and tribal comments is where it begins, right. It goes to the Regional Advisory Councils after that, it goes to the Federal Subsistence Board after that. Publication in the CFR and then the call for

1 proposals comes after that. Analysis of the proposal
2 comes after that and the review of proposals after that.
3 So, it kind of comes around and goes around like that,
4 the process. And this was approved just two weeks ago
5 and so what I'm going to do once we have this completed,
6 I'm going to reach out to the tribes and corporations
7 also, to see their feedback on this presentation. We
8 want to do this right, and we want to do it as quick as
9 we can, because there are a lot of issues coming about
10 with all the changes that are happening. So, we want to
11 make sure that we do our job and get -- doing the
12 outreach. There's additional opportunities for tribal
13 and ANCSA corporations engagement. We, here at the
14 tribal or the Regional Advisory Council meetings, at the
15 Federal Subsistence Board, the public hearings and
16 listening sessions, public comment hearings, special
17 actions and again, just to call and ask us questions
18 about hey, listen, I got this issue. How do we go
19 forward? Who can ask? And we have such a tremendous --
20 I've been on the OSM now since 2014. I used to be on the
21 other side of the fence where, you know, we developed
22 proposals and send it in, right. And now I'm on the
23 other side of that but, the whole process was very
24 confusing. And to some people, it still is. And so, we
25 are revise this presentation to make hopefully easier
26 to understand. What do we do before we consult with,
27 we will want to reach out to the tribes, right. And we want
28 to provide notifications, sufficient detail of the topic
29 to be discussed. They're going to tell us the topic they
30 want to discuss. This is their program. We want to
31 explain the purpose of consulting again. And tribes or
32 corporations are always welcome to consult. We want to
33 set a date which fits their schedule and our staff and
34 the Board schedule. So, there's a -- there's -- you
35 know, we want to bring everything together. Usually we
36 are somewhat flexible but, a lot of times we'll have to
37 have an alternate date to work with but, eventually it
38 works out to where most of the time the tribes get the
39 date they want. Again, this is their program. We want
40 to develop a draft agenda also with that and then we
41 want to work with the tribe and corporations. We want
42 to ensure appropriate attendees, I mean, the federal
43 decision makers, the tribes, the tribal representatives
44 and federal staff support. One of the things that we
45 realized that was happening here in the last couple of
46 years was that people were speaking, calling in, and
47 they had no official status to represent the tribe.
48 Luckily, we've caught that. And now we -- at every
49 consultation, I ask, you know, if you are an official
50 tribal member, which was a person elected to speak on

1 their behalf, you can speak. Otherwise, anybody -- it's
2 a public meeting, anybody can call in and listen. But
3 we want to make sure that those people are -- wanting
4 to talk are the official representatives of the tribes.
5 Again, during the consultation, we present programs to
6 discuss the potential impacts. We want to also talk about
7 timelines of the issue. We want to make sure that this
8 is all going to work. You know in some cases, there
9 would be a, maybe a proposal that is coming toward the
10 deadline of the hunting season, the next cycle or the
11 next fall or whatever, next spring. We want to make sure
12 that we go through the process and make sure that they
13 have ample time to speak and to ask questions and if --
14 and we'll ask along the way if they need more
15 information, we try to work with them as much as we can.
16 Try to reach a consensus, you know, and have their
17 official comments to OSM if there is submitting any
18 comments. And then again, we offer them to consult any
19 time on any issue.

20
21 After the consultation, we -- during the
22 consultation, we'll take notes and we'll provide a
23 summary to those folks that are calling in. If they
24 request a summary, we provide that summary for them. We
25 also -- every consultation is recorded. And so, after
26 the recording is done, we get them in, sometimes I
27 believe the ten days was the earliest we ever got them,
28 but it takes some time to get the transcript back to us.
29 Then we go through the transcript. We make the summary
30 out of that to make sure we got people's names right.
31 However, in the summary, we don't name anybody. We just
32 say representative from Bristol Bay Corporation
33 represent from Ahtna and so forth. We're trying to
34 fulfill our time -- commitments in a timely manner.

35
36 We also incorporate knowledge shared
37 during the consultation into analysis and reviews
38 presented to the Board. You know so, the consultation
39 process we have here is so important. And it's a huge
40 part of the Federal Subsistence Board decision making
41 policy. And again, our big question is here about three
42 years ago, we went to a consultation and there was
43 basically no one showed up. And it was a big issue. A
44 big topic. And -- but we gave ample opportunities and
45 outreach efforts to get tribes to come in. One of the
46 big things that are happening is that there's a missing
47 -- I don't know how you want to say a missing link
48 between when we send out to the tribal members, there's
49 -- believe it or not, there's some turnover in the tribal
50 -- tribes have email addresses. They move along, they

1 move out and so forth. But we work off of BIA. No, we
2 work off of BLM. We have such great coordinators that
3 also do their own homework and reach out to their region
4 folks there. So, we do a I think a fair job of doing our
5 outreach to tribes and corporations when we need to.
6 However, we don't have control when it ever gets out
7 there. I could write a really funny, humorous book on
8 calls I've made, and the people that answer. I had a 12-
9 year-old answer a phone one time and she said yes, yes,
10 yes, yes, no was the last thing. Yes. And so, and you
11 know, it's just we don't know what's happening out there.
12 And we also really am appreciative of RAC members sharing
13 the information that when we put out for a meeting or,
14 or a consultation, that they also do the sharing also.
15 Now, like I said, I've been here since 2014. The very
16 first meeting we had, we didn't have no Federal
17 Subsistence Board members come to the consultation. That
18 was my fault because I didn't realize -- no one told me,
19 you know, -- I believe it was a month and a half before
20 we had my first consultation. When I got the job, and
21 it was actually a tribal chief that brought to my
22 attention, Orville we can't go through this. We don't
23 have any Board members. And I went, oh, then I started
24 making some phone calls. Luckily, we got two to continue.
25 And I don't know if you're familiar with the (In Native)
26 tribe people. They are very strong. They're very
27 voiceful and I had five of them there. Luckily, I -- one
28 was a friend of mine, a friend of my aunties, and so
29 she's pretty lenient on me and said, you know, we've got
30 to do better next time. Of course we're going to do
31 better next time. I wouldn't let it happen again. From
32 that point on, we've had two for several years, and I
33 would say in the last five years now, the process has
34 gotten a whole lot better. Now we have every Federal
35 Subsistence Board member attending. Yes, which is great
36 and the tribes really appreciate that. The ones who call
37 in and say, wow, now I can ask them questions directly.
38 And so, the process has gotten better. And with that, I
39 think we still have room for improvement on outreach
40 efforts, making connections, getting addresses
41 exchanged. We are now -- not Fish and Wildlife Service,
42 we are now the Interior Secretary. We will have that
43 information available now for you too. So, with that, I
44 will say thank you for your attendance. And if you all
45 have any questions, I'm here.

46

47 MR. TREFON: I got one.

48

49 MR. LIND: Yeah.

50

1 MR. TREFON: Your government to
2 government consultations. You're referring to tribes and
3 corporations. I didn't hear you mention the consortiums
4 because that's where the Bristol Bay tribes, all their
5 tribes are ran from BBNA's consortium. I think there's
6 only a handful of independent tribes in the Bristol Bay.
7 I think there's nine total, which is my community, is
8 one of them, where we manage everything on our own. But
9 very little comes out of BBNA, and BBNA to me is Bristol
10 Bay tribe.

11
12 MR. LIND: So, if I understand your
13 question, Bill, the -- so when you're a federal
14 recognized tribe, that's where executive order applies.
15 And when you're a corporation with tribes in -- how you
16 say the non-profit tribes? Yeah. So, they again like I
17 said earlier, the government-to-government is for
18 federally recognized tribes with the trust
19 responsibility. Right, we are obligated to work with
20 them, listen to them, hear what they're saying. Whereas
21 the corporations don't have that trust responsibility.
22 They're more land managers you know, the natural
23 resources. However, they're still connections for a
24 corporate member to come in and say, hey, this is in my
25 territory, you know. They may call in during a
26 corporation consultation in the afternoons and state
27 their questions or concerns. They'll also have a -- and
28 I open it up because there are so many ones wear many
29 hats, I have tribes, if they didn't make it during the
30 morning session, they can call in during the
31 consultation for corporations. Yeah.

32
33 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Because when Ted
34 Stevens formed the consortium's, it was -- his intent
35 was to eliminate all the 93-38 tribes in general and
36 form just a whole bunch of consortiums is where BBNA
37 came from. And I don't know if it's a definition. I
38 never asked, isn't consortium a definition of tribal
39 government is under -- run under 193638 or is it non-
40 profit?

41
42 MS. KENNER: Hey Orville, how's it going?

43
44 MR. LIND: Great.

45
46 MS. KENNER: Should I go?

47
48 MR. LIND: Yeah.

49
50

1 MS. KENNER: Okay. Hey, this is Pippa
2 with OSM. So, thanks for the -- oh, we're not we're not
3 in a frigging meeting. Okay. Oh, it is. Okay. So, my
4 understanding, and I know this from working with AVCP,
5 which is in a different area, is that the tribes delegate
6 their authority for their regional non-profit
7 corporations like BBNA to do certain things for them.
8 So, if a tribe delegates to BBA to represent them during
9 tribal consultation, then BBNA is representing them. But
10 the tribe can withdraw its support at any time. It can
11 withdraw its delegation to the non-profit at any time.
12 Generally, we don't advertise to the non-profits. We
13 work directly with the tribes but, a tribe might say
14 BBNA is representing me and their representative is what
15 our tribe wants.

16
17 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because when you say
18 non-profit, I mean, I know BBNA was formed as a non-
19 profit corporation and it and then Ted Stevens came
20 along, and I don't know if he did this to all their
21 region but tried to form these consortiums, which is
22 basically take all the regions and form all these -- one
23 big tribes and Bristol Bay, Nenana and all the other
24 regions. So now all our villages in Bristol Bay is [sic]
25 managed by BBNA and all their businesses, and all the
26 Councils are only trying to do anything that they request
27 something.

28
29 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa with OSM,
30 through the Chair. So, the difference too is that, you
31 know, the Board of Directors of BBNA is made up of the
32 tribal chiefs. Yeah. So, there is that tribal connection
33 with BBNA where you don't see that with the for-profit
34 corporations. They don't have direct tribal
35 representation or authority, whereas BBNA does. I
36 understand what you're saying though, about not all
37 tribes wish to participate, they -- some of these tribes
38 prefer to get their funding directly and not through
39 BBNA and that that's valid. Yeah.

40
41 MR. TREFON: In Nondalton and most of
42 Iliamna Lake is 93638 independent. Most of -- almost all
43 of us up there. I think Kokhanok might have went back
44 to BBNA because it's not easy managing your own. But,
45 we do it.

46
47 MR. LIND: Any more questions?

48
49 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, but I would just
50 like to commend you, Orville, because I saw you take

1 over that position. A position that hadn't even existed
2 until you stepped into it. And you -- I just was -- I'm
3 still admiring how you stepped into it, owned it, and
4 figured out how to make it work. I'm sure that you had
5 others helping you, but you were the leader on it. And
6 I really appreciate it, because the information and
7 input that we get through your consultations is
8 invaluable to this Council. So, thank you.

9
10 MR. LIND: Thank you. And I want to give
11 a shout out to OSM, our staff. We have a wonderful staff.
12 It's like the most -- I could hire them to fish with me
13 because they're such hard workers. And, you know, you
14 don't hear many complaints. You just hear, how do we get
15 this done or how do we react to this, you know? So, I'm
16 really, really happy to be part of the team. The OSM
17 team that work very hard for the folks here in Alaska
18 and it fulfills me. That's why I haven't quit yet. I
19 still enjoy what I do, and there's a lot of rewards in
20 that so, I appreciate your comments. Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you.

23
24 MR. NUKWAK: Orville.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Was there somebody
27 online trying to ask a question? Please, go ahead.

28
29 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, this is Kenneth Nukwak
30 Sr. So, Manokotak wants to create a proposal, do they
31 call you directly or that would be the Manokotak Village
32 Council, Manokotak City Council and Manokotak Native
33 Limited. If they do an entity meeting, are you open to
34 a consult with them or is OSM open?

35
36 MR. LIND: Kenneth. Absolutely. You know,
37 if you want to start with me, you bet. We can get the
38 ball rolling again. As I said earlier, you can consult
39 on any issue you want and at any time. And the earlier
40 the better because, you know, I see some are coming up,
41 and I used to think that oh, good, we're going to get a
42 break this summer but, things are changing. Resources
43 is moving around and there's some decreases in a lot of
44 the resources here in Alaska. So, things are getting
45 very important. And so, I encourage you, you want to set
46 up a consultation with your tribes to the Federal
47 Subsistence Board, I am here.

48
49 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, I agree with you.
50 Decreased some resources and increase on the predators

00076

1 the way I see it, and the ptarmigans are flourishing and
2 stuff like that.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
5 Kenneth. Any other questions or comments for Orville?

6

7 (No response)

8

9 Okay, then we still have 40 minutes for
10 lunch. And thank you very much, Orville. Again, really
11 appreciate that presentation and what you've done.....

12

13 (Simultaneous speech)

14

15 MR. LIND: Quyana.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS:for that
18 position.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. If everybody
25 could wander back to their seats, I'd appreciate it.
26 We're about to get started again.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 Okay, well, we're all getting ready.
31 We're getting another handout here from Kendra. Okay,
32 let's go ahead and call this meeting back to order at
33 1:00 this afternoon, and we'll take up business where
34 we left off. We're going to start with call for federal
35 wildlife proposals. And I'm -- Pippa, before I have you
36 get started, I'm going to ask if Amy who I don't -- she
37 is walking in. Okay. So as soon as Amy has a chance to
38 take a breath, we'll have her come up and give us a
39 synopsis. There's been some changes very recently, as
40 I'm sure you guys are aware in the hunting regulations
41 for the State of Alaska and she's going to give us a
42 quick synopsis on those. It's always been, at least for
43 this Council the belief that the simpler we can make
44 things so our people do not get themselves in trouble
45 as much as possible. We like to align with the state
46 whenever, wherever it makes sense. So, if you wouldn't
47 mind. Amy, can you give us a quick rundown?

48

49 MS. VANDE VOORT: Yes, through the Chair.
50 This is Amy Vande Voort, for the record. So, I'll just

1 go through the proposals that the state voted on at the
2 Board of Game meeting in January that carried that effect
3 -- that could or now misaligned season dates or bag
4 limits for the federal hunting regulations. The first
5 one was our proposal 7. This one is actually with the
6 Kodiak RAC. But, if you guys want to vote on it as well,
7 you can. This one extended the fall southern Alaska
8 Peninsula caribou season to October 1st to or -- sorry,
9 it extended it to October 21st. So, that misaligns the
10 federal hunting season dates for caribou and Unit 9
11 Delta. The other major one we -- that misaligned federal
12 season dates so, now for brown bear hunting in Unit 9,
13 the fall season dates for 9A, C, D, and E are October
14 1st to October 21st and May 10th to May 31st, and current
15 Federal regulations Unit 9E goes to May 25th. So there's
16 a six day difference right there for your -- and that's
17 only 9E or 9 echo.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: What was the
20 justification for that, if I may ask real quick.

21
22 MS. VANDE VOORT: So, they just -- they
23 extended it back to what had historically been the season
24 dates for 9E. And they made them all the same except for
25 9 Bravo. The fall season date still stayed the historic
26 season dates for that. So, they just made it more uniform
27 and what they historically had been.

28
29
30 The other change. So currently -- well,
31 not anymore. But currently when you take a beaver with
32 a firearm -- April 15th to May 31st in Unit 9 the --
33 it's a two per day bag limit and that was gotten rid of.
34 So, starting under state regs the July 1st there's no
35 bag limit of two per day. The other one that changed --
36 so, they shortened the season for hunting wolverine and
37 Unit 9 to be the end of February. It's currently the end
38 of March. They did, yeah. And so, that was the trapping
39 season in 17. So, they shortened the trapping season for
40 wolverine in 9 and 17 to the last day of February as
41 well. They closed the season for Alaska hares in Units
42 9 and 17. Yeah, the big bunnies. So going to -- so that's
43 all they did for Unit 9. Switching to Unit 17, they did
44 lengthen the non-resident fall moose hunt in Unit 17A
45 to September 1st to the 20th. But, looking at the
46 regulations, there's still a resident only portion where
47 the residents can hunt outside of that range as well.
48 They allowed the year round take of brown bear in Unit
49 17. Currently, federal regulations, you guys have a
50 season. So, if you want to make that year-round as well

1 to align, you can. Yeah, and the only other one that
2 changes anything was the one that Dan said with it --
3 they shortened the trapping seasons to the last day of
4 February. And I'll take questions or go back to my seat.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: While you're up here, are
9 there any statewide proposals coming up that you would
10 want to flag our attention to?

11
12 MS. VANDE VOORT: Can I look -- I have
13 I'm not aware of any that affect this but, if you give
14 me a minute to go through them and get back to you while
15 you start making recommendations, I can.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'm happy to do
18 that, Amy. We'll put you at the very end of this
19 discussion about proposals so you can be ready for that.
20 Any other questions or comments for Amy? Richard.

21
22 MR. WILSON: Just a comment. We have a
23 Naknek-Kvichak Advisory Meeting coming up. And I'm
24 hoping that our representative that went out to that
25 Game meeting was going to tell us exactly what you have
26 told us, which was all those proposals that she mentioned
27 and the changing of dates and stuff is right in line
28 with what we were hoping for. So, thanks.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Anybody else?
31 Dan.

32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: From what Richard said and
34 there's a short summary of all those January board
35 actions. It's available online and the Fish and Game
36 website. It'll just list the proposal number, the name
37 of the proposal and whether it was carried, failed or
38 was amended and those are available.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thanks for
41 that information. Good. Okay. Thank you, Amy. And then
42 let's go ahead and move forward. Kendra, is it going to
43 be you, not Pippa?

44
45 MS. HOLMAN: Correct, madam Chair. Pippa
46 will be up here too.....

47
48 (Simultaneous speech)

49
50 MS. KENNER: I'll help.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MS. HOLMAN:I'll present, she's going to be up here with me.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: The floor is yours, ladies.

MS. HOLMAN: So again, Madam Chair, members of the Council, my name is Kendra Holman and I'm a wildlife biologist with OSM. And then Pippa Kenner has also joined me as she's an anthropologist with OSM. Now is the call for wildlife proposals and the Council's opportunity to submit proposals to change federal subsistence wildlife regulations. An informational flyer on how to submit the proposals was just handed out to each of you. In your supplemental materials starting on page 17 is [sic] the regulations that are the call for proposals. If you're interested in seeing the actual regulations themselves. As mentioned during the training, Councils must make a motion and vote to submit proposals. Also, the opportunity for Councils to submit proposals is available during the entire meeting. So, if a Council member thinks of a proposal later on or in response to another agenda item, they are also welcome to submit a proposal then. Of course, proposal -- anyone can submit a proposal as an individual before the submission window closes, which again is April 4th of this year. So, thank you, Madam Chair. Happy to address any questions and happy to answer any questions or help walk through anything that you guys wanted to discuss.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. So just kind of to crack this out guys. So, any of these regulations that you just heard about that you think would be a good idea to also put into federal regulation at this point, you can put on the table in the form of a motion. And if you get a second, we can discuss it. These ladies will help get it written out and clarify it, and then we'll see it and it'll be put forward for the new proposal period. So, if anybody has anything else, it doesn't just have to be about what we just heard about in the changes in the state regs. If you have any other things that you want to put forward, this is the time to do it. If you want Council support behind it, you can also do it as an individual. So go ahead, Richard.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, I do have one proposal that I'm looking to just ask for input before I even think about writing this

1 proposal. It has to do with the resident herd in Kukaklek
2 and it's on federal lands. And I know this is all new,
3 and it's all in the making, you know I know the Park is
4 trying to put together language you know, for this herd
5 to continue and for the hunting activity on that one.
6 But I'd like to -- I guess I just want to talk about it
7 to see if it's even something that I should be proposing.
8 If Mark perhaps or somebody that n would -- that knows
9 what the status is on that heard and what they've done
10 so far could help us out with language so I would know
11 where to go.

12
13 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Madam --
14 there was a proposal on this last cycle, and it was
15 passed by the Board. Katmai was given the delegation of
16 authority for this herd. I know that they have issued
17 permits for a hunt this year. Anything beyond that kind
18 of the status -- and, of course, it's still an ongoing
19 hunt at this point Katmai may be able to speak to. But
20 just so you are aware, there are regulations for it. It
21 is an opportunity and there are permits out currently
22 for Kokhanok and Igiugig residents.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yes, and I'm
25 aware of that. Okay. So, Kokhanok has a population of
26 120 some people 130 some. Igiugig, I think is down in
27 the 60s. And the way they let it out this first round
28 was that both communities got four piece, for caribou a
29 piece as allowable. Well, Kokhanok being twice the size
30 of the Igiugig and has more historical use than Igiugig,
31 it seemed like they would have had more opportunity to,
32 you know, to get caribou than Igiugig, but it just came
33 out -- I don't know. That's why I'm asking for input
34 here on how they came about this scenario and what the
35 herd is looking like. And so, I can kind of further ask
36 questions. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Looks like our
39 answer man is coming up. Thank you, Mark.

40
41 MR. STURM: Through the Chair. Mark
42 Sturm, Katmai National Park and Preserve. The answers
43 are probably through with a few people behind me here,
44 but I'll do my best. Mr. Wilson, I appreciate your
45 concern and your interest in this topic. We will be
46 talking about this in some detail, this topic. There's
47 a lot of moving parts still during our report out for
48 Katmai. But, in the meantime a couple of things, I guess
49 I will share the numbers that I -- that come to my mind
50 about the overall population of those two communities

1 were 120 for Kokhanok and 80 for Igiugig. And we just
2 deferred to those communities to work it out amongst
3 themselves. And their recommendation to us was what was
4 allocated. And it is -- there is flexibility on what the
5 ultimate allocation per community is. We do have some
6 discretion there if the communities were to recommend
7 something different.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Good. That gives a
10 good answer there. So, Richard, you want to follow up?
11

12 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'm just trying to
13 think of where I want to go from here, but I just -- I
14 guess that was one of my -- do we have to have it in
15 regulation form? Am I -- are we to -- or are we leaving
16 it in the hands of the community to decide how much they
17 want to take or is this -- or do we have to have a
18 regulation before you -- or before us to -- for this?
19 I'm just -- I was -- I had a note here to kind of
20 reference what the NAP herds, over here in the Nushagak,
21 you know, as far as population density and how many
22 caribou are going to be taken, you know, for a 200 to
23 600, it was, you know, up to I think it was 40- 50 some
24 caribou over there. And how do we -- is that something
25 eventually we're going to get to here on this herd or
26 you know what does that look like? I mean, how do you
27 determine it's good enough or a safe number or can we
28 change that number and put it you know, make it --
29 because they -- over the years, I mean, we've had this
30 discussion before that that hurt us. In my mind is more
31 than doubled here just in the last decade. And for that
32 herd to grow that fast and, you know, and not being
33 hunted on all these years. What's that upper limit? I
34 mean, we're looking at a herd that is, you know, a
35 resident herd and has been there, you know, for a long
36 time. And so, what's too big? And so those are some of
37 my concerns and, and that's kind of why I want to go --
38 if possible, go to, you know, go with some sort of
39 proposal that would help that situation out because you
40 wouldn't want it to overgraze, you know, or the herd to
41 move on. In other words, in some cases. So, what's your
42 thoughts?
43

44 MR. STURM: Through the Chair. Mark Sturm
45 again. Superintendent Katmai National Park. I'm sure if
46 I misspeak on process, Kendra will help me out here but,
47 I think we can go either way, like we could capture what
48 the allocation is and quotas in a reg but, adaptability
49 is sometimes a preferable way to go. We do have options
50 with the current structure of this hunt based upon our

1 -- the information we have about those animals, how many
2 there are, what their calf-to-cow ratio is, what their
3 bull-to-cow ratios are. And we are collecting that data
4 annually. Both the Park -- the communities up there and
5 the state of Alaska are all working together to kind of
6 feed that information into a hunt design that can be
7 adjusted once we have the requisite level of
8 understanding and information necessary to make an
9 adjustment. I suppose, ultimately it comes down to how
10 much faith do we have in our ability to collaborate and
11 work together to make those adjustments in good faith
12 over time. I think the Park is there, we are there in
13 good faith. And we are wanting to work closely with
14 those two communities who have the ability to manage
15 those animals.

16
17 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Mark. And then the
18 other thought I had was eventually, I don't know if this
19 is the time or not to -- there's at least two of the
20 communities, three communities that surround that Park
21 that that in my mind should be eligible under a C&T
22 program to harvest caribou from that herd that have
23 traditionally. And at some point, I hope to address that.
24 I don't know if this is the proper time or not to address
25 that sort of thing, so that if we have to go into a
26 regulation form, then because these cycles that we have.
27 I just want to capture that if it's a good time to talk
28 about that kind of entry that I'd certainly entertain
29 it.

30
31 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. So just
32 to answer your previous question as well, to add to
33 Mark's answer is -- there is in his delegation, in the
34 delegation of authority for Katmai the Superintendent,
35 he does have the ability to determine the number of
36 permits that will be issued. So, at this point, we have
37 it left open to that flexibility for where the herd is
38 and what's going on and what information we're getting.
39 Just because this is such a new hunt, it really leaves
40 the most flexibility out there for management.

41
42 MS. KENNER: Thank you. It's Pippa Kenner
43 for the record with OSM, through the Chair. So, trying
44 to think. Most of the communities in the Bristol Bay
45 area already are included in a customary and traditional
46 use determination for caribou in this hunt area so,
47 they're included in the C&T but, they're not included
48 in is what we call a section in ANILCA, section 804,
49 user prioritization. And in the regulations, it's in
50 yellow right below the harvest limit. It says federal

1 public lands are closed to the taking of caribou, except
2 by residents of Igiugig and Kokhanok hunting under these
3 regulations. So, some things are delegated to the in-
4 season manager. But, in order to change that priority
5 given to Iguigig and Kokhanok, for instance, to add more
6 communities, we would need a proposal. Those requests
7 go to the Board. In-season the federal manager could do
8 it, but he couldn't do it quickly because it has to go
9 to the Board. Thank you.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thanks.
12 Thanks, that does help, and I -- yes, it was my intention
13 just to include, you know, the other communities that
14 were involved in that herd that traditionally used that
15 heard and not all of Bristol Bay. I was kind of -- what
16 I was looking at was the way the herd over in Nushagak
17 side was built and how it's managed and so that you
18 wouldn't have to duplicate a lot of the thinking, you
19 know, so it was just, you know, it's a program over
20 there works for the X amount of animals. And this one
21 could work very similarly the same way, you know, with
22 the same sort of mechanism. So, I was trying not to
23 build something new, but just kind of just trying to
24 help it out, so it'll -- yeah.

25

26 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. To answer
27 your question, this is Pippa Keener with OSM. Member
28 Wilson so, the harvest of caribou on the Nushagak
29 Peninsula, when they first opened that hunt, it was to
30 only those five communities that kind of surrounded the
31 hunt area. That hunt now is open to all -- every -- all
32 federally qualified users, everybody with a C&T. But
33 what they do is they meet and they divide up the permits
34 and they leave a couple of permits and they say if
35 anybody else in that C&T area, which is basically, you
36 know, all of Unit 17 and more, wants a permit. We're
37 going to hold some back for that hunter that wants to.
38 So, it's not closed anymore. That's how they deal with
39 it. So, this is different because the hunt area is closed
40 to non-federally qualified users.

41

42 So, the distribution of permits because
43 of this section eight -- because it's closed and because
44 of this closure to all but Igiugig and Kokhanok you can
45 -- in the Bristol Bay side, you can add communities or
46 permits to be given out, I mean, on the Dillingham side,
47 the Nushagak Peninsula they can add people and
48 distribute permits wider, but not in this hunt. Because
49 this is closed to non-federally qualified users and

00084

1 further reduced to only hunters and Igiugig and
2 Kokhanok.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So, if he if he
5 wanted to do, if he wanted to open up that C&T use to
6 these other communities, a proposal would be
7 appropriate?

8

9 MS. KENNER: It would be necessary, yes.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yeah. You know,
12 the reason why I'm going this way is, you know, this is
13 -- I'm just like, Nushagak over there, they're afraid
14 of over -- you know, that the population is going to get
15 so big that it's going to move out or, you know, or die
16 on us and I don't want that to happen. And it's getting
17 -- in my mind, it's getting big enough now to where
18 these kind of actions could be taking place now. And
19 it's big enough to where it can support definitely more
20 you know, more take, you know, from those two communities
21 and possibly a little extra on other communities around
22 it that have had that use in the past. So, I just -
23 that's why I say, I'm not quite sure where I was supposed
24 to go with this type of proposal or this information and
25 how to get -- how to expand on it. So that's why I'm
26 asking questions.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. And Richard,
29 you know, just from our experience on the Board, these
30 C&T cases take some time. So, I would encourage you to
31 probably formulate this proposal. And if you want us
32 behind it, you know, get it going now because they have
33 to do their research to determine these too. And Pippa,
34 did you have something to add?

35

36 MS. KENNER: I did and so again, this
37 isn't a customary and traditional use determination. You
38 didn't say it was, but it's not. It's a prioritization
39 of subsistence users who otherwise would have been
40 eligible to hunt. So again, there's two things that I'm
41 going to mention about this. One is it sounds like you've
42 heard from people, each one of you on the Council is
43 supposed to represent the region. So, when you hear
44 things, it is appropriate to bring it to the Council.
45 You could put in a proposal but remember that this
46 Council is going to vote on it. So, it's going to come
47 back to you and you're going to be able to consider it.
48 The second thing is that anybody can put in this proposal
49 during the open proposal period, doesn't have to be the
50 Council. It's going to come back to the Council and the

1 Council's recommendation will have just as much weight
2 If it came from the Council or came from an individual.
3 So, there's another option for you.

4
5 MR. WILSON: But everybody's here. It's
6 better to formulate something while you got all the
7 necessary people here to help with the language. That's
8 where I get stuck. So, I'm just -- that's why I said I
9 didn't know where to start or how to continue. So here
10 we are.

11
12 MS. KENNER: But -- yeah, just real
13 quickly. What I wanted to say is the proposal, we prefer
14 you to use language as you understand it. So, for
15 instance, if you were to submit this proposal, you would
16 ask that community A or community A and B or community
17 A, B, C be included in the prioritization for caribou
18 in this area. So, it's going to ask you where do you
19 want the regulation to change? Why do you want the
20 regulation -- what regulation you want changed and that
21 would be it you want them included in the pool of users
22 who are eligible to hunt in that area. Yeah. You remember
23 that language? There'll be a test. Okay.

24
25 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. This
26 is Kendra. So, Richard, to help with all of this. So,
27 proposals need to include the -- what you wished --
28 regulation you wish to change, specific changes that you
29 are proposing. So that's where the individual community
30 names come in. An explanation of why you would like to
31 see the regulations changed and any additional
32 information that can help us when we're evaluating. This
33 Council, if that's what you wish to do. The Council
34 would make a motion a second. You can vote on it, discuss
35 it. And then at that point in time, Leigh and myself and
36 Pippa will be able to work together, make sure that we
37 have everything that was voted on and that you want
38 correct and be able to submit it. So, you need to come
39 up with, say, the communities that you wanted, things
40 like that. The Council, if you wish it to be a Council,
41 if you want it to be your own personal one, then those
42 are discussions that we can have as well and help there.

43
44 MR. WILSON: Sounds like I need that
45 cheat sheet so I can just fill in the blanks. Right?

46
47 MS. KENNER: Madam. Through the Chair.
48 Member Wilson. So that means that you are going to have
49 to reveal on the record which communities you're talking
50 about. However, that could be modified through the

1 Council when it comes back to the Council for them to
2 give a recommendation. The other thing is what you've
3 said is enough. We're going -- we could write the
4 proposal right now minus the communities that you would
5 like in. You could put in a proposal to open it to all
6 federally qualified users and then have the poor refuge
7 manager figure out how to distribute those permits.

8
9 MR. WILSON: My thoughts when I was --
10 when I was looking at the herd size and eventually
11 getting to where -- and we've had this discussion before
12 when we first, you know, knew that this was a resident
13 herd. And I've mentioned it before that there was other
14 communities that were involved but, we chose just to do
15 the two right now because they were the major
16 communities. But the other one would be Levelock, and
17 Naknek and South Naknek are the only other ones that
18 have surrounded influence on that herd, in my mind.

19
20 MS. KENNER: Madam Chair, excuse me, I
21 meant the park superintendent would be the one with that
22 lovely job. So, when we got the proposal, the proposal
23 said requested only Igiugig being involved. And when we
24 asked them, they said if Kokhanok wants to be involved,
25 they can put in a proposal. But what we do -- removing
26 somebody's eligibility from a hunt is big. So, what we
27 do is we look for other eligibility -- other communities
28 that should be eligible. And what I came up with quite
29 clearly was Kokhanok, that Kokhanok uses that area, they
30 have a history of that area. We also found that there's
31 a lot of subsistence, customary and traditional
32 subsistence use up there by other communities. And if
33 you would like us to consider those communities based
34 on their -- how much they rely on that resource in that
35 area and their historical use, independence in the area.
36 I mean, most of them were trapping but, they were also
37 taking resources while they were up there. So that's
38 kind of the history of how we got to Igiugig and
39 Kokhanok. But generally we're not going to change the
40 regulation now unless we get a request.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Do you consider that
43 a request, Richard?

44
45 MR. WILSON: Well, at some point I'd like
46 to. I mean, you know, it's -- as long as, you know, the
47 management over there -- Park is feeling like this is
48 something -- I don't want to put something out there
49 that's way off of left field. Something that's not
50 practical, something that's, you know, not necessary at

1 this point or I want -- I'm just trying to make all this
2 work. And I don't want to include, you know, make it so
3 that it's so open that all of a sudden now we've created
4 a, you know, like with Nushagak is afraid of and you
5 know, too much harvest ability. You know, just trying
6 to -- yeah, trying to help it out a little.

7

8

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Mark.

9

10 MR. STURM: Through the Chair. Mark
11 Sturm, Katmai National Park and Preserve. Member Wilson,
12 we appreciate your interest, and I guess a couple of
13 thoughts come to mind. Perhaps we could schedule a timely
14 meeting to talk about the various moving parts of what
15 you are proposing and how best to move forward with the
16 -- with a possible proposal. It sounds to me like there
17 is a proposal here that is of interest to you as an
18 individual, but also perhaps to the RAC. I think we'd
19 be willing to at least have that conversation to frame
20 the potential proposal as an initial attempt, and we'd
21 be happy to participate in that conversation. I think
22 it's important also that the RAC understand that we have
23 been considering this and we've gotten to where we're
24 currently at through a proposal that came from Igiugig
25 requesting access to those animals for both of those
26 communities. And those communities, along with the
27 broader region, have given us the time and space to
28 gather some information, to understand what those
29 animals are doing, to kind of understand whether or not
30 we could indeed support the proposal as proposed. And
31 ultimately, it's established and captured through the
32 Federal Subsistence Board at this time. The process is
33 still on-going, and we are still in dialogue with both
34 of those communities. And we would welcome an expanded
35 conversation with members from the RAC and from the other
36 communities that might have an interest.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. WILSON: That's exactly what I wanted
to hear, you know, because like I said, I want to, you
know, I want to make this work, and I want to make it
something that's practical. And if it's a good time to
do it, with the herd growing as much as it is, the only
reason why I'm even going this direction. So, I'd love
to have that conversation and, I would even entertain,
you know, forgetting about it here at this time and then
having a conversation with you folks and then coming
back to here with some sort of written proposal, if that
even happens. Thanks.

00088

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Sounds like you just
2 volunteered, Richard. Billy.

3
4
5 MR. TREFON: Yeah, Billy Trefon here.
6 When I made -- submitted that proposal for the caribou
7 hunt with Igiugig and now Kokhanok, my intent was
8 actually to involve Iliamna, Newhalen, Nondalton. But
9 the discussion that came up with the population of the
10 herd and the location of Igiugig and Kokhanok because
11 they bordered Katmai so, I felt it was a reasonable
12 request to why those communities were access to the
13 caribou herd. And, would be nice, I mean, I got no
14 problem with expanding it. If you want to include other
15 communities, I mean more power to us. But that was my
16 reasoning for this proposal when it first came out.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: By golly, I think
19 we have another volunteer. Mark.

20
21 MR. STURM: We do appreciate the
22 interest. It is true that when we went looking, we found
23 the animals that the RAC members and community members
24 were telling us were there and we have seen it steadily
25 increasing. How much pressure can be conceived of as a
26 real management question that we don't necessarily have
27 the answer to right now. How much hunting pressure and
28 so there are -- there is work to do. It's not obvious
29 and we would need to be careful but, at the same time
30 we can be careful and also have the conversations we
31 just discussed.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Is it out of line
34 for me to suggest you might potentially spearhead
35 putting together a small caribou working group for that
36 area as well? You have two volunteers here already, and
37 perhaps a couple of individuals out of the villages,
38 which perhaps these guys can help even round up so that
39 it can kind of be monitored and input can be given to
40 you, that would be valuable?

41
42 MR. STURM: Thank you for the question,
43 Madam Chair. No, I don't think it's unreasonable. I guess
44 I would say that we already have that working group
45 started, at least, if only in my head, because we have
46 been in extended conversations with the Igiugig and
47 Kokhanok. And we would welcome an expanded group of
48 interested stakeholders to join that conversation. And
49 we will take on an action item to set up the initial
50 conversation that we've discussed here. Sometime within

00089

1 the next three weeks, if that makes if that seems timely
2 enough.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Perfect, I like that.
5 Yes, Leigh.

6

7 MS. HONIG: Madam Chair, I just wanted
8 to point out that we have a couple folks online that are
9 wanting to comment. So.....

10

11 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you.

12

13 MS. HONIG: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you very much,
16 Dan. I'll give you the floor and then we'll talk to the
17 folks online. Thanks for your patience.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you, Madam
20 Chair. I'm trying to be quick then. First, I want to
21 compliment Mark and the Park Service for working for
22 those communities. I didn't expect -- I thought you'd
23 need a few more years of data before you could open. So,
24 it's pretty exciting to me that it's open and the hunt
25 now, because I've been aware of this for, I don't know
26 how long, but I've been corresponding with folks,
27 friends in Igiugig and a few in Kokhanok. So that's
28 great. And yeah, but I also -- a lot of this, I pursued
29 my understanding was the main interest was Kokhanok and
30 Igiugig, and I seem to remember some of the discussions,
31 there were concerns about this expanding to numerous
32 more communities, which seems to be happening now, which
33 I thought wasn't part of the original scenario. But
34 Pippa's comment about looking back to historical records
35 would be very interesting. And I just want to compliment
36 Pippa on a few of those questions she answered with very
37 careful precision, and precision was the word that
38 popped into my head. So anyways, pretty exciting, but
39 I'd be happy to let the proposal come to us rather than
40 that Council make it so. Thanks.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, great. Thanks
43 for that, Dan. I'm going to go ahead and call on Bill
44 Kane first. Bill, did you have a comment?

45

46 MR. KANE: Yeah. Thank you. Through the
47 Chair. This is Bill Kane of Igiugig Village here in the
48 Tribal Stewardship Office. I just wanted to address Mr.
49 Wilson's comments and inquiries there and (distortion).

50

00090

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, go ahead. We
2 are hearing you.

3
4 (Distortion)

5
6 Hang on now you're breaking up, Bill.
7 I'm not sure what's happening here but go, ahead again.

8
9 (Distortion)

10
11 We have you again, yes.

12
13 (Distortion)

14
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Now it's not working
16 at all. Hang on, Bill. Okay. We're being told that it
17 just seems to be the service for you. But we're hearing
18 just verbal sounds and no words. Is John Cawfield there
19 with you as well?

20
21 MR. KANE: No, but he can certainly speak
22 while I sort out tech issues.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, okay. We could
25 hear you better at that time if you want to try again.
26 That came through better.

27
28 MR. KANE: All right. I'll make another
29 attempt here. I just wanted to mention that the working
30 group that Mark is referring to is sort of this ad hoc
31 group that we call Kukaklek Caribou Council. It's
32 comprised of land users that especially spend a lot of
33 time in that area from Igiugig and Kokhanok. And so,
34 we're working very closely with Katmai National Park and
35 Preserve on these initiatives. And I just wanted to
36 mention that and to Mr. Wilson's line of inquiry there,
37 that there are initiatives moving forward. There are --
38 there's a strong dialogue moving forward and certainly
39 invites more perspective into those conversations.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Great. Thank you so
42 much, Bill. I appreciate that input. We heard you loud
43 and clear. Did you have anything else you wanted to add?

44
45 MR. KANE: That is all. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you and
48 John Cawfield, if you're available.

49
50

1 MR. ADERMEN: Madam Chair, this is Andy
2 Aderman with Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I'm using
3 our fisheries biologist computer since mine is not
4 working. I just wanted to put out there, sounds like.....
5

6 MS. HONIG: Andy. I'm sorry to interrupt.
7 We can barely hear you if you can speak into the phone.
8 I'm not sure if you're on speakerphone but, you're real
9 quiet on our end.

10
11 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. I'd offer to help out
12 using the Nushagak Peninsula as an example and how we
13 work through, how many permits there's going to be and
14 who are going to get those permits and I'll just end
15 there. But I'm happy to help out if help is wanted.
16

17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Andy. That's
18 fantastic. Volunteer number three for you there, Mark.
19 Really appreciate that. And now John Cawfield, is he -
20 - did he have anything that he wanted to add?
21

22 MR. CAWFIELD: No. We're having some
23 technical difficulties over here. So, me and Andy are
24 sharing a computer right now.
25

26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay.....
27

28 (Simultaneous speech)
29

30that's what I understood at first,
31 but I just wanted to make sure -- yeah, I just want to
32 make sure I wasn't. I wasn't leaving you out there,
33 John. So, okay, great. Thank you guys I really appreciate
34 that. Any other last comments about this. It looks like
35 we've got a nice clean path forward going on here.
36 Richard.
37

38 MR. WILSON: I just got to thank Andy for
39 chiming in there because like I said earlier, you know,
40 all the information they have over the years of
41 controlling that herd and how it came about and what the
42 distribution and stuff is going to be invaluable in
43 making up you know, for this new herd -- this new
44 recognized herd. Put it that way. Thanks.
45

46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, great. So then
47 I'm -- from what I'm hearing, too from this -- our last
48 conversation I would put out on the table for potentially
49 to see if the Council would agree that -- I would love
50 to see the fall caribou hunt extended on this side in

1 9D to match up with state regs, as well as the brown
2 bear hunts in spring and fall in 9A, C, D, and E. Just
3 so that we have state alignment for it -- would the
4 Council be behind having them getting those regulations
5 or proposals written up for us to review this fall or
6 is that something that I should just call them and have
7 them do aside?

8
9 MR. DUANWAY: All right, Madam Chair, I
10 support that just again, for the reason that I don't
11 want people out there with 2 red books going, which one
12 do I do and all that? So, thank you.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Richard.

15
16 MR. WILSON: I think you'll have the
17 support you need there.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay.

20
21 MR. TREFON: I support that.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: There you go.
24 There's a request for you, then. Yep.

25
26 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair. I heard -- so,
27 there was the brown bear one to match the state, the
28 changes that they just made. And then, were you.....

29
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Caribou as well

31
32 MS. HOLMAN: The -- so, the southern.....

33
34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: The -- specifically
35 the 9. Yes. The one in the -- that was for the 9.

36
37 MS. HOLMAN: The southern Alaska. Okay,
38 perfect. I just wanted to make sure that I had that. So,
39 to match what.....

40
41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: The state.....

42
43 MS. HOLMAN:the state regulations
44 just -- okay.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: And then I don't
47 know if anybody -- how anybody felt about the beaver or
48 the wolverine or anything over on the Dillingham side.
49 I didn't include those but, Dan?

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Definitely not the
2 wolverine. The wolverine trappers I know are pretty
3 unhappy cus [sic] there's kind of -- he felt kind of
4 erroneous anxiety over wolverines in March, and that's
5 the kind of key trapping time for -- and like, one guy
6 keeps meticulous records. I think he's caught 1 or 2
7 females but, a more of his wolverine in March than
8 February. And it worried the justifications of denning
9 and all of that he felt were unwarranted and I really
10 trust him on that. The beaver one I would support getting
11 aligned. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: John.

14
15 MR. RHYSHEK: If I can mention one thing
16 about the beaver issue, I don't have any opposition to
17 it myself. But, one thing that I have been contemplating
18 in this, I want -- maybe Amy's ears to hear this is
19 that, I think our beaver season for the Unit 9 for the
20 trapping regs is October 10. I believe it's October 10
21 and I wanted to maybe bring to the Board's attention,
22 it seems that there is definitely no shortage of beaver
23 in this area. And I would like to maybe explore the
24 opportunity of opening that season 30 days sooner.
25 Because due to gas prices and the possibilities of rivers
26 freezing up mid-October, to correspond my behaviors as
27 well as others to trap beaver in corresponding with
28 hunting moose.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, one of our -- in the
33 trapper I referred to earlier, really, really likes the
34 early season. They do a lot of fur sowing. I think though
35 he's generally been happy for our side you know, 17 to
36 start in October. If you start too early, your hides
37 aren't very prime, and you start having the hair stick
38 out the backside. And they're not good but, I don't know
39 the ins and outs over here. Would you end up with kind
40 of unprime hides? It would be not very useful.

41
42 MR. RHYSHEK: And maybe I would just
43 defer that you know that question to you know, one of
44 the area biologists. I obviously can't answer that. But,
45 from an economical standpoint, I know that when I trap
46 my beavers in October, I'm always playing Russian
47 roulette with, you know, icing conditions. And, you
48 know, sometimes it, you know -- we don't ice up until
49 November and then other times we're already locked up
50 by October 10th. And so, I just -- that's just one thing

1 that's kind of been lingering in the back of my mind to
2 explore if possible.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

5

6 MR. WILSON: Hey, John. You know, it's
7 been my experience years, years ago, when I was trapping
8 that, you know, that things -- you have to wait for them
9 to prime up. You know, you get them out to the tannery
10 and they come back, and the hides all black and spotty
11 and you go, oh. You know, ain't nobody going to buy that
12 one. So, it really does take some cold weather in order
13 for those hides to start priming up before they're
14 desirable for anybody. So, I don't know, just for an
15 economic reason, I don't -- I couldn't see me supporting
16 that because it's just the hide won't be prime enough
17 for the proper use that people use them for.

18

19 MR. RHYSHEK: Yeah, that's fine. That's,
20 that's why we have these discussions.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Anybody else?
23 Leigh.

24

25 MS. HONIG: I just wanted to for the
26 record, if -- before we move on to another proposal
27 development, if we could make a motion for all of those
28 state proposals, I know everybody was kind of in
29 agreement, but if we could have.....

30

31 (Simultaneous speech)

32

33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Oh, yes. Okay. I
34 guess I was under the understanding that at this point
35 we didn't need a motion. We just had to request a
36 proposal get written. So that's why I didn't put it in
37 the form.....

38

39 (Simultaneous speech)

40

41 MS. HONIG: No problem, no problem. Yep.
42 These are basically action items that would need
43 the.....

44

45 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, so then let's
46 back up. And anybody care to put on the table the motion
47 for the caribou and the brown bear.

48

49 (Pause)

50

1 MR. KANULIE: Madam Chair I'm not sure
2 what proposal that is, but I propose that we move our
3 federal dates to match up with the latest state dates
4 on caribou and that southern Unit 9D and the bear, also
5 the latest bear changing dates there. For the spring and
6 fall. Yes.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Perfect. Do we
9 have a second?

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, we've got a
14 proposal and a second. Yes, Lisa.

15
16 MS. GREDIAGIN: I just want to clarify.
17 You're only talking about the Unit 9 brown bear one,
18 because there's also the year round 17 brown bear.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Correct.

21
22 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We haven't gotten
25 over there yet, so we're just on this side with 9, which
26 -- the one has a May 25th date according to my notes.
27 But, otherwise nine A, C, D and E, and then E in the
28 spring dates only goes to May 25th instead of May 31st
29 but, having alignment with state regulations. Any
30 further discussion on these two?

31
32 (No response)

33
34 Okay. Question's been called all in
35 favor of supporting these proposals, please signify by
36 saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed, same sign?

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Okay. Motion carries. Now we can move
45 forward. Anybody want to -- we already heard about
46 beaver. Do you want to tackle anything there, or do you
47 want to leave that one alone?

48
49 MR. DUNAWAU: No, I'll table it.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. And we heard
2 about wolverine. Anybody support anything on the other
3 side? Richard.

4
5 MR. WISLSON: Madam Chair. Both of these
6 topics came up on our last AC. Game -- Game side, and
7 we we chose to support the season change for the beaver
8 or the limit. The Beaver limit is now it's -- the limit
9 is off the table, I understand. And what was the other
10 one? Oh, the wolverine, we did choose to shorten up the
11 wolverine date in the spring because that was their
12 mating time of year, we felt. And that's why we also
13 were in favor of -- our AC was in favor of that proposal
14 also.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Is that a proposal
17 for this Board?

18
19 MR. WILSON: Well then, I would move to
20 approve those the beaver and wolverine latest updates,
21 also.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Is there a second?

24
25 MR. RHYSHEK: Second.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, we have a
28 motion and a second. Any further discussion on having
29 our capable folks write up proposals on those two? Yes.
30 Kendra, you have a question?

31
32 MS. HOLMAN: Madam Chair, I just want to
33 -- just clarification. For the record, you wanted that
34 for Units 9 and 17 as the State made those changes or
35 just one of the two Units?

36
37 MR. WILSON: So, if I'm able to just
38 isolate it as for 9, Unit 9, then that's my proposal
39 because it sounds like Unit 17 AC's have a different
40 view.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I think that is wise
43 decision to Richard. Any other comments or questions?

44
45 (No response)

46
47 Okay. We'll call for the question. All
48 in favor of the motion as is presented for beaver and
49 wolverine, please signify by saying aye.
50

00097

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed, same sign.

4

5 (No response)

6

7 Motion carries. Cows are going to be
8 busy. What else do we have? Anybody else have anything
9 else? We've got the other one that was brought up was
10 moose over in 17 and the year round take of brown bears
11 over in 17. Dan.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I could move to align
14 those. And it would also align the beaver bag limit for
15 17. Wolverine is a lot touchier so, but I would move to
16 align moose -- 17A moose, beaver bag limit, and the
17 brown bear year round.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Great. Do we have a
20 second?

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED: I'll second.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, we have a
25 motion and a second. Any further discussion on those two
26 subjects?

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Amy's got something she
29 wants to add.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Amy.

32

33 MS. VANDE VOORT: For the record, this
34 is Amy Vande Voort. So, the -- I just wanted to clarify
35 the -- what changed for the fall moose season dates in
36 17A was non-residents. So, if you align -- what you're
37 proposing to align with those season dates, you'd be
38 shortening the season.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. He made his
41 specific to lengthening. So, I think that eliminated
42 that one then.

43

44 MS. VANDE VOORT: Okay. Just wanted
45 to.....

46

47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, thank you, I
48 appreciate you doing that.

49

50 MS. VANDE VOORT: Yeah.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: At least that's what I heard you say. The extension of -- so. Okay, yeah. Thank you. Any other discussion or comments?

UNIDNETIFIED: Question.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Question's been called. All in favor of accepting these proposals for the lengthening of the seasons, please signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

Opposed same sign.

(No response)

Okay. That motion passes as well then. Anything else that we are thinking about? Having proposals that you'd like the Council's backing on. Lisa, are you wanting to.....

MS. GREDIAGIN: Madam Chair, I was just going to say I did not hear an actual motion for the caribou as well, so. Was there a motion on the -- for the caribou? Okay. I just -- I'd heard the discussion, but I didn't hear the motion, so okay. Perfect, thanks.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: We captured it when you weren't looking. Go ahead, Walter.

MR. KANULIE: So are these for the upcoming -- okay, because there's somebody in Togiak that wants to submit a proposal for the federal side, and then, you know, I don't know if I, you know, it's not -- it's from an individual, but it's, you know, it's going to -- he's going to, you know, post Togiak AC's the tribal Council and I think he was in contact with Leigh. But, then you're with like, the Park. Is that...?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So, they're with Office of Subsistence Management, which is federal, a federal.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. KANULIE: Oh, okay. Okay.

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So, if not having
2 this individual here, he is still welcome to submit that
3 proposal. You ladies are available to help with that as
4 well, correct? So, you can direct him in their direction.
5 It needs to be submitted before April 4th. Did you say?
6 And so, he has until April 4th, but they'll help him get
7 it shaped and or, you know, you can do it through
8 yourself as well.

9
10 MR. KANULIE: Yeah. When Mr. Wilson was
11 talking about the ones up in Kokhanok, Igiugig. You know,
12 I liked his idea of not bringing up something new or,
13 you know, because this is, like a resident type. I heard,
14 too, that he was talking about down over in Cape Pierce,
15 Cape Newenham area. And then there's other communities
16 on the, I guess, like the Bethel area side. But then I
17 suppose that, I mean, they would have to be notified too
18 you know, so.

19
20 MS. KENNER: Yeah. This is Pippa Kenner
21 through the Chair. Thanks for the question. So, in the
22 big picture that's what this process is. It's a way of
23 publicizing that these changes are proposed and to give
24 people opportunities to comment on it. I understand that
25 sometimes if an idea isn't well developed in your mind,
26 especially if what you want to do is exclude people from
27 entering an area, you might not want to develop that on
28 the Council. So, it would be really important for you
29 or this person to contact one of us, and we can work
30 through language with you. At some point, you know, it
31 has to be made public. So, this is an opportunity for
32 the entire -- for the Council to submit proposals. But
33 anybody can submit proposals until -- what is it, April
34 4th? April 4th. So, or you can talk to me on the break.
35 About what it would take to do that and what they are
36 doing and if it applies to the Togiak area.

37
38 MR. KANULIE: Thank you.

39
40 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Dan.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: I also see Cody Larson back
45 here as BBNA and he's typically been very helpful to
46 communities on this kind of stuff. So, you probably know
47 Cody. So anyway, thank you.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: There's face to name
50 right now. Okay, good. So, then you want to go ahead and

000100

1 you'll take care of that when you get back and talk to
2 him? Okay. And then does anybody want to take up the
3 hares, the closed hares that the State brought to our
4 attention or the year round take of brown bear? Dan.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: I see -- I would like to
7 move to align our Alaska hares regs for the feds with
8 the state regulation. Do one at a time here.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Do we have a
11 second?

12

13 MR. RHYSHEK: Second.

14

15 Thank you, John. Discussion to close the
16 taking of hares in Units 9 and 17 to align with state
17 regulations. Any more discussion?

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: My hares are endangered.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Billy.

22

23 MR. TREFON: I was gonna [sic] call
24 question. You got your hand up.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

27

28 MR. WILSON: AC also discussed this one,
29 and we dealt -- I can't remember what the vote was. But
30 there are communities that really do depend on, you know,
31 an occasional kill, you know, and to close it completely,
32 I mean, already everybody is shying away from shooting
33 unless they really need them because you don't see very
34 many. And I'm just surprised that they -- that the Board
35 of Game actually decided to close it completely because
36 there were communities that do rely on that resource.
37 And for -- I've never been an advocate of really shutting
38 something completely down. When there are people that
39 could use a resource under these dire conditions but,
40 so be it. Thanks.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Any other
43 discussion?

44

45 MR. TREFON: Question.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Question's
48 been called. All in favor of supporting the closure of
49 hairs in Units 9 and 17 to align with the new state
50 regulations, please signify by saying aye.

000101

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed?

MR. WILSON: Aye

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Kenneth. Do you have
a vote?

(No response)

Okay, so the motion -- did we pass or
fail?

MR. DUNAWAY: Well, did Kenneth...?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, either way, it
fails. So, yep. Okay. Thank you and then does anybody
want to address the open brown bear in 17? Okay. Thank
you. Thank you for somebody keeping track. And then is
there anything else? We've done the state list, or at
least looked at it and decided what we will and won't
do on it?

MS. HOLMAN: Okay, so through the Chair
member Dunaway. I was just going to bring up the Unit
17 wolverine so, the State, you know, changed theirs and
reduced the shortened their season. Our current season
in federal regulations for Unit 17 is actually -- oh,
sorry, I might have -- let me make sure I'm looking at
the right Unit. Okay. I -- for some reason, I had read
that we had a longer season, but now I'm looking back
at it and their season now matches our season so, never
mind.

(Pause)

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes. Lisa, I'm
assuming you would like.....

MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin for the
record. And so just to make myself feel better because
ultimately, it's my responsibility to like, oversee all
these wildlife proposals. Could I just read all of them
and make sure it's clear you guys agree we haven't missed
any or I haven't gotten confused. So basically, you guys
are submitting proposals to mirror the recently adopted
state regulations for State Proposal 7 to extend the
Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd season. State

1 Proposal 12 for the Unit 9 brown bear seasons. State
2 Proposal 22 for Unit 9 beaver. State Proposal 20 -- oh,
3 sorry, State Proposal 21 for Unit 9 beaver. State
4 Proposal 22 for Unit 9 Wolverine, State Proposal 37 for
5 Unit 17 beaver, and State Proposal 32 for Unit 17 brown
6 bear. Does that sound right to everyone? And then the
7 hare one failed. Yeah. Okay, so. All right. Thank you.
8 I just wanted to make sure we had everything straight
9 before we -- yeah.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Are there any
12 other proposals that anybody wants to bring forward at
13 this time? Again, you can always submit them before April
14 4th. If you don't get them in now. But is there anything
15 else that anybody would like to bring before the Board
16 right now as a proposal?

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Okay, so be it. Then let's move on to
21 our charter review. Is that you, Leigh?

22
23 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madam Chair. Leigh
24 Honig, for the record. So, your current charter can be
25 found on page 58 of the original meeting book. Your
26 Council's 2024 charter -- okay. So, all 10 subsistence
27 Regional Advisory Councils were chartered under the
28 Federal Advisory Committee Act. And under the act, each
29 Council charter needs to be renewed every two years, so
30 approximately a year before it's renewed, each Council
31 can have a discussion to see if there's anything you
32 want to change. So, this is the opportunity for the
33 Council to review that and propose any changes that we
34 can carry forward.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
37 Leigh, I appreciated the chance to read over this again
38 and kind of appreciated the simplicity in which it was
39 written. I like things that are rather simple to keep
40 it clear. Does anybody have any comments or ultimately,
41 I believe this will end in having a motion on the table
42 to approve or change the Council, is that correct? That
43 is correct. Okay. So, I will leave it for my Board to
44 decide here. Dan.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm pretty comfortable the
47 way it is. My one question was that when -- at the title
48 says amendment charter. So, I was reading this back and
49 forth. Where did it change? Where's the amendment? And
50 so that kind of confused me. But if this is pretty much

000103

1 -- this is the charter and there was no amendments coming
2 from the OSM or something.

3
4 MS. HONIG: That is a very good catch,
5 Dan. So, the last cycle that we had, the Council had the
6 opportunity to review it. There was added language. So,
7 I think maybe that amended part may just didn't come off
8 of it. But -- and I don't have it in front of me. So,
9 I'm kind of speaking from memory. I believe it was that
10 the Council member was able to serve as if there was a
11 delay in the appointment and then the addition of the
12 youth as well. So those are changes from the previous
13 charter in years past.

14
15 MR. DUNWAY: Thank you for that. I
16 remember those changes but thank you.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Anybody else?

19
20 MR. KANULIE: Make a motion to accept the
21 latest amendment to our charter.

22
23 MR. TREFON: I'll second.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. We have a
26 motion and a second. Is there any further discussion on
27 this? Any other additions you would like to see or
28 deletions?

29
30 (No response)

31
32 MR. TREFON: Question.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Great question has
35 been called. All in favor of accepting the charter as
36 presented, please signify by saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed, same sign.

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Okay. The charter will remain in place.
45 Thank you.

46
47 (Pause)

48
49 No, so just -- yeah, I only just --
50 Kenneth had a funeral to go to but, then John is

000104

1 struggling with his internet so, Leigh is keeping in
2 touch with me and letting me know when.

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: I just wasn't hearing any
5 votes.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So, yeah, I know,
8 that's why I wasn't waiting for them too, but thanks for
9 the reminder. Okay, so now we need to review and approve
10 the 2024 Annual Report. And, Leigh, I believe that goes
11 to you as well.

12

13 MS. HONIG: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.
14 So, this can be found on page 65 of your meeting
15 booklets. And as a quick reminder the annual report
16 provides the Councils an opportunity to address the
17 directors of each of the 4 Departments of the Interior
18 agencies and the Department of Agriculture. The Board
19 is required to discuss and reply to each issue in every
20 annual report and to act when within the Board's
21 authority. And this is the opportunity to review the
22 annual report that the Council came up with at the fall
23 meeting to see if there's any edits that need to be made
24 to it. Unfortunately, additional topics can't be added
25 at this time. There's just not enough time to review all
26 that and get it before the Board so you can have a
27 response. But, yes, page 50 or 65 is the annual report
28 for review.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'm sorry about
33 that. No, I thought it was pretty thorough from the fall
34 meeting. A lot of the same concerns that we've had in
35 the past that we like to keep in front of the Council.
36 Did anybody have any corrections or changes that they
37 wanted to see on these topics or anything else when you
38 reviewed it? John.

39

40 MR. RHYSHEK: Make a motion to accept
41 2020 -- October 29th and 30th, 2024 Annual Report.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, great. We've
46 got a motion and a second. So, the report is on the
47 table. Any further discussion?

48

49 (No response)

50

000105

1 Okay. Hearing none, I'll go ahead and
2 call for the question. All in favor of accepting the
3 report as presented, please signify by saying aye.

4 IN UNISON: Aye

5
6 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, motion
7 passes. Good job. Thank you for that. And from there we
8 have a wonderful appointment.

9
10 MS. HONIG: Yes. So, we have the Aniakchak
11 SRC reappointment. I believe. Mallory, I'm not sure if
12 Dillon was also going to handle that one.

13
14 MS. ZHAROFF: Mallory Zharoff, Madam
15 Chair, members of the Council. I would like to request
16 our Bristol Bay RAC to appoint John Christensen to the
17 Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission. John
18 currently serves the Aniakchak SRC by the Secretary of
19 Interior appointment which has expired January 1st of
20 2024. In view of this, it would be reasonable to have
21 his appointment to the Subsistence Resource Commission
22 be replaced by the Bristol Bay RAC. John has spent 41
23 years as a resident of Port Heiden, one of the five
24 resident zoned communities of the Aniakchak National
25 Monument and is a current Bristol Bay RAC member. Per
26 ANILCA, Section 808, members of the RAC or local advisory
27 Councils who also engage in subsistence in the monument
28 are eligible for this appointment. That's all I have.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Mallory.
31 We need a motion for this. Dan.

32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: I move to reappoint John
34 Christensen. I know him a little bit. He's a smart,
35 hardworking man. And I think he'd be a good addition or
36 continue on there. Thank you.

37
38 MR. WILSON: I'll second that. He is a
39 smart young man. Very willing.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I have certainly
42 appreciated him having him on this Council. So, any more
43 discussion? We have a motion on the table.

44
45 MR. RHYSHEK: Does he want to be
46 reappointed?

47
48 MS. ZHAROFF: Yes.

49
50

000106

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Good question.
2 Okay. Any other comments? Richard.

3
4 MR. WILSON: It's nice to see you,
5 Mallory.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. All in favor
8 of reappointing John to the SRC, please signify by saying
9 aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: All opposed, same
14 sign. Although I might punch you in the nose if you
15 were. Okay with that, we have passed that. And we
16 appreciate John so much. I hope he can hear us, even
17 though you're unable to participate at the moment. John,
18 we do appreciate you. Okay. Future meeting dates. You
19 got an updated calendar for us?

20
21 MS. HONIG: I do so, the fall calendar -
22 - well, all the calendars begin began on page 69 so,
23 we'll have to confirm the fall meeting dates and then
24 the decide the winter 2026 and the fall 2026. And so, I
25 can't remember if I said it already, but it starts on
26 page 69.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: You did, and we've
29 got that. So, is everybody still happy with October 29th
30 and 30th for our fall meeting?

31
32 (No response)

33
34 Okay and then we need to pick some dates
35 for our spring Winter 2026 meeting date. A location
36 doesn't really have to be on there. I agree.

37
38 MR. RHYSHEK: Madam Chair.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Should we do the
41 17th and 18th? John.

42
43 MR. RHYSHEK: I make a motion to approve
44 February 17th, February 18th 2026, the two days following
45 President's Day, to be our next spring meeting.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Great. We have
50 motion and a second for spring dates of February 17th

1 and 18, 2026, to have for our winter meeting. Any other
2 discussion?

3

4 MR. WILSON: Snow please.

5

6

7 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Pretty please. All
8 in favor, please signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed, same sign.

13

14 (No response)

15

16 Okay. Motion carries. Then we're also
17 going to get way ahead. I don't remember doing this
18 before, but let's -- we're also going to do fall meeting
19 dates for 2026, which would be fantastic. I know right.
20 Out of curiosity, please. You got one? We'll take it.

21

22 MS. GREDIAGIN: I got one. So, we've had
23 issues in the past getting our proposed rules published
24 in time. So, the proposed rules are the call for wildlife
25 and fisheries proposals. And, you know, we can't
26 officially submit the proposals and open the window
27 until that proposed rule is published in the Federal
28 Register. And we can't even submit the proposed rule to,
29 you know, the DC approval process to get published in
30 the Federal Register and until we have all the Council
31 meeting dates. And so, before when the Councils would
32 only put -- set their meeting dates a year in advance,
33 we couldn't submit the next call for proposals until
34 November, when the Councils finished their fall meetings
35 and we were trying to get the call published by January.
36 And inevitably it was delayed, and we couldn't get it
37 published till like April, you know. So, it really
38 scrunched analysis time. And so now if you guys do it a
39 year and a half, we can submit the proposed rule in June
40 for July, I mean, for next January. So, it gives us like
41 an extra six months of time to get that proposed rule
42 published. So that's why we started doing this a year
43 and, you know, having it a whole year and a half in
44 advance. Did that make sense?

45

46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Totally does. Thank
47 you for that explanation.

48

49 MS. RHYSHEK: Madam Chair.

50

000108

1 CHAIRPERSON: MORRIS: John.

2

3 MR. RHYSHEK: I go ahead to make a
4 motion to accept October 28th - October 29th, 2026 to
5 be our next -- or - yeah, fall meeting.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Second.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Awesome. We've got
10 a motion and a second to accept October 28th and 29th,
11 2026 for the Bristol Bay RAC fall meeting. Any further
12 discussion? Yeah, in Dillingham. I -- that's just become
13 tradition. So, Dillingham in the fall, here in the
14 winter, Okay. All in favor, please signify by saying
15 aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed, same sign.

20

21 (No response)

22

23 Great. So, publish away, Lisa.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: Every lawyer in DC can
26 handle it to their heart's content.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, let's take a
29 quick break here. We'll start on reports. I'm assuming
30 people probably need some time for setup anyway. So, ten
31 minutes. Guys, please be back at 2:30.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, guys, let's go
38 ahead and get back in our seats again. Okay. This time
39 we're going to go through our report. And we're going
40 to start with tribal governments. I'm not sure that we
41 have any tribal governments here that are going to give
42 us a report. Can you confirm that, Leigh? Yep. So that's
43 confirmed. Native organizations. Where'd Cody go?

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: He's out talking to Pippa.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. I don't
48 think she gave us an -- oh, sorry.

49

50 (Pause)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

Sorry to cut that short, Cody.

MR. LARSON: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair, Council members. Good to be here. Pleasure to be here. Cody Larson, for the record. I don't have any report or formal remarks. Of course, for the folks online, I run the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program for BBNA's Natural Resources department and have been active in that. And then I just want to thank the Council for all the comments and the work during the fisheries cycle, as we hashed through some of the proposals to clean up some of the regulations on the federal fisheries side here. It looked to be that the Federal Subsistence Board adopted those on the consensus agenda. And so thoroughly vetting and having the discussions here is always beneficial for that. And it was nice to see it move through the FSB process without any hiccups. So that's all I've got. And I'll take any questions about BBNA's programs.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Questions Council members? Richard.

MR. WILSON: Madam Chair. Thanks, Cody. Yeah. Didn't we see you at the last meeting AC here? Didn't we? Were you...?

MR. LARSON: Over the phone. I've been calling in quite a bit. Yeah.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I appreciate that, because there's, you know, a lot of concerns about our fisheries and stuff and the questions. And anytime we can get support from people that are, you know, in the monitoring side of things and stuff, it's very helpful. So, appreciate you being there.

MR. LARSON: Yeah, and if I can add just on the monitoring point there, I guess if there's anything that I would like to mention is there you know, there -- over the years has been a slow erosion of monitoring of a number of species. But I want to speak specifically to the king salmon populations that historically were monitored through aerial surveys and other projects. And just note for the record that the only remaining king salmon population objective and escapement goal is for the Nushagak River. And so, the remaining Togiak, Igiugig, Naknek, Alagnak population

1 objectives and monitoring has slowly eroded over the
2 years. And I don't know if there's a way for this Council
3 to you know, create escapement goals. I believe there's
4 not but, it's something that's slowly happened, and I
5 just want to keep it on the surface that without
6 monitoring, there's really not much information to make
7 management decisions by this Council, the AC's and the
8 other Councils in the State, so.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

11
12 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Cody for saying
13 that, because that's literally what's on the table every
14 time we meet at the AC's. Is, you know, what are we
15 going to -- you know, how do we do a better job of what
16 we're doing? You know, and I know monitoring has kind
17 of gone out the window, especially in this east side of
18 the bay here for quite a while. And anytime we can figure
19 out how to get it back or how to get the funding. And
20 because I think there's probably some agencies that
21 would probably still help, you know, with logistics.
22 But, you know, money is always an issue. And so, I
23 appreciate you bringing that up.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Walter.

26
27 MR. KANULIE: You know, I was going
28 through the internet on something, and I ran across
29 probably king salmon, but I ran across I don't know if
30 it was BBNA or some group that did a study on king salmon
31 and in the Togiak River. I didn't really read it that
32 much. I forgot who it was from. I remember I caught
33 earlier in the season, I caught something that was, I
34 think it was in the mouth of the king salmon on the side
35 or something, but it was something like a loop or
36 something that I could literally antenna. And I think I
37 gave it to Pete when he was with the Fish and Wildlife.
38 And, you know, I don't know if -- I think I heard about
39 it when I was the administrator over there a long time
40 ago, and I've never -- and then I -- I don't know what
41 the conclusion was about that study they had so, but --
42 and -- but that's what we always hear about, you know,
43 what's going on with the king salmon. And you know,
44 everybody, so.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Walter.
47 My other question to you, Cody, would be how are our
48 studies going down in the chigs [sic]? Are you getting
49 proposals or able to put together any research for any
50 of that concern?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

MR. LARSON: So, there are a number of research projects more focused on sockeye. The distinct sockeye runs there. There is one study that has been awarded to the Chignik Intertribal Coalition that is reviewing the video recordings at the weir site for precision on the chinook passage for the Chignik River there. Yeah.

10
11
12
13

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That is excellent news that we still need to keep an eye on that. Billy, I didn't mean to skip over you.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20

MR. TREFON: Yeah, I was just wondering, what are you doing now for monitoring these -- all these places here? Because the only place I know of any kind of monitoring or fish counting is in mile 22 up on the Newhalen, and we had 800,000 come through there this summer.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MR. LARSON: Yeah. So, the BBNA's monitoring projects through the partners program, my program, since I started in 2016, the focus has been on community-based monitoring. And so, my projects have been interviewing and doing household surveys in the communities within the region. And so, a lot of those projects are funded through the FRMP process and recommended through this Council. And then there have been other sources of funding. National Science Foundation, Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund funded a 2-year project here in the Bristol Bay borough. And so, the focus since I've been at BBNA for the position has been to do more of the community-based monitoring. That may change here in 2026. We're looking at doing an actual fisheries biological monitoring project on Big Creek. That -- there's a few hiccups in the announcements of that, the funding for that. So, and, you know, every grant application is still an application. It's never actually awarded until you get the letter. So, we may be getting into a project there but, even with the beginning of monitoring a population, you can't really set escapement goals or population objectives until you have a database set up. And so right now, because of the lapse in monitoring in some of these populations, it may take at least five years or more to develop a population trend to then set escapement goals. And so, one of the considerations, and I don't know how it would be possible but, whenever escapement goals are recommended for removal or to discontinue escapement goals, there isn't something that triggers a review of reestablishing

1 escapement goals. And so, once it's off the books,
2 there's no committee or council that reviews all of the
3 previous escapement goals and whether or not we should
4 reestablish a monitoring program, if that makes sense.
5 So those are just some observations over the years that
6 I've been working with BBNA.

7
8 MR. TREFON: All right. Yeah. How about
9 the fish count? Because there's no really records other
10 than how much fish is being taken on State lands other
11 than the permit that they issue every year, and that's
12 a hit or miss count there in my eyes. I mean, I don't
13 think you get an accurate count. I must say, I might
14 take 500 fish this year. I might take 400 fish next
15 year. I might take 5,000 so on, and you never really
16 make that goal so, you just go by the numbers that
17 somebody turns in?

18
19 MR. LARSON: Yeah, I -- that's a good
20 point. Is the permitting system is, at least in Bristol
21 Bay has historically worked fairly well. Many regions
22 in the State don't have a salmon permit system. And so,
23 you know, to emphasize the importance of that program,
24 I can't emphasize enough. But, in addition, the in-
25 community surveys that we conduct are maybe even the
26 better information is to speak with folks one on one and
27 to go systematically through a community and speak with
28 folks, and it also gives you the ability to interview
29 elders and to communicate with the tribal councils and
30 find out some of the resource issues that are going on,
31 which we then attempt to relate to this Council here and
32 any of the concerns that we come across in community
33 surveys. I try to bring that to the forefront here and
34 help to develop proposals to remedy any of the issues
35 at the local level. So, I think it's a great and
36 important program, and we really need to continue doing
37 those in-community surveys for that type of monitoring.
38 Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. No that's
41 great. Thank you very much, Cody. Okay. Next up we've
42 got Department of Fish and Game.

43
44 MS. VANDE VOORT: All right, Madam Chair,
45 members of the Board. For the record, my name is Amy
46 Vande Voort. I'm the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
47 wildlife biologist. I don't have a whole lot to report
48 since the last October meeting. We did do moose trend
49 count areas last November, and we helped Becharof with
50 a moose population estimate for 9E, which Bryce will be

1 giving you information on that. For the moose
2 composition from the trend count areas, we ended up with
3 56 bulls per 100 cows and 23 calves per 100 cows. This
4 showed a stabilization of the calf-to-cow ratio and a
5 decrease in bull-to-cow ratio. The current objectives
6 for the bull-to-cow ratio are 25 to 40 bulls per 100
7 cows so, we're still above the objective. Harvest for
8 this last season is sitting at about 168, which, if you
9 recall, I think I said the same number in October. So
10 yeah, not much for harvest. We're still finalizing some
11 reports that might go up 1 or 2, or it may stay the
12 same, but yeah, not much for winter hunt.

13
14 For caribou, we plan to survey the
15 Kukaklek Herd at some point this winter. We're waiting
16 on snow conditions. If we get some snow -- there's,
17 like, an inch or two forecast next week. So, yeah, we're
18 waiting on some snow so we can actually see the caribou
19 better and find them easier. So far, the Tier 2 harvest
20 for south of the Naknek River is sitting at 12. So that
21 is down drastically from previous years. And of course,
22 that's because of travel conditions. Can't get around
23 down there.

24
25 Future work we have coming up for brown
26 bears. We're going to work in cooperation with Lake Clark
27 National Park to conduct a brown bear transect survey
28 in Units 9A and 9 Bravo this May. So, we'll get a
29 population or density estimate with brown -- for brown
30 bears in those two Units. And we'll be -- we did 9 Delta
31 last year. And we'll be doing 9 Echo and 9 Charlie coming
32 up in the coming years as well. That's all I've got for
33 survey work. I do want to mention, if you want to comment
34 on any statewide Board of Game proposals, those are due
35 March 7th. I did go through those quickly, if you wish
36 to hear any that may affect you guys out here, I can.
37 There's not very many that would specifically affect out
38 here for federal users, but I can list them real quickly
39 if you'd like.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, please.

42
43 MS. VANDE VOORT: Okay. So, proposals.
44 So, this is for the statewide meeting towards the end
45 of March. Proposals 126 through 128 allow night vision
46 for taking furbearers. Proposal 131 would require ID
47 tags on traps and snares. And just for the record, like
48 I don't have the State's position on any of these. These
49 are just what has been proposed by -- I don't even know
50 if it's public or the State at this point. Proposal 133

1 would prohibit snow machines to pursue the -- to use for
2 pursuit and take of wolverine. Proposal 140, gets rid
3 of evidence of sex in hunts that are restricted to one
4 sex. So, you wouldn't have to keep evidence of sex
5 attached to the carcass and proposal 149 would add
6 Nushagak and Togiak AC's to the applicable subunits for
7 authorizing antlerless moose hunts. And that was it for
8 -- that would affect out here.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
11 Amy. Questions?

12
13 MR. TREFON: I got one.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Billy.

16
17 MR. TREFON: Did you mention taking bears
18 with night vision?

19
20 MS. VANDE VOORT: So that was furbearers.
21 So, they want to allow -- there's three proposals
22 addressing allowing the use of night vision for taking
23 furbears. Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, and remember,
26 guys, these are proposals that are up for vote. And so,
27 if you want to respond to them or us respond to them as
28 a Council, then you'll have to put a proposal on the
29 table or you're free to respond by.....

30
31 MS. VANDE VOORT: March 7th.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: March 7th. I can't
34 remember the date. I knew it was March. Okay, Dan.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Vision thing, didn't region
37 three or it's the Board's already approved that for some
38 part of the State, have they not?

39
40 MS. VANDE VOORT: I think they deferred
41 it to the statewide meeting. So, this -- these three
42 proposals at the statewide meeting would affect
43 everybody in the State.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I do kind of have a
46 rough list of what the Nushagak AC went through on this.
47 We could spend a long time on it, or I made a short list
48 that pretty much corresponds what she did. It made me
49 want to talk about a few here.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Yeah. Well,
2 now's the time. If you want Board support or somebody
3 to write up comments with the Board's name on them,
4 we'll have to approve and pass them now.

5

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Did you want to wait till
8 the other business part to do that or do it now?

9

10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: You know, I was
11 going to, but I think it seems now is more appropriate.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, we took up a
14 bunch during our AC meeting, and it got wrong. Are there
15 any that have sparked anybody else's interest?

16

17 MR. WILSON: Which ones are we talking
18 about?

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: This is State of Alaska
21 statewide proposals. And as Amy listed, there's some 126
22 to 128 about night vision. And my list is all jumbled.
23 131, the trap IDs. I know our trappers really felt
24 strongly about this like, no, negative, uh-oh. There's
25 another one, caliber restrictions, whether you want to
26 mess with it or not. The 132, 133 positioning with snow
27 goes is one that we were really involved with that I
28 think we should take up. Another one -- the evidence of
29 sex, somebody complaining about. It's too heavy to carry
30 a quarter when there's the male part still attached.
31 That boy better stay home. But, it's ridiculous. But
32 whether we want to weigh in it. There's electronics use
33 one that was appealed to our area because we have a
34 number of air taxis and outfitters that just like you
35 could use electronic, your phone to take a picture of
36 the transfer of possession forms -- and I was trying to
37 find what the federal rules are on that. But, that one
38 we supported in Dillingham. Just like you can carry your
39 license on your phone, and the troopers will accept it.
40 And when you've got frantically trying to load an
41 airplane, unload an airplane, and you've got this meat,
42 if you could just, you know, do the air drop or whatever
43 for the transfer possession form. That -- we had a couple
44 transporters there say it would be way easier than trying
45 to write on a wet piece of paper in the windy conditions.

46

47 The 149, which AC's speak to the
48 antlerless is probably be one we might want to support,
49 and those are the ones I could think of. So, I don't
50 know. I think that -- my understanding was that this

000116

1 Board of Games agreed on the night vision for trapping.
2 No, we voted against it here. Excuse me. That's for the
3 Nushagak AC. So, do you want to take that?

4

5

6

7 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, it's -- you
8 know, I think that if you think any of these proposals
9 are affecting the people that we represent enough that
10 you need to put a proposal up on the table, and because
11 we're not voting on a proposal, what we're voting on is
12 comments to send in on a proposal. And I think that if
13 you've got some language and whatnot that you want to
14 put in proposal form to see if the Board agrees to it,
15 that you should do it.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. DUNAWAY: You know, kinda got better
on my notes here. The -- regarding night vision, the
majority of the advisory committee felt it's too easy
to abuse. We have some problems with jack lighting on
moose anyway so, we opposed it. Is there any interest
in taking up that one? Interest in taking up in the 130?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Would you put them
in or put them in the form of a proposal and see if you
get a second and then that'll pretty much answer the
question.

MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt offering
comments on Fish and Game proposal, Wildlife Proposals
126, 127 and 128.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Anybody want to
second that?

MR. KANULIE: I have a question.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Walter.

MR. KANULIE: I'm sorry. Walter. You
know, I was looking at my migratory bird hunting. See,
I didn't, notice that, but it's going to affect people
back home. I mean, I don't even -- I haven't even looked
at these. And these are for when?

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Is this a statewide
proposal? I -- you may be on the wrong ones, Walter. I'm
not sure I didn't hear anything about migratory birds.

MS. VANDE VOORT: For the record, Amy
Vande Voort, there are three relating to migratory bird

1 hunting. One -- Proposal 85 changes the definition for
2 migratory bird hunting guide services to include
3 transporter services. Proposal 86 would require
4 mandatory harvest reporting of sea ducks so that could
5 affect Togiak. And then, Proposal 87 restricts the use
6 of boats for hunting waterfowl.

7
8 And from what I read, it would basically
9 limit the ability to be in a moving or motor driven boat
10 when you're hunting with -- if I'm reading the proposal
11 correctly.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Walter, did
14 you have a follow up?

15
16 MR. KANULIE: Yeah. I don't know if Ken's
17 still on. Ken Nukwak. But I know they go down toward
18 Cape Sea to hunt for waterfowl, so.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Dan.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, we addressed that one
23 too. And we were against all of those in the Nushagak
24 AC because like a lot of us like to drift or a lot of
25 our areas are really muddy and you can't get -- safety,
26 you can't get out of your boat. It's not legal to be
27 chasing them around. I think some people do, but I think
28 we opposed all of those. There's a couple of those ladies
29 are kind of well known for being extremely concerned
30 about ducks in Homer. And they're not real popular with
31 some folks out this way. And the record keeping also
32 seemed too onerous too, to our advisory committees. So,
33 we were opposed to all of those.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay well let's go
36 back to the proposal we've got on the table. First of
37 all.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Night vision.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, the night
42 vision proposal. Does anybody care to second writing a
43 letter as a Council in opposition to the use of night
44 vision goggles for the proposal numbers that Dan
45 suggested.

46
47 MR. TREFON: I'll second it for
48 discussion.

49
50

000118

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. We've got a
2 motion, and a second discussion is open. Let's have some
3 short verbiage of justification, and then we can have a
4 vote on it, and we can count on these guys to write it
5 up and get it submitted for us.

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Since I proposed it, yeah,
8 the general comments of our AC membership, was that just
9 a risk of abuse and saying, oh, I'm out hunting foxes
10 and maybe write a day like shooting a moose or something
11 to get an unfair advantage. I didn't fully understand
12 it, but the other folks that are actually up on the
13 Nushagak more were pretty vigorous against it, so.

14
15 (Distortion)

16
17 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Night vision. I don't
18 see any use for it in our region. I mean, if it was up
19 north where it gets dark in the winter time, there might
20 be some reasonable use for it. I got -- I actually have
21 a pair of night vision, but that's just to see if the
22 bears is coming in my yard up in camp. But I really
23 don't see any use of a night vision other than, like he
24 was saying, it could be misused. That's my opinion.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Other
27 comments?

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 Call for the question. If anybody -- so,
32 these are -- what we're asking for is just to have our
33 comments submitted as a Council to encapsulate these
34 comments on night vision goggles. All in favor, please
35 signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed same sign.

40
41 (No response)

42
43 Anything else? Any other comments that
44 we would like to be brought up? Dan, go ahead.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: I think Walter made a good
47 point on these waterfowl. I think it's 85, 86, 87. And
48 I think I talked about earlier that the Nushagak AC felt
49 that the record keeping was just being an annoyance, not
50 useful. The part about boat use, a lot of us either

000119

1 drift or pole or row and hunt. And when they get on 85,
2 we are opposed to all of them.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Are you putting that
5 in the form of a proposal?

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Propose that we -- I guess,
8 we comment that we oppose 85, 86, 87 as a motion.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, for the
11 reasons given. Do I have a second?

12
13 MR. RHYSHEK: A second.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, we've got a
16 proposal and a second. Any further discussion on
17 opposing these proposals as a Council?

18
19 MR. TREFON: I got a question. Billy,
20 here. I was just wondering about the uses of boat and
21 motors for duck hunting. I mean, if they put it down in
22 writing saying you cannot use boat motors for hunting,
23 what if you're in your blind? How you get your birds out
24 of the water?

25
26 MS. VANDE VOORT: Through the Chair. So,
27 in the proposal, I'm just reading this as they have it
28 written. So, they want to make it unlawful method from
29 any mechanical vehicle. However, a power or sailboat may
30 be used only as a direct means of retrieving a dead or
31 injured bird. All boats shall remain stationary
32 throughout the duration of the hunt, beached or anchored
33 within 100 yards of those discharging firearms to
34 eliminate driving, herding, or chasing migratory birds
35 into hunters on land or on other boats. So, if as
36 written, this would get rid of being able to drift and
37 hunt.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Sounds like an
40 enforcement nightmare. Any other comments, Dan?

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, and that's exactly
43 like we go up these tidal gullies that are just gooey
44 mud and really steep and to be required -- is dangerous
45 and I've put -- wonderful days pulling up on these
46 things. And my son's in the bow and come around the
47 corner and the ducks jump up and shoot a couple. But
48 we're not chasing them with motors or anything, or even
49 if you find a good spot to just sit in your boat, you
50 just in the tides, you know, look at 24-foot tides. It

000120

1 could be a real, real difficult to comply. So, those are
2 the reasons -- yeah. So yeah, that's why we oppose these.
3 Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any other comments?
6 Yeah.

7
8 MR. TREFON: I have to agree with Dan
9 there. And listening to what you all presented to us,
10 it sounded like a whole lot of unnecessary proposal
11 that's put out there just to make hunting a little more
12 difficult. Kind of like the chumming law when you put
13 it.

14
15 MR. WILSON: Call for question.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Questions
18 been called. All in favor of supporting comments to
19 oppose these proposals, please signify by saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Opposed, same sign.

24
25 (No response)

26
27 Okay. Motion carries. Any -- John.

28
29 MR. RHYSHEK: Amy, are you able to read
30 that 137?

31
32 MS. VANDE VOORT: Yes. Give me one second
33 to go down there.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: I have the whole book here,
36 too, if it if you need help. Amy.

37
38 MR. RHYSHEK: And 136, maybe.

39
40 MS. VANDE VOORT: Would you like 136
41 first?

42
43 MR. RHYSHEK: And 135.

44
45 MS. VANDE VOORT: And -- okay. I'm almost
46 there. Okay. So, proposal 135. This allocates 10% of the
47 big game permits to non-residents as follows. So, non-
48 residents shall be guaranteed 10% of the available
49 permits for each hunt, as long as the hunt has at least
50 10 permits. If a hunt has less than ten permits, no non-

1 resident tag will be issued. If the number of non-
2 resident permits is not a round number, it shall be
3 rounded down to the next round number. This is consistent
4 with most other Western states in the United States.
5 This language shall not apply to hunts already allocated
6 specifically to non-residents, either guided or
7 unguided. In the case of drawing hunts with less than
8 10 permits, the Department of Fish and Game shall have
9 the authority to issue up to one permit specifically for
10 non-residents. Granted, it does not take a resident
11 permit away to meet the original permit quota. This
12 language, because it would set aside permits for non-
13 residents, would be less restrictive than many Western
14 states that allow up to 10% of the permits to be
15 allocated to non-residents. A non-resident drawing
16 permit allocation is uncapped in many drawing hunts.
17 Currently, there are many drawing hunts that have no
18 non-resident allocation limits. Alaska residents are
19 finding it increasingly difficult to draw permits. Non-
20 resident allocations in the Lower 48 have been
21 drastically reduced in the last five years, resulting
22 in more interest by non-residents to hunt and apply in
23 Alaska. The current regulations are unit or hunt
24 specific as it relates to non-resident allocation, thus
25 making it difficult and cumbersome to address in the
26 usual regional proposal process. So that only addresses
27 draw permits, so.

28
29 MR. RHYSHEK: Let's just go through these
30 one by one, maybe. I would like to go ahead and make a
31 motion that the Bristol Bay RAC be in favor of proposal
32 135.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay we have a
35 motion, do we have a second?

36
37 (No response)

38
39 MR RHYSHEK: Maybe if I could comment to
40 my fellow board members.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead John.

43
44 MR. RHYSHEK: I have lived in this State
45 for 27 years, and I have been trying to draw a tag for
46 a specific hunt, and I have yet to do so. Obviously, the
47 tag is extremely difficult to obtain. But I do see
48 nonresidents, you know, obtaining this tag at -- every
49 given year and promoting these hunts on YouTube channels
50 and social media, et cetera, et cetera. And me, living

1 in the State since 1998 still have not been able to draw
2 that tag is extremely discouraging.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: So then would you support
7 this or do you want to vote on it to oppose it.

8

9 MR. RHYSHEK: So as of right now, the way
10 I understand this, let's say there's 100 tags allocated
11 and let's say 200 people put in and 100 of those people
12 are from out of State and 100 people those are in-State
13 by the simple calculation of percentages, half of those
14 tags would be allocated to the non-residents and the
15 other half would be allocated to the residents. This 10%
16 of big game drawing permits to non-residents, this is a
17 very common practice in all the western states. The elk
18 hunting states, the pronghorn hunting states, the sheep
19 hunting states, et cetera, et cetera. And I would just
20 like to see Alaska piggyback that.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't do much draw
25 applications and I missed the deadline this year so, I'm
26 not always familiar. I know there's some that are already
27 kind of set up, only so many non-resident, and some of
28 the sheep stuff is fanatically detailed. So, my one
29 concern was could this end up in some cases making it
30 harder for a resident to get a tag?

31

32 MR. RHYSHEK: Negative. It's, you know,
33 the resource management of the State has always been put
34 into place that you know, the Alaska residents, you know,
35 should be coming first. And you know, if you're
36 allocating 10% of big game drawing tags to non-
37 residents, that means that 90% are going to be allocated
38 to residents, which favors people of the State of Alaska
39 that live, work and are, you know, socially economic,
40 you know, upon the State.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Before you --
43 do we have any more discussion, can we get a second?

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to say that the
46 Nushagak AC didn't even touch this. We didn't look at
47 it. So, I don't have anything to go on from our general
48 area. I'm kind of -- I don't know enough. I'm kind of
49 hesitant to support it or go with it at this point.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: It's an interesting
2 concept, though, John. I think it's got all our minds
3 going, even if we can't get a second for it. Okay. Any
4 other motions anybody would care to make?

5
6 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, John.

7
8 MR. RHYSHEK: We're talking about 135.
9 And that basically means that if there's 100 tags for a
10 certain Unit, that 90% of those tags would be for
11 residents and only 10% of those tags would be for non-
12 residents.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Which proposal are you on
15 at the moment?

16
17 MR. RHYSHEK: 135.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Correct. Yep. That
20 one's dead for lack of a second. Are we -- what's 136?

21
22 MR. RHYSHEK: Amy, can you read 136?

23
24 MS. VANDE VOORT: Yep. 136. Would limit
25 bison and muskox drawing permit hunts to once in a
26 lifetime and only allow applicants to apply once per
27 hunt as follows. First, make it a lifetime hunt one and
28 done. Second, get rid of the multiple chance drawings
29 and just increase the price to \$50 for a chance, it
30 would still create plenty of revenue and there would be
31 folks still trying to get this fabulous draw. I would
32 like to say I'm just reading this verbatim, so if it
33 doesn't sound like me. Since the muskox and the bison
34 tags are so hard to get, why doesn't the State do two
35 things for the hunters to give them a realistic chance
36 to hunt these animals? I have been putting in for this
37 job for 18 years and not successful, and yet others have
38 had multiple draws to hunt them. There is also another
39 option to make it a one per household also. I just read
40 today where my coworker and husband both drew for bison.
41 It is just my opinion, but I'd like a real chance to get
42 one. Thanks for letting me vent.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: You're welcome,
45 Amy. Okay. Do I hear anybody wanting to put a proposal
46 on the table concerning this one? John.

47
48 MR. RHYSHEK: I go ahead and ask Amy to
49 read 137.

50

1 MS. VANDE VOORT: Okay. 137. This would
2 again, this is verbatim. Change the drawing hunt permit
3 process as follows. Options and alternative strategies
4 to consider, either singly or in combination: One,
5 increase waiting periods by species if successful, and
6 harvest and or draw. Two, reduce application number by
7 species, for example from 6 to 4. Three, restrict
8 applications for one applicant or party to a maximum of
9 three species per draw application year. Four, restrict
10 applications to apply for bison or muskox, caribou or
11 elk, and or sheep or goat per draw application year.
12 Reduce resident bag limit for bison to once in a lifetime
13 is, if successful, in harvest of a bison on a resident
14 draw permit. And six, increase opportunity for
15 additional registration hunts with quotas where possible
16 as an alternative to draw hunts. Other options
17 considered: One bonus point system previously considered
18 by Board. Two, create and establish separate draw hunts
19 for longtime applicants, requires tracking applicant
20 history and possibly establishing a hunter
21 identification number. Options rejected: One preference
22 point system previously considered by Board Two, once
23 in a lifetime drawing with unsuccessful harvest. Three,
24 long waiting periods for successful moose draw
25 applicants.

26
27 The probability of successfully drawing
28 a hunt permit has become exceedingly difficult over the
29 last several years. In 2018, there is 321,126
30 applications for 8302 draw permits. Just five years
31 later, there were 373,511 applications for 5216 draw
32 permits, an overall average reduction of almost half
33 from 2.6% to 1.4%. The majority of the most desirable
34 draw hunts have seen significant reductions in drawing
35 opportunity. For example, DM410 has shown an increase
36 from 2013 to 2023 of 2628 applications for 75 permits
37 to 8674 for 100. Similarly, DC590 has went from 906
38 applications for 100 permits to 9248 for 100. Others
39 include DE702, 627 applications, 8 permits to 3394 for
40 6 permits, DUI403. I think you get the picture. This
41 proposal was developed in consultation with local
42 hunters interested in improving the opportunity to be
43 successful in the hunt permit drawing. The alternatives
44 were created to stimulate discussion at the Board of
45 Game meeting, to encourage action to address the
46 significant reduction in drawing opportunity for the
47 average resident hunter. The local Fish and Game
48 Advisory Committee has not consulted at this time, nor
49 is aware of this proposal.
50

000125

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: It occurs to me for one
4 thing, you know, these are all interesting but, we're
5 talking federal subsistence hunts and these are all
6 sport hunts, right? And so, I don't know if they apply
7 to us. I'm kind of looking around for.....

8

9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, what they
10 don't do.....

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY:get involved with it
13 or not.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, being
16 involved, what we're doing right now is just offering
17 comments on, on things that that mean something to
18 ourselves or the people that we represent. So that's
19 where our involvement comes in in our decision to be
20 involved or not be involved.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, but this is all kind
23 of sport oriented, isn't it? And we're subsistence --
24 federal subsistence oriented and our hunts often don't
25 fall under these draw hunts anyway. If I'm correct.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No and I suspect
28 that's why we didn't get a second on our proposal on 35,
29 so.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: It's kind of a sudden hit
32 me. So, I'm kind of looking around the room if there's
33 a legal beagle, that kind of thing. I kind of -- and
34 I've sympathized with some of this, but does it really
35 apply to Federal Subsistence Board is my one thought.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Does anybody
38 else have any proposals they want to make?

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: We're bouncing around.
45 We're real close. So is it 133, 132, the Snowmachine
46 positioning of furbearers. Thats one I'm really
47 concerned about because we worked very hard to get this
48 allowed. And our member, Kenneth, was instrumental in
49 getting this allowed, and I would hate to see this get
50 removed so quickly. It just recently got adopted so, I

1 would make a motion to ask the -- advise the Council
2 here to oppose these proposals and support the existing
3 positioning regulations as written. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Do I have a second?

6

7 MR. TREFON: I'll second.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Billy.

10 And I would also ask that we could use years-worth of
11 language and justification behind it as well, if this
12 is passed, because I feel like I talked until I didn't
13 have any more words to give on it. I know that much. So,
14 yeah. Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: A little recent history
17 here too, is why these are coming out of the Dillingham
18 area. This guy proposing it, is a longtime bear hunter
19 and guide and air taxi operator, and I have a tremendous
20 amount of respect for him, however, and he's winding his
21 operations down, kind of aging out. But, there's been
22 some newer guides in the area. They -- when we have
23 snow, they've had some real successful hunts on big
24 bears, and they've also taken a few opportunities to
25 catch a wolverine, which is really -- if they can't
26 produce a bear, it's really been kind of a bonus for a
27 few of the hunters, and I suspect there's a bit of
28 tension, would be a nice way to say it among guide
29 operators. And I think Rick is truly concerned about
30 wolverine, but if I remember correctly, talking to our
31 biologists, there's only been about five wolverines
32 taken this way in recent years. And I think a total, of
33 I want to say and I'm looking at Amy 45-50 total take
34 harvest all types in recent years. So, we felt that the
35 concerns are understandable, maybe misplaced. And so, I
36 believe I got a double check here again that we oppose
37 that a -- the Nushagak Bay AC opposed 132 and we took
38 them up 132 and 133 and we oppose them. And so, I would
39 move to oppose them. If we have Kenneth, we have Todd
40 Fritzy, their local trappers, hunters, and they've taken
41 advantage a little bit, but they really don't take a lot
42 that way. So, I'll shut up.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
45 Dan. Any other comments? Richard.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair, yes. Just, you
48 know, we're talking about either opposing or agreeing
49 with proposals here, and I don't have them before me.
50 So, I don't know what the language is actually saying

1 or not remembering. So, it's hard to vote on something
2 or comment when I'm not fully aware of what the wording
3 actually exists.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I can definitely
6 sympathize with that. However, this is one that we put
7 in place, so we're pretty familiar with the language and
8 they're trying to withdraw it from us. Which is kind of
9 the way I look at this one.

10
11 MR. WILSON: Are we looking at the
12 wolverine?

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, 132, 133.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Gotcha. Okay.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Leigh.

19
20 (Simultaneous speech)

21
22 MR. WILSON: No. I'm good. Thank you.

23
24 MS. HONIG: Through the Chair. Just for
25 my own clarification to help write this. So, I too am
26 looking at the proposals right now. So 132, it's to
27 prohibit non-residents from using snow machines, and it
28 says Alaska residents may use snow machines. So, I just
29 want to.....

30
31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I thought the
32 proposal we've got on the tables for 133 though.

33
34 MS. HONIG: Oh, okay. So that's why.....

35
36 (Simultaneous speech)

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY I was rolling them together.

39
40 MS. HONIG: Okay.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: If we can -- maybe it'd be
43 better to separate them. But you're right. It's non-
44 residents for one. But it's everybody in the other one,
45 I think.

46
47 MS. HONIG: Correct, right. 133 was to
48 prohibit the use of snow machines to approach and pursue
49 wolverines.

50

000128

1 MR. RHYSHEK: And it also reads wolves.

2

3 MS. HONIG: And wolves. And it adds
4 wolverines to that. Yeah.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, Dan.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: And the other thing this
9 really came out of, Kenneth or I like to add Fritzy too,
10 that it's allowed in game Unit 18 and 23 or something
11 like that and has been for years. And so, the argument
12 was that we have adjoining game units. Why can't we if
13 they can? The other reality part is that's how they've
14 been catching them for years, and they didn't know it
15 was illegal. And there's been no major harm done. And
16 so why not recognize and allow the practices that have
17 been working? So, for all those reasons. We were opposed
18 to rolling this back. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any other comments?

21

22 (No response)

23

24 Okay. Call for the question. All in
25 favor of opposing 133, repealing all of our hard work
26 on the positioning issue, please signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Opposed, same
31 sign.

32

33 (No response)

34

35 Okay. That one passes as well. Any
36 others anybody would like to -- Dan.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: I'd like to address 131 the
39 trap ID tag, and it's over here. Proposed by Kneeland
40 Taylor, who's very vigorous, anti-trapper. I think we
41 heard from him at the Board of Game meeting in Wasilla.
42 He wants to require identification tags to be attached
43 to traps and snares, and he goes on at length. Our
44 trappers again oppose this from the standpoint, wolves,
45 wolverine other animals when they get in trap, often
46 very vigorously fight that trap, they can break the tag
47 off. It can easily get buried and frozen, and then all
48 of a sudden you're in violation, and not everybody's
49 going to carry around a metal detector to find the tag.
50 It's an added cost and burden on the trappers. There's

000129

1 instances where people feel that they've been set up by
2 somebody putting the tag on the trap or removing a tag
3 from a trap. And one of the other ones is that
4 enforcement in the Lower 48 often might dig up a whole
5 set to see if you have a tag. Well, they just wrecked
6 your set at a cost of \$500 wolf. Just to see if you have
7 a tag or not. So, for those reasons the Nushagak AC has
8 been opposed to trap tag identification for many, many
9 iterations. And so, I'd move to oppose 131 for the
10 reasons stated.

11
12 MR. WILSON: Call for question.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yes, I need a second
15 first.

16
17 MR. WILSON: I'll second it and then call
18 for a question.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: That works. Okay,
21 let's put this to a vote. All in favor of opposing this
22 regulation for the trapping burden, please signify by
23 saying aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Opposed, same
28 sign.

29
30 (No response)

31
32 Motion carries. Any others?

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: There's a caliber
35 restriction here that could be kind of onerous too. And
36 that one proposal I think wants to require 243 or above.
37 And another one wants to require 25 caliber above. At
38 one time, I want to be sympathetic, but at the same time
39 that it just so many people use smaller guns and ammo
40 is getting more and more effective. Enforcement is
41 difficult. I hate seeing people use that smaller guns,
42 but they do. And I've seen caribou drop like a rock from
43 a 222. And I shot a caribou the next day with a 348 and
44 had to hit it twice. So again, the Nushagak Advisory
45 Committee opposed this caliber restrictions on 130 and
46 I think it's 130.

47
48 MR. RHYSHEK: Amy, can you read 130,
49 please?

50

1 MS. VANDE VOORT: Sure. So, proposal 129
2 establishes a minimum standard of centerfire rifle
3 cartridges. And so does one 30. 30 is what's required
4 for moose. So which one would you like?

5
6 MR. RHYSHEK: Maybe just both of them.
7

8 MS. VANDE VOORT: Okay. Okay. Proposal
9 129 establishes a minimum standard of centerfire rifle
10 cartridges for taking big game as follows. Legal rifle
11 cartridges for big game must have a barrel bore of at
12 least 0.25in and be chambered to fire a centerfire
13 cartridge of not less than two inches overall length,
14 including the bullet, which is designed to expand. I
15 have personally been aware of several moose that were
16 shot and lost after being hit with too small of a caliber
17 rifle. Some are shot several times with 223 rifles. The
18 shooters in some cases said they shot an entire AR-15
19 magazine of ammo but must have missed. I recovered two
20 moose that a shooter said they must have missed. I had
21 people tell me about shooting a brown bear over 18 times
22 with a 223, and then it died slow. I spent 16 years,
23 summer through fall in rural Alaska. I've heard about
24 the lack of moose hunting opportunities. The waste of
25 game due to the use of insufficient cartridge size is a
26 significant contributor to the dwindling game
27 populations. A larger cartridge size would reduce the
28 loss of animals significantly. Most state game
29 regulations require a cartridge minimum size for big
30 game hunting. Alaska having the largest big game animals
31 surely should also establish minimum cartridge sizes.
32

33 And then proposal 130 establishes a
34 minimum standard of centerfire rifle cartridges for
35 taking moose, as follows. A minimum of 243 caliber rifle
36 is required for taking a moose. We would like an
37 established minimum caliber requirement for moose
38 statewide as follows, require a minimum of 243 caliber
39 centerfire rifle for the harvest of moose.
40 Unfortunately, moose are shot with rifles and ammo that
41 are inadequate to kill them. Moose are one of the largest
42 North American big game species. Unfortunately, some
43 moose are shot with rifles and animals that are
44 inadequate to kill them. The common rifle to hunt moose
45 in some parts of the state is the 223 Remington. With a
46 high number of variables, perfect shot placement is not
47 a guarantee every time a trigger is pulled, and often
48 can end in a dead and unharvested moose with the 223 and
49 it just keeps going on about the 223.
50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Does somebody has a
2 proposal they want to put in front of the Board?

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: I might add that, you know,
5 I -- and I'm looking at Walter a little bit, I think
6 some places, some communities that would require them
7 to buy another rifle, you know, other places were trying
8 to figure out another use for the other 10 rifles. But,
9 for some people this could be a real burden. Like I say,
10 I'm kind of mixed on it personally but in overall
11 practically, I can understand that why the advisory
12 committee opposed it.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. You
17 know, some of these proposals is just so ridiculous in
18 my mind. You're, you know -- you grow up as a kid and
19 your parents or your uncles or something, they show you,
20 you know, they show you the proper way to hunt. You
21 know, when you're getting into areas here where, you
22 know, this is, you know, if somebody out there with a
23 22 trying to shoot a moose and somebody hasn't taught
24 that kid or that person the right way to do it. And for
25 us here to try to dictate, you know, what size of caliber
26 you're going to use for what animal. Who are we? I mean,
27 this is really ridiculous. Let's get on with this.

28
29 MR. TREFON: I'd like to comment also,
30 follow up on that. I -- it -- the 223 in my experience
31 of shooting, I got -- I actually got three of them and
32 every one of the 223 fires nothing but full metal
33 jackets. So, if you shoot a move through the heart, that
34 thing is not going to even feel that bullet go through
35 them. It's all about bullet placement. And that's what
36 I was raised up with bullet placement. And if you're
37 going to shoot an animal, I've always been taught behind
38 the ear and behind the neck. I mean, you can't go wrong
39 shooting an animal right there. You shoot them in the
40 heart, it's going to jump and it's going to run 300
41 yards easy before it even drops. So, bullet size -- it
42 all depends on the shooter.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think some of the
47 guys could probably tell you about folks that come out
48 here with rhinoceros rifles and still can't shoot a
49 moose. So -- but it's a pleasure to the Advisory

000132

1 Committee. Want to weigh in on it at all or just go on
2 by?

3
4 MR. RHYSHEK: I suppose -- I say we just
5 go on by.

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Imma [sic] leave somebody
8
9 else to make a motion on it then. And if we don't have
10 a motion.....

11
12 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Anybody have a
13 motion formulated?

14
15 MR. TREFON: I'll make a motion to oppose
16 it., bullet size.

17
18 MR. DUNWAY: I'll second.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Got a motion and a
21 second to oppose the caliber restrictions. Any other
22 discussion?

23
24 MR. TREFON: Question.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Question's
27 been called. All in favor, please signify by saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Opposed same
32 sign.

33
34 (No response)

35
36 Motion carries. Any others?

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: We could go on and on. I'm
39 not sure how many we need to do. Do we have to tackle
40 the evidence of sex ones? I think the Board is probably
41 going to do the right thing in that one.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So many of these.
44 Okay. Hearing none other proposals anybody wants to put
45 forth, we will move on to our reports and we'll go on
46 to Togiak next. Andy, are you still online? Oh, I'm
47 sorry. Go ahead, Leigh. Oh, John. You have the floor for
48 Togiak if you'd like it.

49
50

000133

1 MS. HONIG: John, are you still online
2 from Fish and Game?

3
4 MR. LANDSIEDEL: Yeah. I'm here, I had
5 to know which John anyone was referring to, but I'm
6 here.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: My apologies. Okay.
9 If you had a report you'd like to share with us, John.
10 This is the time.

11
12 MR. LANDSIEDEL: Yeah, good morning,
13 everyone -- good morning, wow. Geez. Good afternoon. I
14 just wanted to give a brief update on the Mulchatna
15 Caribou Herd. We did our second year of lethal predator
16 removal on the western calving grounds. Amy helped out
17 this year, so is in the mix. We removed 81 brown bears
18 and 14 wolves total. We did add a wolf removal period
19 specific to wolves in April. We collared 55 calves to
20 monitor survival to five months and then subsequently
21 overwinter survival and also to determine cause specific
22 mortality. We reduced or we documented reduced predation
23 events. But, we did have more unknown mortality causes
24 assigned to these calves this year. Our survival -- the
25 two weeks was 79%, which is within the range of the last
26 10 or 12 years of calf mortality studies on Mulchatna.
27 But it is one of the higher years, I think, of top 3 or
28 4 for the West. We had our population survey in July,
29 and we documented the highest number of caribou. Sorry,
30 there's an echo. It's messing with me. We documented the
31 highest estimated number Mulchatna Caribou since
32 regulatory year 2015. And we estimated 14,846 caribou
33 plus or minus about six. So, there could be about 15,000
34 Caribou on the landscape. But because in this group has
35 talked about the fragmentation of the Mulchatna Caribou
36 Herd, it's -- we think it's an underestimate because
37 there are additional animals out towards Cape Newenham
38 and Cape Pearce and Southern Unit 18 near Goodnews and
39 Platinum that are not included in that estimate. And
40 there was another couple hundred caribou in between
41 Clark's Point and Levelock this fall that we didn't have
42 any collared animals in documented moving down that far
43 south from the east Mulchatna.

44
45 So, the 15,000 animals, we believe to
46 be a conservative estimate. And we're optimistic that
47 that growth is in large part to last year's predator
48 reduction. So, the 2023 effort. Part of our effort to -
49 - or part of our assessment of -- echo is just messing
50 with me. I'm sorry. Part of the assessment -- part of

1 the assessing the predator program is increased
2 (distortion) survival. We document that through our fall
3 composition surveys, which we do in October. And that
4 survey gives us an estimate of the number of cows, calves
5 and bulls and population. Documented 32 calves per 100
6 cows in East Mulchatna, which is in line with their
7 long-term averages. In the West Mulchatna, where the
8 treatment, the predation control treatment, is
9 occurring, we documented 54 calves per 100 cows, which
10 is how it's been since at least 1999. And that's when
11 we have our sort of a complete data set going all the
12 way back to '99. But data becomes a little bit more
13 sparse before that. And (distortion) cows builds on last
14 year's 44 calves per 100 cows. So, I feel pretty
15 confident in saying that our treatment of predation
16 control has resulted in increased calf-to-cow ratio. So,
17 half survival to five months. Whether or not those calves
18 make it through to their first year of life is yet to
19 be determined. We have plans in the next month to go
20 recapture those calves with calf collars on them and fix
21 collars to the females so we can monitor them through,
22 ideally, the rest of their life. Some things are -- Just
23 keep in mind is that most of these caribou give birth
24 at three years old, and so the calves that were born in
25 2023, the vast majority of them will give birth to their
26 first calf in 2026 and subsequently the 2024 calves in
27 2027. And so, if we're to see more growth, you know, I
28 expect some of those hopefully larger cohorts from these
29 last couple of years will then start contributing to the
30 population and I -- and I'm optimistic that soon we'll
31 start to see more Mulchatna growth, is in that 27, 28,
32 29, 2027 - 29 time frame. And that's all I've got on the
33 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, I guess we are planning to
34 conduct a third year of intensive management activities
35 on West Mulchatna in May.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you,
38 John. I'd like to see if my Board has any questions.

39
40 (Pause)

41
42 Okay. Oh, we got one here from Richard.
43 Go ahead, Richard.

44
45 MR. WILSON: It's just a comment, John.
46 You know, we've noticed caribou and I noticed you haven't
47 been saying that you've counted these caribou over on
48 the Alagnak side of things on the east side here. There
49 is little herds of caribou that have occasionally been
50 spotted, and one recently was about 50 population here

000135

1 just out on the flats here, just outside of the Naknek,
2 North Naknek here -- village here. So might help to, you
3 know, to expand your viewing of caribou just a bit or
4 maybe the folks on this side that are doing surveys, can
5 help you out there to add those into your account.
6 Thanks.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, Billy.

9

10 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Billy Trefon, here.
11 I'd like to add to what Richard was saying there about
12 extending the survey areas because up in 9B, talking to
13 a lot of the pilots that that are actually seeing sparse
14 patches of 50 to maybe 100 caribou here and there up in
15 17 moving in our area, which is actually a good sign.
16 And listening to the numbers here on the Mulchatna, it's
17 actually growing. So, there's good things happening.
18 It's just maybe the expansion of the count should be
19 done better or expanded.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay.

22

23 MR. LANDSIEDEL: Through the Chair to
24 answer -- oh, sorry.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Go ahead, John.

27

28 MR. LANDSIEDEL: You know, we count
29 caribou in Units 9B, 7B, 17B and 18 and times
30 (distortion). And so, the caribou that Billy certainly
31 is referencing was most likely you know, it really
32 depends at what time of the year people are seeing
33 caribou. A lot of the East Mulchatna move into 9B in the
34 winter specifically, and sometimes in the early fall.
35 And I appreciate the update on, you know, some caribou
36 near the Alagnak and I would -- it'd be great, you know,
37 if you're talking with Amy or when you see her, you
38 know, giving her a heads up about it and if you did,
39 that was great. And if you haven't, then going forward,
40 that would be great information to share with her. So,
41 thank you.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Dan, go ahead.
44 Never mind, his question was answered. Okay. Any other
45 reports that you or Andy would like to share with us?

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 MR. LANDSIEDEL: I'll leave it to Andy.

50

1 MR. ADERMAN: All right. Yeah. This is
2 Andy Aderman with Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I
3 have a report that should be in your meeting books. I
4 believe it starts on page 73. And I just wanted to point
5 out a couple of things. We work with John and the
6 Department of Fish and Game in regards to Mulchatna
7 Caribou, mainly on the Togiak Refuge and out along our
8 western coast. So yeah, we plan to continue doing that
9 monitoring cooperatively with Fish and Game. I'm going
10 to go to the next page. And talk just a little bit on
11 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou. We've heard some of the
12 stuff earlier today on the Nushagak Herd. Most of this
13 I gave to you at your last meeting. But, just to review
14 the caribou herd was at 600 animals and we counted in
15 late June last year. And that's at the upper end of our
16 population range of 200 to 600 caribou. We had a meeting
17 with our committee that just deals with Nushagak
18 Peninsula Caribou Herd. The short of it is we want to
19 harvest 200 animals to get the herd back down around
20 400. And we have issued permits in six of the communities
21 closest to the -- closest to the caribou and we've had
22 very little harvest. We've had 4 or 5 in August,
23 September and then a couple others September, October.
24 Conditions are just, just terrible for getting to where
25 the caribou are. And so I remain optimistic we get some
26 cold weather and some more snow, but I don't know that
27 that's going to happen or not happen. But the herd is
28 growing rapidly, and if we don't get the harvest, we'll
29 be looking next year at doing some more opportunities,
30 maybe going with two caribou per hunter. You know that
31 that remains to be seen. But the herd is growing fast,
32 and we would like to get it down before it gets too far
33 out of control.

34
35 Yeah. I don't have much else to report
36 on. We're planning to do a moose survey in 17A, but
37 again, we're fighting conditions. Right now, we want
38 complete snow cover when do that type of survey. So,
39 we'll see what happens between now and the end of March.
40 With that -- well, I just had one more thing I know.
41 Madam Chair likes the invasive plant surveys. And at the
42 bottom of, I believe it's page 74. The last sentence
43 there, there's been no elodea detected thus far. This
44 is an invasive plant. Lives in the water and can kill
45 all the other plants and there -- it's something if it
46 gets started, if you can get it taken care of real
47 quickly, that's the best thing. Otherwise, you can be
48 fighting it for years and years and years. So, with
49 that, I will stop and I'll try to answer any questions
50 that you may have. You may have.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you, Andy. Questions from Council members. Go ahead, Billy.

MR. TREFON: Yeah. Billy Trefon, here. I was just looking at invasive species here. Is that the only species that we have that might be an invasive species in Alaska? Are there any more? I mean, we get a lot of people coming from Lower 48 around the world.

MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, through the Chair. There's a number of highly invasive species that are terrestrial and aquatic. I can't name them off to you right off the top of my head, but there -- they might look pretty. And, you know, people plant stuff in their gardens that are invasives, that they get loose and yeah, I -- there's a lot of examples throughout the State where in invasives have you know, ruined the habitat for the native species and that includes berries and yeah, I'll just stop there.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks, Andy. Go ahead, Billy.

MR. TREFON: Yeah. Thank you for that. Because as a wildland firefighter, that's one of the biggest concerns. Invasive species. And what I've learned about that, majority of our species are brought into your house as a flower, a plant, a pretty plant. That's where most of it comes from.

MR. ADERMAN: Yeah. And I might add you know people get it -- get the seeds and spores and whatnot on their boots and, you know, you go boating and you get out and you walk into an area, you're going to hunt and you're dropping some of those potentially invasive species, they can -- they could ride on the back of dogs or other pets. So, that's one of the reasons why the state has a prohibition on felt soled boots for fishing. You know, primarily fishing, but they like that felt. And they can hide in there, and cause problems down the road.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Thank you, Andy. Any other questions for Andy? Okay. As usual, we appreciate your good and thorough reports, Andy. Thank you very much. Next up will be Brian and Bryce for Alaska Peninsula-Becharof. Let him do their dirty work. Thank you.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Madam Chair, members of
2 the council, Bryce Woodruff with Alaska Peninsula and
3 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. I believe our report
4 did not make it into your meeting materials. So, I
5 apologize to the Council members and to Leigh for that.
6 As Amy was saying, we conducted a moose population survey
7 last fall in November, with help from Fish and Game,
8 Park Service and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. We --
9 with six planes, flew for six days and covered 279 of
10 the sample units. Each sample unit is roughly seven
11 square miles so, that was quite a big area. The total
12 area is GMU 9E, so that's about 12,000mi². We also
13 conducted 30 site ability trials to correct for moose
14 missed during standard intensity surveys using the
15 software WinfoNet that Alaska Department of Fish and
16 Game uses for many other moose surveys across the State.
17 We analyzed the survey data with that site ability
18 correction factor, and calculated a population estimate
19 of 1994 moose for GMU 9E. The last population survey was
20 conducted in 1983, and that estimate was about 2500
21 moose. Since then, the moose population has been
22 characterized on the Alaska Peninsula as stable at low
23 density to slightly declining. So, our population
24 estimate agrees with that. Any questions on that survey?
25

26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Council members,
27 questions? Okay. Thank you, Bryce. Go ahead.
28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah. We also helped with
30 the trend area accounts with the Big Creek Corridor
31 Survey. And the specific numbers for that were the 60
32 bulls per 100 calves that I mentioned earlier. And 24
33 yearling bulls to 100 cows and 32 calves to 100 cows.
34 Other than that, we got our results back from last
35 winter's Alaska hares surveys. We covered about 750
36 miles via aerial surveys and collected 39 new fecal
37 pellet samples. And from that, we were able to identify
38 22 new individual Alaska hares on the Alaska Peninsula
39 Refuge.
40

41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any questions
42 there? Dan.
43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: You said 16 bulls per 100
45 cows in your trend -- was a Big Creek trend area.
46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: Sorry, that was six zero
48 bulls per 100 cows.
49
50

000139

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, that sounds way
2 better. Oh, good. I'm glad. Okay. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I'm surprised I put
5 my hearing aids in. I got it right the first time. Okay.
6 Anything else? John.

7
8 MR RHYSHEK: So, what efforts do you see
9 in the future to get back to your 1983 numbers?

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: At this point, we will
12 likely not be able to do another population survey for
13 quite a while without significant help from our
14 partners. Fish and Game themselves were able to pull
15 together three planes to help with that survey effort.
16 So, it was a big collaborative effort. Other than
17 restricting moose harvest, I don't know that we would
18 have any tools to do that.

19
20 MR. RHYSHEK: Restricting Moose harvest
21 or propagating more bear harvest?

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: I suppose that would be
24 an option too and would be a complicated issue with the
25 guiding system on the Alaska Peninsula.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Dan.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I hope you can work
30 with the partners in the future. It really -- I know
31 closer I can watch it in Dillingham where BLM, the
32 Refuge, Fish and Game work together and it's really good
33 to hear working together over here because this is a
34 basic taxpayer hunter and stuff. In the past I used to
35 hear of turf snipping and this and that, and it just
36 doesn't go over well. And when we're here, it's all
37 cooperative, working for the good of everybody. It's
38 just really a good thing. So, I hope it can continue.

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, it certainly would
41 not have been able to happen without all of the support
42 that we got from other agencies.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Anybody else?

45
46 (No response)

47
48 Thank you, Bryce. Appreciate you being
49 here.

50

000140

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Let's move on
4 to National Park Service. Lake Clark National Park and
5 Preserve are you online?

6

7 MS. RUPP: Yes. Good afternoon, Madam
8 Chair. Council, this is Liza Rupp for Lake Clark. I
9 apologize for not being there in person. We decided at
10 the last minute that given our uncertain budgets and
11 things like that, that perhaps it would be better to
12 just join telephonically. Anyway, I have a very brief
13 update for you. Unfortunately, my update did not make
14 it into the book, but I'm hoping Leigh gave you a handout
15 with our Summer 2025 Updates. This is a best case
16 scenario, as you may have heard. There's a lot of
17 movement in the federal workforce right now, and we're
18 not entirely clear how many employees we will have this
19 summer. So, our goal is to accomplish what is listed in
20 the handout. But reality may have us shift some
21 priorities and maybe not accomplish all that we would
22 like in the coming summer. So as always, our, you know,
23 the salmon counting towers and the weir at
24 (indiscernible - distortion) are important so the river
25 mile 22 and our bear and other moose -- and actually,
26 I'm not sure if we -- moose is winter. Sorry, our bear
27 and eagle surveys are also important, but right now, I
28 can't promise exactly what we're going to be doing. But
29 These are our goals. So, thank you.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, thank you.
32 Questions from Council?

33

34 (No response)

35

36 Okay. We got thumbs up. Thank you. We
37 appreciate that.

38

39 MS. RUPP: Thank you so much.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Now to Katmai. Mark,
42 Suzy, Mallory. Whoever wants to be the next targeted.

43

44 Mr. STURM: Thank you, Madam Chair.
45 Members of the Council, we appreciate the opportunity
46 to speak with you today. Liza alluded to some of the
47 uncertainties we're dealing with on our end of things.
48 There is a lot up in the air at the moment. So, we are
49 learning as you are learning, oftentimes through the
50 news what's going on. I will say, as this season

1 progresses, we are we are equally concerned about the
2 environmental condition that we're currently
3 experiencing, and its prolonged and it's warm and it's
4 dry. And what that speaks to, with regard to water
5 levels, water temperature, water chemistry, its
6 influence on the biology of the systems that come into
7 the Park, and are supported by the Park and Preserve are
8 all of concern. And even just our operations, you know,
9 we need a certain water level just to operate normally.
10 And so, it's a big question mark. The other thing, I
11 guess I would say that might be of interest to the, the
12 RAC is our fire -- our wildland fire crews like, our
13 leads are just contacting us and just saying that
14 conditions are red at this time of year when normally
15 they're far from red. It's just a really -- it's a
16 really, really dry situation. And if it doesn't change,
17 it could lead to a very active season. I did bring a
18 number of staff with me today. I appreciate their
19 attendance and their support. We wouldn't be able to do
20 some of the things we've been engaged with recently
21 without their capable and dedicated support. This is the
22 first time we've had a chance to introduce Mallory. I
23 know she's been up here already to the to the table but,
24 I'd like to introduce Mallory Zharoff. Mallory, why
25 don't you take a moment to introduce yourself to the to
26 the Board.

27
28 MS. ZHAROFF: Hello, Mallory Zharoff. I
29 guess a little of my history. I come from Igiugig. That's
30 my ancestral tie. Both of my parents were commercial
31 fisherman. And I guess you could say my grandparents
32 were also commercial fishermen. So, third generation.
33 And I moved here two and a half years ago with my
34 partner, and it's been great. I really enjoy the
35 community and happy to be here and working with National
36 Park Service so, thank you.

37
38 MR. STURM: Thank you, Mallory. I guess
39 I would just say she's been doing fantastic work for us
40 already, just with regard to tracking all things
41 subsistence and tribal liaison type work. And just
42 making sure that we've contacted the right people and
43 are working with offices like Leigh's at OSM to produce
44 the information that these processes require. And so,
45 she's doing great things. And most recently she's been
46 working hard with the villages of Kokhanok and Igiugig
47 to get the permits in place so that the caribou harvest
48 if the snow flies, the permits are in place, and those
49 folks can get out and maybe take advantage of the
50 circumstance. So, all that takes a lot of time and

1 dedication. And she's here helping us with it, things
2 large and small. Thanks, Mallory.

3
4 We thought the Council might be
5 interested in hearing a little bit -- Mr. Wilson's
6 comments earlier today certainly spoke to the interest
7 of the of the Council on the Kokhanok shelf of caribou
8 herd. And I have Suzy Sanders here. If I could get Suzy
9 to come on up, she can talk a little bit more about the
10 structure of the hunt that we currently have in place.
11 A little bit about how we've worked to get it -- get it
12 established and maybe answer any questions you might
13 have about the hunt itself.

14
15 MS. SANDERS: Hello, Madam Chair, members
16 of the Council. Yeah. We've been working over the past
17 year or so to really put together all aspects of the
18 hunt. And what we've spent quite a lot of time on is to
19 develop the criteria, I know there were some questions
20 earlier about how did you decide on eight individuals?
21 What we did was adopt criteria that were used for a hunt
22 in Wrangell-St. Elias on the Chisana Herd, and we
23 followed that up with a meeting with the State, and
24 based on that, we did make some modifications.
25 Unfortunately, I did not bring printouts for you here,
26 but I do have a visual that, if anyone wants to, can
27 look at Leigh's computer. But basically we started with
28 what is known, and we've been doing spring surveys in -
29 - And I may end up deferring here to our wildlife
30 biologist, Leslie Skora, if you see me turn around. But,
31 we've been doing some spring surveys. So, Leslie,
32 correct me if I say anything wrong. The last 3 to 4
33 years in the in the Preserve, and those numbers have
34 been around 300 to 400, kind of creeping upward over
35 that time. And as people have alluded to, the numbers
36 have really skyrocketed in the last year to two. We did
37 some fall surveys, and I believe our numbers were
38 actually over 900 at that time. But that's the only fall
39 survey that we have. We'll be doing those again. We are
40 going to continue those. And we also have a project that
41 we're going to be starting where we collar some caribou
42 and hopefully that's going to allow us to get more
43 refined numbers, a better minimum count and will also
44 help us estimate bull-cow ratio, calf-cow ratio. So, our
45 criteria for determining how many will be harvested is
46 going to be based on both the population size as well
47 as the composition, and very roughly we'll be looking
48 at is the population remaining stable or increasing
49 versus is the population declining? We'll also be
50 looking at the calf-cow ratio and the bull-cow ratio.

1 And from those values we're going to be determining the
2 total harvest allowable, which is going to be basically
3 either 0%, 1% or 2%. So, we have used our -- for this
4 year's hunt we have used our data and then also
5 considered the data from the State and what they had
6 available with bull-cow ratios and calf-cow ratios, and
7 have decided on that 2% maximum with a population of --
8 we really don't know in the fall, other than that one
9 hunt or that -- sorry, the one monitoring that we did
10 this past fall where the numbers were a little over 900.
11 We basically, for this year, kind of looked at everything
12 and said that based on that, our criteria of 2% and, you
13 know, maybe we've got 400, maybe we've got 800. We're
14 not really sure in the fall. But, from that, that's
15 where we arrived at the eight individuals and said four
16 per community. So, is that clear to people? Do folks
17 have questions about how we arrived at that?

18
19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard, then John.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yeah. I just
22 wonder why are you looking to -- was it St. Elias, you
23 said?

24
25 MS. SANDERS: Wrangell-St. Elias.

26
27 MR. WISLON: Wrangell. You look to their
28 population and their herd for information on this herd,
29 when we have information across the creek over here,
30 Nushagak. Which is all pretty much the same sort of
31 terrain and lichen and stuff is more similar, I would
32 think, than you would find, you know, way -- you know,
33 east of us. So, why them and why not joining up with the
34 Nushagak people that have had pretty similar stuff going
35 on with that herd.

36
37 MS. SANDERS: So, to clarify, we weren't
38 basing it on their numbers or their population per se.
39 We were more using the criteria that was laid out in
40 terms of the population size and the population
41 composition. And then after meeting with the State, we
42 did make some modifications that they felt would be
43 better for the Kukaklek population. So, it really just
44 kind of helped develop the framework that we used, which
45 we then modified based on our conversation with the
46 State.

47
48 MR. TREFON: Madam Chair.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: John next, unless
2 Richard has a follow up.

3
4 MR. RHYSHEK: Are these tags going to be
5 distributed like via your tier two permit application?
6

7 MS. SANDERS: These are available to
8 members of the community. And I'm probably not the best
9 person to answer this. Yeah.

10
11 MR. STRUM: Madam Chair. The permits are
12 issued through the Office of Subsistence Management, and
13 they are being coordinated through the Parks
14 headquarters office with each of the communities. The
15 communities are identifying the recipients of those
16 tags. And it is a circumstance where there are -- now
17 that the term is failing me at the moment, but an
18 opportunity for substitute hunters, proxy hunters to be
19 able to hunt on those same tags. So, it's not just those
20 four individuals that receive the tags. They can also
21 request a support from other members of the community
22 to hunt on that same tag. I guess a couple of points of
23 clarification to Mr. Wilson's comment. Mr. Wilson, this
24 is still a work in progress. We are -- we did pull
25 together a harvest plan that does have a structure that
26 has been time tested and true with within the Park
27 Service and circumstances. We are absolutely open to
28 talking with our friends to the North and learning from
29 their experience as well and incorporating that. At the
30 end of the day, the same metrics I'm sure they're using,
31 that we're using. So, the underlying fundamentals of the
32 hunt plan are the same. But we may learn from their
33 experience, as you say, because of the similarities both
34 in geography and in proximity to these animals. So, we
35 had to start somewhere and this is where we did. The
36 other thing, I guess I would say is while we did have a
37 large number that was observed in the Preserve last fall
38 the, the population estimates that more closely reflect
39 the animals that are in the Preserve at the time that
40 the hunt is going on, or the results of our spring
41 counts, and they have been comparatively smaller, you
42 know, 425, I think was the last number that we had,
43 which is where we got the 8 from, 2% of 425 is 8, you
44 know, essentially. So that's where we've started from.
45 But all those parameters are open for discussion and
46 have been adjusted to suit what the community has
47 provided as feedback as well as other partners like the
48 state of Alaska.

1 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Bill is next and
2 then.....

3
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5
6 MR. RHYSHEK: One other quick question.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Oh, go ahead.

9
10 MR. RHYSHEK: Those eight tags, are those
11 eight caribou tags or eight bull tags?

12
13 MR. STRUM: There is no restriction on
14 on sex at this time. They could be restricted but they
15 are not restricted. We do recommend bulls only, but it
16 is not restricted at this time.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, thank you.
19 Billy.

20
21 MR. TREFON: Yeah. I was just wondering
22 about potluck kills or is there going to be something
23 in there for, like funerals or Easter or Christmas? Like
24 at Lake Clark National Park, not park. When we have
25 funerals, we ask them if we do a potluck hunt for moose
26 meat just so we have something for the (indiscernible).
27 Is that allowed?

28
29 MR. STURM: I'm aware of what you're
30 referring to, and it is possible that we could support
31 that. I know that Igiugig did have a traditional hunt
32 for moose last year. It was not on the on the Park, but
33 it was a big success, and they were excited about it.
34 And I guess I would just say that if that request were
35 to come, we would consider it. It's a separate process
36 that we would consider on a one-by-one case basis. Thank
37 you. Are there other questions about the hunt structure
38 itself? We do have a couple other things to share.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay, proceed.

41
42 MR. STURM: With regard to other aspects
43 that are related to this effort. There has been a -- I
44 guess a long standing -- I shared this in October, a
45 long-standing research project about the traditional and
46 customary access to the Preserve from the communities
47 of Kokhanok and Igiugig. It's sat on a shelf for 15 or
48 20 years. We pulled it off and made a decision that it's
49 appropriate and good to recognize that traditional and
50 customary access. And we are working towards essentially

1 supporting mechanized ORV access to the Preserve for
2 subsistence, for accessing subsistence resources. That's
3 a complicated thing in the national park -- in a preserve
4 and we need to do it the right way. So, we've been
5 looking for money and we have found some money. We think
6 we're a leading contender to get some money, to do the
7 compliance, to establish the trail system that would
8 need to be established and maintained as part of that
9 traditional and customary finding. And so, we need to
10 do the compliance. And then once the compliance is done,
11 we can start constructing and maintaining the trail
12 system. It's going to take years, but we're working on
13 it and we're working on it in collaboration with those
14 communities. Is there anything else you would want to
15 share about that particular aspect?

16
17 MS. SANDERS: I will add that yes, it is
18 going to take a while. We have started the compliance.
19 Interested in building a high-quality sustainable trail.
20 I would also point out, and I'll maybe have Jenya speak
21 to this. But, she is involved in a project with the
22 communities of Igiugig and Kokhanok to look at
23 traditional routes and to map them and use that as a
24 starting point for where we're going to put these trails.
25 So maybe with that, Jenya can speak.

26
27 MR. STURM: Before Jenya start, I'd just
28 like to introduce her. She's our new cultural resource
29 program manager. Not so new anymore, been here almost a
30 year and doing great things. We're very lucky to have
31 her. I'll turn it over to you.

32
33 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Thank you so much,
34 Mark. For the record, Jenya Anichtchenko. Thank you so
35 much, Madam Chair and Council members. Here comes your
36 daily dose of Russian accent so, please bear with me. I
37 want to provide several updates on cultural resource
38 management work and Katmai and Aniakchak, and you will
39 find details on page 79 and 80 of your handout. I will
40 just speak about three projects. I will follow up on
41 what Suzy said. We have secured some funds to do a LiDAR
42 remote sensing work this summer. And as Mark mentioned,
43 this work builds on long-term partnership with
44 communities of Kokhanok and Igiugig. And the goal for
45 the 2025 work is to follow up on traditional knowledge
46 about the routes to preserve and in Preserve to west
47 Kukaklek Lake, and optimal places to hunt for caribous.
48 And we're going to use this information collected by
49 John Salmon and in partnership also with Dillon
50 Patterson here. And fly over with LiDAR to collect high

1 resolution data on what we can see on the ground. And
2 this data will pertain to both cultural and natural
3 resources. So, we are looking to understand better where
4 traditional ancestral sites, archaeological, and
5 understand the natural sites too. And use this
6 information for our planning for ATV access to the
7 Kukaklek caribou hunt. Before I move to the next project.
8 Are there any questions about this?

9

10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Billy.

11

12 MR. TREFONL Billy, here. You were saying
13 that the Igiugig work when you come up with traditional
14 access trails to the -- or the hunting grounds. Are you
15 saying that it's going to allow ATVs on -- within the
16 Reserve?

17

18 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Mark, do you want me
19 or do you want to...?

20

21 MR. STURM: Why don't you let me answer
22 this? The short answer is yes, it is a -- it has been
23 determined to be an appropriate traditional and
24 customary means of accessing the Preserve. It won't --
25 they will not. Those trails will not be available for
26 other types of ATV or ORV users, and they will not be
27 able to access the park proper, but in the Preserve
28 itself. Yes.

29

30 MR. TREFON: Okay. Yeah. Thank you.
31 Because that's the same thing that we got going on in
32 Nondalton.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Richard.

35

36 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thank
37 you. In your research for cultural information, you're
38 going to two communities, which is Kokhanok and Igiugig
39 for knowledge. Well, I myself know that my grandpa and
40 my dad and their families, which were out of Levelock
41 spent lots of months and months and months trapping and
42 hunting up the Alagnak into Nonvianuk and have
43 established camps up in there throughout their years.
44 And there's more residents to be -- I mean, Levelock
45 that have done the same, and a lot of the residents at
46 that are in Igiugig now, not a lot of them, but there
47 are some residents there that have actually migrated
48 from Levelock that are in Igiugig now. And same with
49 with Kokhanok there. So, I'm just filling you in that
50 there are other communities, like I was saying earlier,

1 that have had use of those areas throughout the years,
2 and I would just encourage you to expand that knowledge
3 so, you get a full view of actually who's in and out of
4 that park. So, it's not just those two communities.

5
6 MR. ANICHTCHENKO: Thank you so much.
7 It's very valuable suggestion. Yeah, I'll come back to
8 you for names and more information about who I should
9 talk to. Sounds like you volunteered to be part of this
10 project, too. Okay great.

11
12 MR. WILSON: Yeah. One more comment. You
13 know, and you know, I'm glad that ATVs are going to be
14 a source of transportation up in there. But I would just
15 caution and -- the use of them for their size. I mean,
16 there's limited amount of size and weight. I'm assuming
17 that you're going to allow in there because here -- the
18 public corporation here is dealing with guides that have
19 gone into through our private lands with these bigger -
20 - I forget what you call them, but they're huge. I mean,
21 they're four wheel, you know, they sit, you know, 4 to
22 6 people in them and they go up in these trailers with
23 these big blue tires but they're called an ATV. So,
24 they're, you know -- No?

25
26 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: No, they're not but,
27 they've got like they've got tires like Argos, but they
28 go through the water.

29
30 MR. WILSON: They're huge so just when
31 you, when you. When you clarify what type of vehicle
32 that is able to access, you know these lands, let's make
33 sure that we have the right language in there so that
34 these type of vehicles don't get slipped in there because
35 the intent, I'm sure, right now for those two communities
36 is just the regular Honda four wheelers, which are, you
37 know 250s, you know, I mean, the smaller vehicles are
38 not in three wheelers and not these huge four wheel
39 rigs. So just, Thanks.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Mark.

42
43 MR. STURM: Through the Chair. Mr.
44 Wilson, we appreciate the comments. And indeed, I think
45 there will necessarily need to be a restriction on size.
46 This type of a trail system is not unprecedented in the
47 Park Service in Alaska. And I guess I'd say Denali has
48 one and they have a size limit of no gross weight less
49 than 1,000lb kind of a thing. So, something that just
50 sets us a reasonable limit that still allows for the

000149

1 type of access that's intended. And so, we will be going
2 through a compliance process. And at that time, I guess
3 we would appreciate your comments.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Excellent. Thank
6 you, Richard. Any other comments? Billy.

7

8

9 MR. TREFON: Yeah. On the ATVs, from
10 experience in my country, on wherever we go, I mean, an
11 ATV will kill the vegetation on the first pass. So, the
12 trails will have to be specific and designated, and
13 otherwise they'll be driving all over where that bike
14 is accessible.

15

16 MR. STURM: Through the Chair. We
17 understand that. We agree with that sentiment. And this
18 needs to be done right so that we don't find ourselves
19 trying to rein in something that is out of control. It
20 needs to be a respectful and functioning trail system
21 that allows for the access that it's intended to support.
22 And it's going to be a balance probably. And not
23 everybody's going to get everything they want, but we
24 will try to provide the access that's required to be,
25 you know, to successfully access the resources that the
26 trail system is there to provide.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you, Mark. You
29 may continue.

30

31 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Thank you. So, my
32 second update is about the project which has been
33 haunting the park for the last ten years. About ten
34 years ago, there was an unplanned road constructed in
35 the Brooks Camp. That road went through archaeological
36 site. It was constructed without previous compliance and
37 against several rules and regulations. And this is a
38 mess which most of us inherited. I think nobody in this
39 room was with the park at the time and we are on our --
40 I would like to say successful way to clean this mess.
41 Last August we removed the road and the preceding to
42 this walk. There was an extensive process of
43 consultations, and a very detailed memorandum of
44 agreement drafted. So, we are moving through the
45 stipulations of this memorandum. So last August, the
46 road causing this memorandum was removed. We had tribal
47 monitor with us who was designated by Council of Katmai
48 descendants. We had State Historic Preservation Office
49 blessing us in this endeavor. The monitoring report is
50 completed and was submitted to the (indiscernible) just

000150

1 about two months ago and we're waiting for the
2 signatures. And we're hoping that once that signature
3 is secured, we will be on our way to be restored and
4 programmatic agreement and to streamline our work on our
5 cultural resources in Brooks Camp. It's not merely
6 immediately subsistence related, but really important
7 to the Park.

8

9

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Good. Mark.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. STURM: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair.
Just very briefly, the reason why we're bringing it up
today is because the Bristol Bay RAC has expressed an
interest in this particular project in the past, and
this was a milestone year for that effort. We still got
work to do. There's still an ongoing collaboration with
tribal partners. And we're, you know, it's going to be
several years before it's completely done. But, I hope
that it's a good net result in the end. But, just picking
up the original road was, was a huge step forward. Thank
you.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thanks for that
update. Richard.

MR. WILSON: Thanks for taking care of
it. It's been on the books for a while, and this
community knows all about it. And what you guys have
done. And appreciate you guys reversing that. Thank you.

MS. ANICHTCHENKO: And my last update
we're moving from Katmai to Aniakchak National Monument.
I have two -- actually, I think really exciting updates.
We have funds to have a museum intern to sort out -- to
help us sort out the catalog Aniakchak big collection.
That collection was came from archaeological excavation
which took place in 2006 and 2005, I believe. This
position is written -- we are doing it in partnership
with BBNA and I've submitted that position description
about three weeks ago. So, it's in mighty hands of BBNA
and they will hopefully post it really, really fast,
really, really soon. And we hope to get somebody with
passion for the region. It's helpful if an individual
has museum experience, but it's not a must. We can teach
on the job. The position will be stationed in Anchorage
because that's where our collections are. It pays
\$22.50. And if you know somebody who would be interested,
I think my email is in your handout, but it will be in
partnership with BBNA. So, I'll have to I'll have to
wait for them to post it. So maybe that will give a

1 little extra help to make it moving. And another update
2 I have is we are planning to have elders and youth, kind
3 of a workshop in Anchorage for the same collection. Right
4 now, it's tentatively scheduled for end of March, and
5 we have funds to bring two elders and two youth in,
6 either from the region or family connection to Aniakchak
7 to join us on 3 days review of this collection. I am
8 meeting with some archaeologists who were involved in
9 kind of sharing their knowledge about the area, their
10 interest and stuff of this sort. This will help us to
11 complete the archaeological report and also hopefully
12 to kind of reconnect people with their ancestral
13 collections and sites. So again, my email in your -- is
14 in the handout and if you know who would be interested
15 in going for that, please let me know. Let them know
16 that we are looking for this -- these individuals.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Any
19 questions or comments? Yes, Richard.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Just reach out to our
22 local places here where you know, where people are
23 looking, you know, for the jobs and Anchorage there, you
24 know, Bristol Bay Exchange. And there's others here that
25 are there other ways you can get the word out without
26 having to put it on paper. You know, there's other,
27 other avenues here. So, yeah. Sounds exciting.

28

29 MS. ANICHTCHENKO: We're really excited
30 about this because it comes at the same time when we
31 have a hiring freeze. So, it's nice to have people coming
32 in. Is there a question coming?

33

34 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I think somebody
35 forgot to mute their phone. Yeah. No, but that is
36 exciting. But I would check because Dillingham has a
37 trading post that everybody looks to see what's going
38 on there. And then of course, Bristol Bay Exchange. If
39 you haven't been on it, you should be because everybody
40 announces everything there and yeah. You know, and the
41 radio stations too, you can always put something out on
42 the radio stations. But it's been my experience around
43 here that this -- here probably starting in March and
44 April, is when the kids start looking for, you know,
45 their summer jobs and whatnot and be an excellent -- and
46 I -- the other place I check into is the museums in both
47 places to see if they have any. Anybody in the wings
48 that they haven't been able to hire, that they -- or
49 that they think would be a good, you know, resource for
50 you.

000152

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Thank you so much.
Thank you. Great suggestions.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah. Maybe. Okay.
Any questions or comments?

MR. TREFON: I might have missed it, but
was that position an intern program or are you just
looking for somebody full time?

MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Museum tech position
is flexible. At this point, I think we have money for
2025 for full time. It is -- it will be a two-year
position. So, it will be 25 and 26. Will it be the same
individual or not? I don't know. I think it's the right
person and it's somebody who is available for two years,
that'll be great. Yeah. So, but for 25 at this point.
Yeah, it can be full time, but it also can be part time
again for the right person. Very flexible. The short
answer is we're flexible.

MR. TREFON: Oh, okay. Thank you. So, in
two years, you have time to build up a reputation and
look for another job on the same park.

MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Yes, yes. And like,
this is a good kind of on-the-job training too. Are you
going to apply? Okay.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Be careful, or you
going to be volunteering pretty soon.

MS. ANICHTCHENKO: It's a successful 15
minutes. You come back with two volunteers.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Anything else,
Mark?

MR. STURM: No thank you, Madam Chair.

MS. ANICHTCHENKO: Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. Thanks,
everybody. We appreciate all of you guys showing up and
being here. Thank you. That leads us to BLM. Did we even
have anybody online from BLM? Yeah. He's BIA, is Glenn.
And then other organizations, which do you know if we
have any? Okay. Don't leave anybody out. If they want
to be part of it. Then we'll move on to OSM and the

000153

1 fisheries resource monitoring update, Pippa and Jared.
2 Oh, yes, we may. I'm sorry I need to be reminded. Five
3 minutes. We're going to take a five-minute break. Pippa,
4 if you want to get set up, we'll come back at 4:35.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Okay, let's
11 Find our seats again, guys.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 Okay, good. Do we have Pippa handy for
16 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program updates.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 All of our conversations are very
21 important to us, so I acknowledge that.

22

23 MS. KENNER: Madam Chair this is Pippa.
24 For the record, I am ready, and I'm going to wait for
25 you to say go.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you. As soon
28 as we get our two other Council members seated, we're
29 going to start. And they're going to you. So, take it
30 away.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
33 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is Pippa
34 Kenner, and I'm an anthropology at the Office of
35 Subsistence Management. There is no supplemental
36 materials or anything in your book for this
37 presentation, it is oral. And I am updating you on what's
38 going on with OSM Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
39 There are no - the -- okay. So, OSM administers a
40 fisheries resource monitoring program to gather
41 information for the management and conservation of
42 subsistence fishery resources, fish, in federal public
43 waters. The monitoring program is also directed at
44 supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries
45 management by Alaska Native and rural organizations and
46 promoting collaboration among federal, state, Alaska
47 Native, and local organizations. So, this is a grant
48 program. It's a competitive grant program. Because we
49 have some new Council members, competitive grant program
50 where OSM through -- we have a technical review committee

1 made up of fishery experts from different agencies pick
2 a few of the applications to fund each year to research
3 subsistence uses of fish or fish that are used for
4 subsistence. So, OSM is expecting to publish that notice
5 of funding opportunity, what we call a NOFO, notice of
6 funding opportunity for the 2026 Fisheries Resource
7 Monitoring Program in the very near future. We're
8 waiting for it to publish. Application information and
9 supporting materials will be available at our OSM
10 website. So that website is doi.gov/subsistence/frmp. A
11 really easy way to find us is just the federal
12 Subsistence Management Program. Google it and we'll --
13 that web page will pop up. So, we're seeking applications
14 for projects that address priority information needs
15 that were developed by two Councils, this Council and
16 the Kodiak/Aleutians Council, which represent what we
17 call Southwest Alaska. Applications will be reviewed by
18 the Technical Review Committee, and summaries of project
19 proposals submitted for your region will be presented
20 to you at your next meeting for your input. This
21 concludes the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
22 update. Are there any questions?

23
24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Questions, Council
25 members. Sounds pretty straightforward to me too.

26
27 MS. KENNER: So, okay, we're going to
28 move on. We're going to move on to the Partners for
29 Fisheries Monitoring Program update. So, the Partners
30 program is another competitive grant for Alaska Native
31 and rural or nonprofit organizations to strengthen
32 Alaska Native and rural involvement. Involvement in
33 federal subsistence management by providing salary funds
34 to organizations so they can hire a professional
35 biologist, social scientist, or educator. Program funds
36 may also be used for science and culture camps and paid
37 student internships. So, the -- OSM is expecting again
38 for the notice of funding opportunity to publish in the
39 Federal Register for the 2026 Partners program. We're
40 expecting it to be published in the very near future.
41 And then application information and supporting
42 materials will be available at the OSM website, which
43 I've already given you. You may also contact Jarred Stone
44 or Liz Williams for more information about this program.
45 I also should have introduced Jarred Stone, who is
46 probably on the teleconference, willing and available
47 to answer your questions. And thank you, Madam Chair.
48 That concludes the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
49 Program update and I am here for any questions that you
50 might have.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Questions, anybody?
Okay. Once again, seemed pretty thorough to me too. Thank you. And Lisa, you finally actually have your name on schedule. You don't need to be called up.

MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Council. For the record, my name is Lisa Grediagin. I'm the wildlife division supervisor with OSM, and I'll be providing the OSM report. So, first of all, on behalf of OSM, we'd like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for all of you as Council members and all the work you do on behalf of your communities and the resources and subsistence users. So, thanks so much for your time and commitment to these meetings. So as many of you -- as many of you know, Congress administratively moved OSM from the US Fish and Wildlife Service directly to the office of the Assistant Secretary, policy, Management and Budget. This move became effective July 15th, 2024. This move was one of the many efforts that the Department of the Interior has made to strengthen the Federal Subsistence Management program and to ensure that federally qualified subsistence users and Alaska Native people have an opportunity for meaningful engagement in our public process, implementing the federal subsistence priority. This January, President Trump returned to the white House and with him, a new team of political appointees. Doug Burgum was sworn in as Secretary of the Interior. Shortly after, Charlie Danckert was appointed Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy, Management and Budget. OSM has been getting Charlie up to speed with the Federal Subsistence Management Program and its importance to rural Alaskans. However, we continue to work with many of the same people within the office of the Secretary in Washington, D.C., who helped us with our transition as well as the new political appointees.

So, this is pretty exciting news. In February, we welcomed three new public board members, Raymond Oney of Alakanuk, Benjamin Payenna of Nome and Frank Woods of Dillingham, and completed another successful Board meeting. We hope to have updated federal regulations for subsistence fishing published in the final rule soon. The proposed rule for the 2026 wildlife regulatory cycle, published on February 7th. And you all know we announced the call for proposals through April 4th.

1

2

3 Now for some OSM staff updates. In
4 December 2024, OSM officially welcomed our new director,
5 Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti. She had been acting in that
6 role for over six months until she was formally hired.
7 Previously, Ciisquq was Alaska Native Affairs Specialist
8 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Among regular OSM
9 director responsibilities, Ciisquq continues to lead OSM
10 through its administrative move and has been doing a
11 wonderful job. Since last fall's Council meeting several
12 OSM staff acted in different roles to help through the
13 transition to the office of the Secretary. Starting in
14 February, Chris McKee came over to OSM from BLM to act
15 as the Deputy Director for four months. Chris is the
16 Subsistence Coordinator at BLM and a member of the
17 Interagency Staff Committee or ISC. Previously, Chris
18 worked for OSM as -- in my position as the Wildlife
19 Division Supervisor and before that as a wildlife
20 biologist. With Chris stepping in to help, other OSM
21 staff have been able to return to their permanent OSM
22 positions. So, we continue to remind Council members
23 about the change and requirement for U.S. travelers who
24 must be real ID compliant to board domestic flights and
25 access federal facilities. I think we actually mean it
26 this time. We've been saying this for years and years
27 and the deadline keeps getting pushed back. But, now
28 beginning in May 7th, 2025, every air traveler will need
29 to present a real ID compliant identification to fly
30 within the United States. Even when you fly on small
31 commercial bush carriers. For our program, you will need
32 to have your real ID and time to travel to your fall
33 2025 Council meeting. So, if you don't have it now, get
34 it by next fall. The next -- by next October. You can
35 find more information on real ID requirements on the
36 State of Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles website.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

A brief update on correspondence. I know
you guys have this as another agenda item and a little
bit, but Council has received a handful of responses
earlier this year from the Secretaries based on issues
raised during individual Council meetings and the All
Council meeting last year. OSM has also integrated a
correspondence review standing agenda item in the
Federal Subsistence Board meetings to keep them
appraised of all ongoing and completed correspondence
to and from the Councils. We are aware of concerns that
have been raised on timely responses and are continuing
to work on ways to help expedite things as we move
forward. Lastly, a brief litigation update. A litigation
update was provided to the counselors during the fall

1 of 2024 council meeting cycle. Since then, in the Kake
2 emergency hunt matter briefing has been completed before
3 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and a three judge
4 appellate panel heard oral argument on February 7th. We
5 expect a decision sometime this summer. In the Kuskokwim
6 matter the district court found in favor of the U.S. on
7 all claims and enjoined the State from taking any further
8 actions in violation of Title VIII on the Kuskokwim
9 River. The State has appealed and briefing before the
10 Court of Appeals is now complete. Oral argument is
11 scheduled for April 11th. Thank you, Madam Chair,
12 members of the Council, that concludes the OSM report
13 and be happy to answer any questions.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I just have a
16 question for you. It was my understanding that if you
17 didn't have a real ID, a passport would serve still, is
18 that still true or for the federal, I mean, I've got my
19 real ID. I already got it done. But, for Council members
20 who may not have it but do have a passport, or is the
21 program going to allow them to travel with a passport?

22
23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Well, I don't think it's
24 up to the program. It's up to the airlines. And I mean,
25 I would think that's the case, but does anyone have like
26 a definitive answer? I mean...

27
28 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, I know they'll
29 accept the passport.....

30
31 (Simultaneous speech)

32
33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I mean...

34
35 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: It's an alternate.
36 Yeah. But most people don't like traveling with it. Okay.
37 So, go ahead, Billy.

38
39 MR. TREFON: And the same question about
40 the real ID. How about traveling in-state? Do you need
41 that by May 5th?

42
43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. May 7th. Yeah. I
44 mean, it's any airline. So just to be able to board a
45 flight, get through security, you know, you need that
46 real ID or a passport.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Don't forget your
49 button, Billy.

50

1 MR. TREFON: Sorry about that.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Any other
4 questions or comments?

5

6 (No response)

7

8 Okay. Thank you, Lisa. And then I'll
9 hand it over -- well speaking of correspondence, can you
10 tell us what actions were taken with the D1 letter on
11 our fall -- just want to address this because it's been
12 brought to our attention with the new administration
13 that some of those BLM concerns and moves that we
14 attempted to make might be rescinded. So, understand
15 that you were -- some decisions have been made that
16 could affect us, and we can decide what to do from there.
17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. HONIG: Yes. Thank you. Through the
20 Chair. I'm sure you heard with the change in the
21 administration the decision on the D1 lands was
22 rescinded. And so, at the most recent Board meeting,
23 after public testimony on many other concerns that the
24 Councils have written letters on -- the Councils that
25 wrote letters on D1 lands and the fishery management
26 concerns, the Board took action to forward all of those
27 letters, again in a package to the new administration
28 and the new Secretaries. So that is where those topics
29 and letters are right now, so.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Which means our
32 previous correspondence on those issues are included in
33 that. Correct?

34

35 MS. HONIG: That is correct.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I just wanted to
38 bring that to light. Dan, did you have something you
39 wanted to add? I just wanted to bring it to light,
40 because I know that I've been contacted by a couple of
41 different organizations who were concerned, knowing that
42 as RAC Board, we had been defending our position on BLM
43 lands and what we had previously said, and I was not
44 aware that this had happened. I just didn't see it in
45 the notes when I read through them. So, I'm feeling
46 fairly good knowing that our wishes will be forwarded
47 once again, to be reviewed again by this new
48 administration and hopefully taken into consideration
49 as they move forward. Does anybody have anything else
50 that they would like us to think about, or actions that

1 they would like to see have taken by this Council, other
2 than what's happening? Dan.

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't really have
5 anything to add, but I too was contacted and barely
6 remembered it and went dug up the letter and read it.
7 And I think it expresses our concerns adequately and so
8 I hope that's enough.

9

10 MS. HONIG: Through the Chair, if I may,
11 just if folks are wondering what the letter was, we do
12 have that available on our website, and I'd be more than
13 happy to forward that to Council members again to refresh
14 our memory, but it is under the Council's, web page and
15 we have a correspondence tile so, that is there too.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Yeah, sorry, I
18 forgot. We might have a couple new members that weren't
19 privy to that one. So, okay. With that, I'll hand it
20 back over to you to talk to us about correspondence,
21 next three subjects, it looks like. So go for it.

22

23 MS. HONIG: Thank you. I'll just cruise
24 right through those. So, there are two letters in your
25 packet that we received from the Secretary. So, let me
26 just find it here. Oh. They are, they're in your
27 supplemental packet. Sorry. So, the Department of the
28 Interior provided response letters that were received
29 from the Council on Fisheries Management concerns and
30 the request for the member compensation. So, you can
31 review those. But, just briefly, it was basically we
32 hear you and we support you. But, due to the change in
33 the administration, they can't take any action on it and
34 have forwarded that information on to the new
35 administration. It is in the supplemental book and
36 starts on page 29 and then 31.

37

38 And then moving on to the young leader
39 seat update. The Board advertised the open period for
40 the non-voting young leader membership on the Council,
41 and it recently closed two days ago on the 16th. And so,
42 we did receive some applications. So, that's really
43 exciting. And so those will be evaluated over the summer.
44 And hopefully we'll have information and some youths
45 before the next winter meeting.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: So that's awesome.
48 I'm going to break in here because I'm enthused about
49 this. So, are we -- you will be able to seat them or
50 will we need to seat them after you recommend them? It

000160

1 would be great to have them in our fall meeting and
2 participating if possible.

3

4 MS. HONIG: Through the Chair. The --
5 from what I understand, the evaluation criteria is still
6 kind of getting worked out, but I think it might be an
7 internal thing and then it would be announced like.....

8

9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Well, that would be
10 great because then they could be seated for our fall
11 meetings. So that to me would be best of both worlds.
12 Does anybody else have any questions about the youth
13 seat and I'm thrilled to hear we had some interest in.
14 Yes, Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Just curious how many
17 applicants you have?

18

19 MS. HONIG: I don't have that information
20 with it just closing so I don't have a tally, but I
21 think there's half a dozen so, that's really good for
22 the -- oh, this is statewide. Yeah, I don't know -- last
23 time I checked, we didn't have any for Bristol Bay, but
24 that might have changed. But there are applicants for
25 other Councils, which is still pretty great for the first
26 time advertising it. So hopefully the word can keep
27 spreading on that we can get more interest.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. And then you
30 want to go on to the declining balance cards.

31

32 MS. HONIG: Yeah. This one will be really
33 brief as well. So, at the fall meeting it was discussed
34 with the Council that the way members receive
35 compensation will be changing. So now there's going to
36 be two options that Council members can choose from and
37 that will be a stipend card, which is basically like a
38 debit card that will be loaded with the cash advance and
39 then the final payment at the end, or it can -- you can
40 choose to have just a direct deposit and the lump sum
41 will be put right directly into your checking account
42 if you choose so. So, I will follow up with Council
43 members to see what they want and get the appropriate
44 information to make that happen. And that's all I have
45 on that one.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Any questions on
48 that one, guys? Okay, seeing none. Yeah. I wasn't
49 anticipating this meeting to get done in a day, but we
50 have. So, with that Council member closing comments. Do

000161

1 we have anybody online again?

2

3 MS. HONIG: Nope. No hands are raised.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Anybody here

6 wish I...

7

8 MS. HONIG: Sorry

9

10 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Oh, go ahead.

11

12 MS. HONIG: Somebody's hand just rose.

13 Bill Kane.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Oh, yeah. Bill, go

16 ahead.

17

18 MR. KANE: Yeah. Thank you very much. And
19 I am so sorry that I had to step away for a little bit
20 of a call here, but thank you, Council. And through the
21 Chair. I just want to chat about D1 lands if I can, and
22 I'm not sure again if this has been discussed or brought
23 up, but I just wanted to -- for the record, my name is
24 Bill Kane. I'm representing Igiugig Village as the tribe
25 here, and I just wanted to speak to the critical
26 importance of retaining these ANCSA D1 protections
27 afforded to the BLM administered lands and Bay planning
28 area here and throughout the State of Alaska. The -- you
29 know, this is consistent with the Bristol Bay RAC's
30 decision and letters that they have offered to support
31 retain these D1 protections leading through the
32 environmental planning process, which concluded last
33 July of 2024. And it led to this final decision of
34 course, in 2024 that was meant to secure these
35 protections for the D1 lands, BLM administered lands in
36 the Bay Planning Area and elsewhere throughout the state
37 of Alaska. These -- the habitats within Bristol Bay are
38 at act as a natural portfolio, where the diversity and
39 complexity buffer that ecosystem against the climatic
40 and anthropogenic disruptions. The diversity ensures
41 ecosystem stability and resilience, similar to a
42 diversified financial portfolio that stabilizes economic
43 returns. Maintain the intactness of the habitats in
44 Bristol Bay is crucial for ensuring that the ecological
45 processes in the region continue to generate the
46 complexity necessary for sustaining the region's natural
47 resources. And this approach is vital for managing risk
48 in conservation efforts and for preparing for an
49 uncertain environmental future. The process involved a
50 very inclusive community and stakeholder engagement

1 dynamic. The EIS process exemplified exemplify
2 transparency and inclusivity, involving extensive
3 consultations with local communities, indigenous groups
4 and various stakeholders. These consultations ensured
5 that diverse perspectives were considered, particularly
6 those of directly affected populations, enhancing the
7 credibility and depth of the final analysis. It's also
8 true that retaining these protections aligns with legal
9 and moral obligations to uphold the rights and treaties
10 with indigenous peoples. It ensures that the lands will
11 continue to be managed in a way that respects the
12 sovereignty and stewardship of Native communities, and
13 this initiative had widespread community support and
14 advocacy among indigenous groups, environmental
15 organizations, and local communities maintaining these
16 protections. The unified stance reflects a collective
17 commitment to conservation and the recognition of the
18 area's significance as one of the last great strongholds
19 of wild salmon populations in the world.

20
21 In light of the broad support from both
22 the public and from numerous RACs, including Bristol Bay
23 and other federal boards. I'm respectfully requesting
24 that the Council members take actions, or take the steps
25 as they see appropriate to elevate this issue to the
26 Federal Subsistence Board, Secretaries of Interior and
27 Commerce, including the submission of all past letters
28 and actions on D1 lands, as these protections are
29 critical to ensuring this ecosystem, which provides for
30 our communities and the entire world, continues to
31 provide for future generations. It's imperative that the
32 decision to lift these protections, which is scheduled
33 to occur under this new administration, does not occur
34 in a hasty fashion. And from all aspects that we're
35 learning right now, the new Secretary of Interior and
36 other entities of this administration are moving to
37 effectively rescind the protections that are put in
38 place through the environmental analysis process that
39 concluded in July of 2024. That's all I have to say on
40 the subject, and I'm really grateful for the opportunity
41 for the opportunity.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Thank you very much,
44 Bill. We certainly appreciate that. We just had that
45 discussion in here, as you may have heard us. And, we
46 have agreed as a group, you know, that our correspondence
47 -- previous correspondence would be reiterated to this
48 new administration and the Chairs of the Secretaries as
49 well. So, we share your concerns, and I believe we're
50 doing everything that we can do in order to make sure

1 that those concerns are shared with the new
2 administration and the Secretaries involved. And
3 encourage you guys to I mean, we have to go through our
4 Council. We cannot go directly to the Secretaries or,
5 you know, to any of our representatives. We have to
6 through channels specifically as the Regional Advisory
7 Council. So, we certainly back you, and I'm sure some
8 of us will be taking personal initiative as well to
9 write our own personal correspondence in the same
10 concern. Anybody else have any comments or questions for
11 Bill?

12

13 (No response)

14

15 No. Thank you so much for taking the
16 time. And, yeah, we're with you in the fight, Bill.
17 Thank you very much.

18

19 MR. KANE: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Okay. Any other
22 closing comments or questions, or suggestions or
23 hallelujahs? Yeah. Okay I don't -- oh, Dan go ahead.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to thank all
26 the folks that have been here and put a lot of work into
27 the reports that we have in our books. And there's a lot
28 of good material in there. I keep these books around and
29 refer to them at other times. So even if we didn't read
30 through every piece right here, the works appreciated.
31 And keep up the good work and we'll look forward to you
32 next time. Thank you. And thanks to your fellow Board
33 members as well.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Absolutely. And I do
36 want to thank everybody for showing up. I honestly
37 thought we'd have a very empty room this time with
38 everything that's going on back in D.C. and so, I was
39 pleasantly surprised that we had Chairs that were filled
40 in quite well, actually. So, thank you very much for
41 putting your time and energy into making sure you made
42 it out to our meeting. We do important work here, and
43 we know that you acknowledge that, especially when
44 you're showing up. And I also want to thank Walter for
45 joining us. Congratulations to John on his SRC
46 reappointment and to Frank Woods too. I'm really tickled
47 that we have a representative from our area directly
48 that is sitting now on the Federal Board for us. And it
49 gives us even a nicer, and I guess, easier pathway to
50 make sure that our concerns are being heard. So thanks

000164

1 to them as well and Leigh, for all your hard, hard work
2 as well. Thank you very much. And with that it's 5:02
3 and I guess we'll go ahead and adjourn this meeting and
4 we'll see everybody in the fall again. Thank you.

5

6 MR. RHYSHEK: Don't we need a motion to
7 adjourn?

8

9 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: I've never had to
10 work with a motion, but we can certainly take a motion
11 before we do. So does anybody like that make that motion.

12

13 MR. RHYSHEK: Motion to adjourn.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

16

17 MR. TREFON: Question.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: All in favor,
20 signify by saying aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON MORRIS: Motion carries.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 164 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 18th day of February;

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

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

DATED at Isabela, Puerto Rico this 21st day of March 2025.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager