

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA

JANUARY 26, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson, Chairman
Charles Brower, Public Member
Rhonda Pitka, Public Member
Chad Padgett, Bureau of Land Management
Greg Siekaniec, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Striker, National Park Service
Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Teleconference - 1/26/2021)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 MS. DETWILER: Maybe I'll just quickly
8 check and see who's on while we're waiting for
9 everybody to join.
10
11 Is Tony on, Tony Christianson.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Don Striker,
16 National Park Service. Are you on.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MS. DETWILER: BLM, Chad Padgett.
21
22 MR. PADGETT: I am here.
23
24 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Chad.
25
26 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
27 Siekaniec.
28
29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Hey, Sue, this is Greg,
30 I'm here.
31
32 MS. DETWILER: Great. Hi, Greg.
33
34 U.S. Forest Service, Dave Schmid.
35
36 MR. SCHMID: Hi. Good afternoon, Sue.
37 Dave's here.
38
39 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Dave.
40
41 BIA, Gene Peltola.
42
43 MR. CHEN: Hi, Sue, this is Glenn Chen.
44 Gene Peltola is here, he just stepped out for a second.
45
46 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Let's see, Rhonda
47 Pitka, are you on, public member.
48
49 MS. PITKA: Hi, I'm here.
50

1 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Rhonda.
2
3 Charlie Brower, are you on.
4
5 MR. BROWER: Yes, I'm on.
6
7 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Charlie.
8
9 So did Tony Christianson come on.
10
11 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Sue, I just let
12 Orville know that he is not on so I hope Orville is
13 checking.
14
15 MS. DETWILER: Okay. And did Don
16 Striker come on from National Park Service.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So we're missing
21 Park Service, Don Striker, and Tony Christianson,
22 Chair, right now, and Gene Peltola should be back in
23 the room here shortly. And maybe while we're doing
24 that I will just go around and see -- go through my
25 roll call here to see who else is in -- on this call
26 with us.
27
28 Let's see, Department of Interior,
29 Legal Counsel, do we have Ken Lord.
30
31 MR. LORD: Hi, everybody, I'm here.
32
33 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Ken.
34
35 USDA Legal Counsel, Jim Ustashesfki.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MS. DETWILER: From the Department of
40 Interior, Field Special Assistant for Alaska, is Sara
41 Taylor here from that office.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MS. DETWILER: Okay. From Department
46 of Fish and Game, do we have Ben Mulligan or Mark
47 Burch.
48
49 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Sue. This is Ben
50

1 Mulligan and I have Mark Burch in the room with me.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Great, thank you.

4

5 Okay, I am going to move to the
6 Regional Advisory Councils now to see which Chairs or
7 acting Chairs are here. I'll start with Southeast, do
8 we have Don Hernandez or someone from Southeast.

9

10 MS. NEEDHAM: This is Cathy Needham,
11 the Vice Chair who's filling in for Don Hernandez
12 today.

13

14 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you, Cathy.

15

16 Southcentral, Greg Encelewski.

17

18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: This is Greg
19 Encelewski, I'm here. Thank you.

20

21 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

22

23 Kodiak/Aleutians, Della Trumble.

24

25 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm here, this is Della.

26

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

29

30 Bristol Bay, Nanci Morris-Lyon.

31

32 MS. MORRIS-LYON: This is Nanci, I'm
33 here.

34

35 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

36

37 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta.

38

39 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney here.

40

41 MS. DETWILER: Ray Oney.

42

43 REPORTER: Hi Ray.

44

45 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Mr. Oney.

46

47 Western Interior.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola, Acting

50

1 Chair. I'm here.
2
3 REPORTER: Hi, Jenny.
4
5 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
6
7 MS. PELKOLA: Hi, Tina.
8
9 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
10
11 Seward Peninsula.
12
13 MR. GREEN: Yes, Louis Green here,
14 Chair.
15
16 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
17
18 MR. GREEN: Yes.
19
20 MS. DETWILER: Northwest Arctic.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MS. DETWILER: Okay, no one from
25 Northwest Arctic at this time.
26
27 Eastern Interior.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 MS. DETWILER: Not hearing anyone from
32 Eastern Interior.
33
34 North Slope, Gordon Brower.
35
36 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, members of
37 the Board, this is Eva Patton, Council coordinator for
38 the North Slope. Chair, Gordon Brower, and Vice Chair,
39 Steve Oomittuk are not able to call in this afternoon.
40 They have other important obligations for their
41 community, however, I will address just a few points
42 from their annual report for the Council's report.
43
44 Thank you.
45
46 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. Let me
47 just go back to Eastern Interior, did Sue Entsminger
48 call in.
49
50

1 MR. KRON: Yeah, Sue, this is Tom Kron.
2 Sue sent me an email this morning saying that she had
3 another commitment but she thought that her Vice Chair
4 would be able to call in as well. So I expect we will
5 have Eastern Interior representation for the Council
6 presentations later in the meeting.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you, Tom.
11 We'll go back to.....

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Sue.

14
15 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

16
17 MS. WESSELS: Sorry, this is Katya. I
18 see a note here in our chat that the cell service is
19 out in Hydaburg so they're trying to figure out what to
20 do. That's where Tony is.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm on.

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Oh, are you on, Tony?

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, I finally
27 got through. It came back on, so I appreciate that.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Okay, good.

30
31 MS. DETWILER: Okay, we're just
32 wrapping up doing an informal poll to see who's online
33 and the other Council Chair I wanted to check on, or
34 Council representative was Northwest Arctic. Is there
35 anybody joining us from Northwest Arctic.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Sounds like not.

40
41 So, Tony, Chair Christianson, I just
42 went through the informal roll call. We have -- I see
43 Don Striker is -- I'm seeing a message that Don --
44 National Park Service, Don Striker is on, but is
45 apparently muted so he may be trying to get on.

46
47 MR. STRIKER: Sue, can you hear me now?

48
49 MS. DETWILER: Yes. Is that Don?

50

1 MR. STRIKER: Yeah, hi, I'm sorry. I
2 -- there's like three different mute buttons, I must
3 have had some strange combination.
4

5 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So I do believe
6 that once we get Gene Peltola back in the room, if he
7 is not here, then we actually have a quorum. And I
8 don't know if we're on record yet.
9

10 REPORTER: Sue.

11
12 MS. DETWILER: I guess I would defer
13 to.....
14

15 REPORTER: Sue, this is.....
16

17 MS. DETWILER: Go ahead.
18

19 REPORTER: Hi. This is Tina, I'm the
20 court reporter. I went ahead and did start the record
21 when you started the roll call just because.
22

23 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
24

25 REPORTER: So you can start whenever
26 you'd like.
27

28 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. I do
29 believe that we have a quorum. Let me just check to
30 see if Gene Peltola has come back into the room.
31

32 MR. CHEN: Hi, Sue, this is Glenn Chen.
33 Gene had to take a very important phone call, he's
34 still not back in the room but he's asked me to sit in
35 for him in the interim.
36

37 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So Mr. Chair it
38 looks like we do have a quorum. Everybody is online.
39 Glenn is standing in right now for Gene Peltola, who
40 should be back shortly, but everybody else is present.
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
43 thank you, Sue.
44

45 Thank you everyone for getting on and
46 establishing a quorum, welcome to the Federal Board
47 meeting on January 26th, public meeting. And, again,
48 welcome everybody. Welcome to the public and everybody
49 out there on the phone call. We look forward to a
50

1 productive meeting. And I always like to extend the
2 gratitude towards the Staff for making this possible.
3 It's a monumental task to pull us all together, and
4 then to do this over a teleconference when we know what
5 we would all prefer but, again, always appreciate the
6 work that goes into this.

7

8 We'll go ahead at this time, we're
9 going to review and adopt the agenda.

10

11 Sue, I'm going to ask you to do the
12 order of business because I'm kind of.....

13

14 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Charlie.

17

18 MR. BROWER: Just to start, I'm trying
19 to get into the behind the -- that website for proposal
20 slides and motion slides, I can't get into it, I just
21 wanted to let you guys know.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
24 thanks Charlie. Maybe we could try to troubleshoot.

25

26 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Okay, if you're ready
31 for me to go ahead, Mr. Chair, I do believe Orville
32 Lind may be working with Charlie to see if he can get
33 access to that website where the motions will be.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
36 Appreciate that Sue.

37

38 MS. DETWILER: Okay. And if you're
39 ready for me to go through the agenda I will start
40 that. First, I would say that just by way of
41 introduction; this is Sue Detwiler, Assistant Regional
42 Director for the Office of Subsistence Management. And
43 the Board agenda and Board meeting materials are
44 online. They're located at
45 www.doi.gov/subsistence/board. We will be updating
46 that website through the week as the Board moves
47 through the agenda. And people can also call into a
48 telephone number for updates on the Board progress.
49 That call in number is 1 -- there is an 800 number,
50

1 which is 1-800-478-1456, and a local Anchorage number
2 which is (907) 786-3888, to call for updates as the
3 week progresses.
4

5 So moving on to the draft agenda as
6 it's currently posted online. We're at the point in
7 the agenda, Item No. 2, reviewing and adopting the
8 agenda.
9

10 Following the Board's adoption of the
11 agenda, the draft agenda would then move to Federal
12 Subsistence Board information sharing. That's a round-
13 robin of the Board members to provide updates and
14 information.
15

16 The next, Item 4, would be the round-
17 robin with Regional Advisory Council Chairs to discuss
18 their topics of concern with the Board.
19

20 And next after the Regional Advisory
21 Council Chairs is a public comment period on non-agenda
22 items. This public comment opportunity is also
23 available at the beginning of each day.
24

25 After public comment period, Item No. 5
26 to Item No. 6, old business. There are four items
27 under No. 6, old business.
28

29 The first is individual customary and
30 traditional use determination process on National Park
31 Service lands.
32

33 The next two items are action items
34 pertaining to community harvest to be administered by
35 the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.
36

37 And then the fourth item is an
38 information item under old business, which is deferred
39 proposal WP20-26, which pertains to the use of
40 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines in the
41 Bristol Bay area.
42

43 Following Item 6, old business, we move
44 into Item 7 which is the 2021 to '23 Subparts C & D
45 fisheries proposals and fishery closure reviews. We'll
46 start out in that section with a summary of the
47 government to government consultations that was held
48 this morning with the tribes and ANCSA Corporations.
49
50

1 Following that would be the
2 announcement of the consensus agenda and the public
3 comment period on consensus agenda items.
4

5 Following that the Board would then
6 move to the non-consensus agenda items and those items
7 are grouped by geographic area. So we would start out
8 with Prince William Sound area, there are four
9 proposals in Prince William Sound dealing with Copper
10 River Fisheries.
11

12 We would then move to fisheries closure
13 reviews in several parts of the state, including the
14 Aleutians, the Alaska Peninsula and the Kodiak areas.
15

16 Following those fisheries closure
17 reviews we would then move to Fisheries Proposal 21-02
18 pertaining to the Kuskokwim area.
19

20 And then, finally, a fisheries closure
21 review for Nome Creek in the Yukon River drainage.
22

23 So following those proposals and
24 fishery closure reviews, we would then move to the
25 adoption of the consensus agenda, and that would close
26 out the fisheries proposals and closure review portion
27 of the agenda.
28

29 And from there the Board would move on
30 to non-rural proposal RP19-01, which requests Moose
31 Pass to be considered rural.
32

33 And from there move on to Item 9 on the
34 agenda, which is recognition of Harry Wilde, Sr., who
35 passed away in 2020.
36

37 And the final action items would be to
38 schedule upcoming Board meetings, including the 2021
39 summer work session and the 2022 April public Board
40 meeting.
41

42 And after that the Board would adjourn.
43

44 So that is the draft agenda as it
45 currently stands.
46

47 And, Mr. Chair, OSM can offer three
48 possible amendments to the agenda for Board
49 consideration if you'd like.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sue.
2 We'll go ahead and entertain those at this time.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So there would be
5 three amendments.

6
7 The first one would be to move the
8 recognition of Harry Wilde from late in the agenda,
9 it's currently Item 9, move that up to right after the
10 review and adoption of the agenda. And then have -- so
11 recognition of Harry Wilde, and I believe Ray Oney may
12 have some comments as well. And, in general, a moment
13 of silence for others who we've lost recently.

14
15 So that would be one amendment to put
16 that -- move that item right after the review and
17 adoption of the agenda.

18
19 The second item would be to add a
20 Staffing update for the Office of Subsistence
21 Management; Item 3, following the round-robin with the
22 Board members.

23
24 And then the third would be to add an
25 update on the Regional Advisory Council appointments.
26 And you could add that to just before Item 4, to have
27 that update right before the Regional Advisory Council
28 Chairs discuss their topics of concern with the Board.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So, Sue, just
31 to reiterate what you said, Harry Wilde recognition,
32 moment of silence, and then RAC update nominee
33 appointments.

34
35 MS. DETWILER: Yes. And also there was
36 an informal request for a Staffing update from OSM as
37 well. So we just throw that out there if you wanted to
38 add that to the agenda.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think that
41 would be fine if we just handled that under information
42 sharing, Sue, and I would entertain you taking the
43 floor and providing an with other Staff if you want to
44 present that.

45
46 MS. DETWILER: Okay, we can do that.
47 So that's my summary of the draft agenda and potential
48 amendments so I'll sand it back to you Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
2 Well, thank you for that, Sue. And you did a good job
3 of explaining how we hope to proceed today with
4 business. And with that I would open up the floor to
5 the Board for Board action to consider the amendment as
6 presented by the Staff.

7
8 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Gene,
11 you have the floor.

12
13 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair, I so move.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We have two
16 motions there. Recognition for Gene. Welcome to the
17 meeting, Gene. And we have a motion on the floor by
18 Charlie.

19
20 MR. PELTOLA: Actually I was going to
21 make a comment before the motion has been made, but
22 with concurrence of the motion maker, could I make a
23 comment and suggestion.

24
25 MR. BROWER: Go ahead.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

28
29 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Brower.
30 One thing I might ask that we insert in part of the
31 agenda is a report out from the Committee that was
32 assigned the task to review the agency subsistence
33 budgets and where we are on that.

34
35 That was a task assigned during, I
36 believe, our July work session.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Gene.
39 And I would ask Sue, Sue, is there somebody we would be
40 able to.....

41
42 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, I -- this is Sue,
43 and I would have to check with the Staff. I'm not sure
44 that we would be able to present that update at this
45 time. But we can do some discussing behind the scenes
46 to see what we might have available to present.

47
48 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA again.
49 I'd be fine with that as long as we get some type of
50

1 status update since it was assigned at our summerwork
2 session. And with that I'm fine to move on, and I
3 apologize for my tardiness everybody. I had a quick
4 call I had to address before we got started.

5

6 MS. DETWILER: So.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Maybe just a
9 suggestion here, too, maybe we could just put that at
10 the end of the agenda, that way the Staff has adequate
11 time to see if there is something they could answer.
12 We would just put that as the last agenda item on the
13 order of business before adjournment.

14

15 MR. PELTOLA: I would be fine with
16 that. BIA.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
19 you.

20

21 MS. DETWILER: And this is Sue. Could
22 I just get a clarification on what the title of that
23 agenda item would be?

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It was an
26 agency update on the subsistence budgets.

27

28 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
31 hearing no other discussion. Charlie, maker of the
32 motion, do you want to continue to make your motion
33 with the amended change to add agency update on the end
34 of the agenda.

35

36 MR. BROWER: I would so move to that
37 effect, Mr. Chair. That under review and adoption of
38 agenda, that we insert recognition of Harry Wilde,
39 moment of silence, update on RAC, and I didn't get the
40 last one, I think it was Staff something.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Budget update
43 for subsistence.

44

45 MR. BROWER: Okay, thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion's been
48 made on the floor by Charlie.

49

50

1 MR. PELTOLA: BIA seconds.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: BIA seconds.
4 Any discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: If none, call
9 for the question.
10
11 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair, just a
12 question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
15 Charlie.
16
17 MR. BROWER: Does that include the
18 request from BIA, Mr. Peltola, on the last part of the
19 agenda?
20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. We'll
22 slide him down to No. 9, we'll replace where we moved
23 Harry from to include an update on the agency budget
24 pertaining to subsistence.
25
26 MR. BROWER: Thank you.
27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
29 discussion, comments or feedback.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
34 question.
35
36 MR. PELTOLA: Question.
37
38 REPORTER: Who was that that called for
39 the question.
40
41 MR. PELTOLA: BIA.
42
43 REPORTER: Thank you, Gene.
44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Since we're on
46 the phone, Sue, maybe we'll do roll call.
47
48 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So the vote, as I
49 understand it, is on the amended agenda. I'll start
50

1 with Don Striker, Park Service.
2
3 MR. STRIKER: Support. Approve. Yes.
4
5 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
6
7 Greg Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife
8 Service.
9
10 MR. SIEKANIEC: I approve, Sue.
11
12 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
13
14 Gene Peltola.
15
16 MR. PELTOLA: Approve.
17
18 MS. DETWILER: Chad Padgett, BLM.
19
20 MR. PADGETT: Approve. Thank you.
21
22 MS. DETWILER: Dave Schmid, Forest
23 Service.
24
25 MR. SCHMID: Also approve. Thank you.
26
27 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
28
29 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
30
31 MS. PITKA: Yes. Thank you.
32
33 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
34
35 Public member Charlie Brower.
36
37 MR. BROWER: Yes.
38
39 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
40
41 And, Chair Tony Christianson.
42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I approve.
44
45 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Motion
46 passed unanimously.
47
48 (Pause)
49
50

1 MS. DETWILER: So let's see, that was
2 to vote and adopt the agenda as amended. So I believe
3 that brings us, since we just amended the agenda to
4 recognition of Harry Wilde, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you
7 for that Sue. And before we do I'm going to reach out
8 and call on my brother from the North, Orville, if you
9 wouldn't mind doing an invocation and prayer to set it
10 straight here today, I'd appreciate that and then I'll
11 go on and read the in honor of Harry Oscar Wilde. And
12 before we go there, Charlie, would you mind saying his
13 Yup'ik name for me so I don't get it wrong.

14
15 Qapar'culi.

16
17 MR. BROWER: You'll have to give it to
18 Orville or Gene, that's Yup'ik.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Oh,
21 Yup'ik, sorry there partner.

22
23 So, Mr. Orville, I'll call on you for
24 invocation at this time and then I will read the In
25 Honor of Harry Wilde.

26
27 MR. LIND: Quyana. Tony, folks, if we
28 would just bow our heads and close our eyes.

29
30 (Invocation)

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Amen. Thank
33 you, Orville, appreciate that.

34
35 We'll move on.

36
37 In Honor of Harry Qapar'culi Oscar
38 Wilde, Sr. Federal Subsistence Board meeting today.

39
40 Harry Wilde, Sr., known by his Yup'ik
41 name, Qapar'culi, was a charter member of the Yukon
42 Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
43 serving 21 years since the establishment of the Council
44 in 1993. He served as the Council Chair for 14 of
45 those years until his treatment in 2015. Harry passed
46 away in 2020, but will be remembered by all for his
47 lifelong community service and advocacy for the
48 subsistence way of life. Harry dedicated his life to
49 protecting the subsistence rights for the people of the
50

1 Lower Yukon River, and throughout the Yukon Kuskokwim
2 Delta Region. He was an avid hunter, trapper and
3 fisherman who lived a subsistence way of life to
4 provide for his family and community. Harry had a
5 strong voice and was a fluent Yup'ik speaker, able to
6 eloquently convey and translate information to all in
7 both his Native language and English. He was
8 exceptionally sharp and perceptive, but also known for
9 his brightening the atmosphere at meetings with his
10 great wit and humor. Most of all, he cared for the
11 well-being of his people. All of these qualities
12 allowed him to achieve many positive outcomes
13 throughout his distinguished life of public service.
14 One such example was his advocacy for the moose hunting
15 moratorium in the Lower Yukon Region. He conservation
16 efforts helped the moose population to grow to the
17 healthy abundant population it is now. These efforts
18 ultimately led to less regulation on moose hunting and
19 more subsistence food for people in the region. In
20 addition, many years of service on the Federal
21 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Harry Wilde,
22 Sr., also served as a leader on many local, State and
23 Federal Boards and Councils, always helping others.
24 His achievements included one of the founding members
25 of a regional Native non-profit, which later became the
26 Association of the Village of Council Presidents.
27 Chairman of the Azachorok Board of Directors, Mayor of
28 the city of Mountain Village, appointee by the Governor
29 of Alaska to the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Treaty
30 Negotiation and also served on the Bering Sea Ecosystem
31 Task Force and Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
32 Association. His life's work is exceptional. A hero
33 to the Alaska Native and subsistence rights for
34 generations to come. Harry O. Wilde, Sr., was a
35 husband, a father, a grandfather, brother, uncle,
36 friend, and leader. He will be greatly missed by all.

37
38 And so I just want to say it was an
39 honor to read that and appreciate that opportunity, and
40 I heard Sue state that there was somebody else who
41 wanted to make a statement.

42
43 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Mr.
44 Chairman. For the record my name is Raymond Oney. I'm
45 from the village of Alakanuk. I serve on the YKRAC for
46 a number of years, and I was fortunate enough to work
47 with Harry when I first served in this capacity in
48 2001. When I first was appointed to the RAC I was very
49 fortunate to have Harry there as the Chairman and also
50

1 with the other elders that were therebefore me. And
2 I've learned a lot from him over the years. His
3 dedication to his work and to his people in the area
4 and to be able to enjoy the richness of the resources
5 that he advocated on our behalf that we still enjoy
6 today. As you mentioned earlier, the moose population
7 in our area is continuing to be healthy and to grow,
8 and as a result of that, in the past, we used to look
9 forward to going moose hunting, and this was up around
10 Holy Cross area, Piamuit area, and people used to
11 gather funds in order to make that long trip up the
12 river and sometimes it would take at least two days to
13 get up there, and sometimes, you know, we'd come home
14 with no moose from time to time, you know, we were
15 always lucky when we made that trip up the river, and
16 it was really hefty finances on us to make that trip,
17 but over the years I guess due to the moose populating
18 and as a result of the moratorium that was imposed in
19 our area, the Lower Yukon area, we're beginning to see
20 the blessings of his work that he has done. Now, we
21 don't have to take that trip further up the river to
22 get our moose, all we do is just take a day trip, or
23 jump on a boat and go around a bend and you're able to
24 see moose just about everywhere.

25

26 So we're fortunate to have Harry
27 advocate on our behalf, you know, the rights of our
28 people to continue to subsist and to continue our way
29 of life so we appreciate you taking this time to
30 recognize him, and we thank you all for it.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
35 Appreciate those kind words.

36

37 At this moment, we'll just take a
38 moment of silence to recognize, both Harry Wilde, Sr.,
39 as well as all those who have gone on to the happy
40 hunting grounds this season. And just hope to
41 memorialize in our minds the memories of those people.

42

43 (Moment of Silence)

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
46 well, thank you guys for that, in allowing that to be
47 part of our agenda, and the invocation to the
48 recognition of people who are important to the Program,
49 as well as the people that have passed on this year,

50

1 and best wishes and prayers to all those families in
2 healing and discovering, you know, a path forward.

3
4 So just want to appreciate the Program
5 for allowing us to be a part of the process.

6
7 We'll move on to Agenda Item No. 3,
8 Federal Subsistence Board information sharing. And, of
9 course, this is an opportunity of a round-robin of all
10 Board members to provide update or information, or if
11 Staff has something they want to add that's pertinent
12 or important for the general public or for us to know,
13 this is your time to do it.

14
15 So I will open up the floor for any
16 Board member who would like to begin sharing.

17
18 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Park Service.

19
20 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Park Service
23 you got it and then I'll recognize Charlie second.

24
25 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. I am super
26 excited to just make a couple quick announcements about
27 the Park Service's efforts on behalf of our commitment
28 to subsistence and our subsistence responsibilities.

29
30 First off, we recently hired, or I
31 guess you could say, rehired a new Native Liaison
32 position, Maija Lukin, who many of you may know. She's
33 pretty famous. She's going to be joining our regional
34 office in Anchorage soon to help steer the ship, and
35 we're super excited to have her providing some
36 oversight to our programs.

37
38 We were also successful last year in
39 getting an additional operating increase in our budget
40 of \$300,000 to supplement our Subsistence Program in
41 the National Park Service, and with your indulgence I'd
42 like to have Joshua Ream introduce briefly the two new
43 members of his Staff that he's brought on to really
44 start growing our team.

45
46 MR. REAM: Thank you, Don. Can
47 everyone hear me?

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, can hear
50

1 you.

2

3 MR. REAM: Perfect. Yeah, thank you,
4 Don, for the opportunity to introduce three new team
5 members to the Subsistence Regional Team at the Park
6 Service and for continually supporting the growth of
7 our Regional Office Staff and, in turn, its capacity to
8 support the program broadly as well as our statewide
9 program in the Park Service.

10

11 Just starting with me, many of you know
12 me from my past involvement with the program. My
13 English name is Joshua Ream, and my Tlingit name is,
14 Xixch'iToowoo. I'm the regional Subsistence Program
15 Manager for the Park Service and I have been in my
16 current position for almost two years. I was previously
17 a cultural anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
18 Management.

19

20 Enough about me, though, I'd like to
21 introduce the three new members of my team.

22

23 Our first hire was Dr. Kim Yocum and
24 she comes to us from Colorado State University, Center
25 for Environmental Management of Military Lands as a
26 contractor. And through that program she had been
27 assisting with the management of wildlife resources on
28 military installations across Alaska based out of Delta
29 Junction. She's lived in Alaska and has conducted
30 wildlife-related research in the state for more than 10
31 years now, and she holds a Ph.D in wildlife biology
32 from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

33

34 Our second hire was Victoria Florey.
35 She is a social scientist by training and she has
36 worked with tribes and rural organizations across
37 Alaska for most of her life. She grew up in Ninilchik
38 and worked for the Ninilchik Tribal Council. She also
39 served as an intern in the Partners for Fisheries
40 Management Program at the Bristol Bay Native
41 Association. Victoria has a Masters Degree in
42 archeology from Cambridge University in England, and a
43 bachelors degree in anthropology from the University of
44 Alaska-Anchorage.

45

46 And then thirdly, we're excited to
47 bring on Dylan Patterson as well and he's joining us as
48 a Pathways anthropology graduate intern. Dylan started
49 a Ph.D program in anthropology at the University of
50

1 Connecticut this past fall and as part of his doctorate
2 dissertation research he will be looking at priority
3 subsistence information needs in Katmai National Park
4 and Preserve and Aniakchak National Monument. He will
5 be supporting the Subsistence Programs of those Parks
6 more broadly and engaging in subsistence-related issues
7 across the Bristol Bay region.

8
9 It's such an honor to introduce these
10 incredible individuals to you and I'm sure they'll be
11 working alongside of you in the very near future. All
12 three of them are listening in on this meeting and I'm
13 sure you'll have an opportunity to interact with them
14 shortly.

15
16 Thank you so much for your time.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

19
20 MR. STRIKER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Our
21 team is your team.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
24 appreciate that, thank you. Next, I'll recognize
25 Charlie.

26
27 MR. BROWER: Thank you, Chair. I just
28 want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I wish we were
29 all face to face, it's better that way. But this year
30 it's been pretty quiet. Haven't done much travel due
31 to this pandemic portion of our lives and hopefully
32 things will clear up soon. But I'm ready to enjoy the
33 Board meeting.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 Happy New Year everyone.

38
39 Oh, I just turned -- my birthday and my
40 anniversary the other day so thank you for not having
41 it on the same day.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Happy Birthday
44 and Happy Anniversary and Happy New Year, Charlie, it's
45 good to hear you.

46
47 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg
48 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, Greg. You
2 got the floor partner.

3
4 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tony. Yeah,
5 just maybe a few items I think are certainly worthy of
6 note.

7
8 So recently we hired Holly Carroll as
9 the Federal Yukon subsistence fisheries manager. We
10 brought Holly on back in November. She has over 15
11 years of experience working for both the Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game in research and management
13 positions on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers. She's
14 been the project leader on sonar and subsistence
15 harvest survey projects and, therefore, brings
16 knowledge of assessment and fishermen harvest needs to
17 the Program. Outreach with fishermen, tribes, other
18 stakeholders has been of utmost importance in her
19 career and she plans to develop that further in this
20 new position that she has taken. Holly was born and
21 raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, and we welcome her to our
22 Program.

23
24 I think a couple of other notes.
25 Retirements. You're probably all well aware of Tom
26 Doolittle, on December 1st, retired from the Office of
27 Subsistence Management. And Carol Damberg, our
28 InterAgency Staff Committee person for the Fish and
29 Wildlife Service retired on December 31st.

30
31 I also would be remiss if I didn't just
32 speak a little bit probably of our Covid19. And this
33 past year, as many of you know, our field projects had
34 quite a number of cancellations and complications
35 around them due to travel restrictions and just
36 addressing the health and safety of communities that we
37 work within and with, as well as employees of the
38 agencies that we partner with. I expect that the
39 Covid19 field project planning this year will be under
40 similar perspective, given that we still have a very
41 active virus in and around the state of Alaska and
42 elsewhere. I don't know exactly what it will look, it
43 will change as it moves through the season due to
44 vaccinations and efforts to get people in communities
45 vaccinated as well as the greater state of Alaska. You
46 know, we have been, I think, fairly active in trying to
47 help, as an example, out in the Yukon Delta in
48 distribution of vaccines where we can provide an
49 opportunity for us to fly a vaccine protocol into some
50

1 of the remote villages and such so we'll certainly
2 continue to help in areas where we possibly can.

3
4 And then as far as the Staffing from
5 OSM, I will just stop there.

6
7 And, Charlie, Happy Anniversary, Happy
8 Birthday, and Happy New Year to everyone as well, and
9 turn it back over and others can provide their
10 information sharing.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
15 Greg. Thank you for that, Greg. And also appreciate
16 the recognition of Tom and his retirement and Carol
17 there as well, and both worked hard to advocate for the
18 Program and definitely appreciate both of their service
19 and I had a wonderful working relationship with both of
20 those people, so, thank you for that recognition, Greg.

21
22 The floor is open for the next Board
23 member.

24
25 MR. SCHMID: Hey, Mr. Chair, Dave
26 Schmid, Forest Service.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, Dave. How
29 you doing, Happy New Year, you got the floor.

30
31 MR. SCHMID: I'm doing well. Happy New
32 Year to all of you. It's a sunny day in Juneau and
33 that's been very rare here. And, yes, congratulations,
34 Charlie, on your birthday, your anniversary and a Happy
35 New Year.

36
37 Like others we've had some Staffing
38 changes since the last meeting that I'd like to share.

39
40 Another Tom retired, Tom Whitford, who
41 had been with us for some time as our Regional
42 Subsistence Program Manager here with the Forest
43 Service. And in Tom's absence, I would like to, I
44 believe, Michael is on the phone, Mike Iliamini, has
45 stepped in on a detail assignment, from the southern
46 region, but has been doing just a great job working
47 with folks and we were able to -- we made it a priority
48 to fill behind Tom Whitford, and no stranger to any of
49 you folks there at OSM, or within the Program here, but
50

1 Greg Risdahl has come over to the greener side of
2 things here with the Forest Service, and he will be
3 filling that role as our Regional Subsistence Program
4 Manager. And it's been a little bit clunky when we
5 transfer someone from one agency to another but Greg
6 is, I think, just getting on board here and really
7 looking forward to working with Greg, certainly has
8 just a great background here in Alaska working for --
9 especially with the Department of Interior, Fish and
10 Wildlife Service, as well, and another fish guy, so
11 will get along great here.

12
13 And then I would like to announce
14 because we get a little while between meetings, Wayne
15 Owen, who's been a colleague and a dear friend for many
16 years, since we worked back East, together, has been
17 the Director for quite some time here, I think over 10
18 years, as the Wildlife, Watershed, Fish, Ecology, and
19 Subsistence, and the alter-ego here of the Regional
20 Forester with this Board and has sat in and has just
21 been -- has had lots of contributions. Wayne's not
22 gone yet but he has announced his retirement, we are
23 recruiting for his position, but he's just been
24 invaluable here both with the Program in Alaska and
25 certainly providing that kind of service here to the
26 Regional Forester, my predecessor as well as myself.

27
28 Like, Greg, Covid has dominated a lot
29 of our effort and programs here across Alaska. We have
30 been able to actually, you know, really implement most
31 of our critical type of work, especially in the field
32 and in some remote areas here. Our offices, while we
33 never closed, have been in a maxed telework environment
34 here, we continue in that as we move forward. We have
35 been working through all of our activities and it
36 certainly has limited some of our non-essential travel
37 that's maybe just about as equally important, but very
38 cognizant of introducing the virus into some of the
39 smaller rural communities that we serve and so have
40 only done that through a very thoughtful risk
41 assessment and analysis. As Greg shared and I'm sure
42 the other land management folks here on the Board,
43 well, you know this year's going to look a lot like
44 last year and it's also going to look a little bit
45 differently. We welcome the vaccine as we move
46 forward, but again we're going to do that in a very
47 thoughtful and in a way that reduces the risk, not only
48 to our employees, but the communities that we serve.

49
50

1 So with that, looking forward to a
2 robust discussion here even though it's over the
3 teleconference line, but thank you all for making time.
4 This is some of the most important work, I think, that
5 we do here across the great state of Alaska so back to
6 you, Mr. Chair -- Tony, and one of these days we'll get
7 to see each other in person again.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
12 that Dave, and, likewise, and thank you for the update,
13 and congratulations to you on your retirement Wayne,
14 been a pleasure working with you and appreciate all the
15 knowledge that you have shared over the years. Thank
16 you. He's watched me grow from a grasshopper to
17 sitting at the top.

18

19 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Tony.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. All
22 right, we'll move on, any other Board members like to
23 share or provide information.

24

25 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, partner,
28 how you doing, you've got the floor.

29

30 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, fine, how's it
31 going. Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Bureau of Indian
32 Affairs would like to announce that our BIA-Alaska
33 Regional Subsistence funding is still being executed
34 and signed by our Natural Resources Program at our
35 Central Office, that's what we call our D.C., office.
36 Please look forward to future emails coming from either
37 Glenn Chen or Pat Petrivelli on specific application
38 dates and deadlines.

39

40 Secondly, the Alaska Region is very
41 pleased to announce that we have selected Michelle
42 Washman currently with the Alaska Solicitor's Office as
43 our new Deputy Regional Director for Native Services.
44 We're just waiting for her enter on duty date to be
45 negotiated between our HR office and the Solicitor's
46 office here in Alaska.

47

48 Thirdly, I'd like to give a shout out
49 to Angel Dotomain, the Area Director for the Indian

50

1 Health Service and their contract consortiums for
2 getting a large quantity of vaccine out to our rural
3 residents. It's one of the reasons why the state of
4 Alaska has such a high vaccination rate compared to the
5 rest of the nation.

6
7 And, finally, and lastly, on behalf of
8 the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I'd like to express our
9 gratitude to Tom Doolittle for his contribution and
10 tenure at the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest
11 Service and his personal passion and commitment to the
12 Federal Subsistence Program. A lot of recent actions
13 over the last several years could not have come about
14 if it was not for his personal attention. For that, we
15 are very grateful.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
20 Gene. And thank you for that good send off for Tom. I
21 echo those comments.

22
23 Move on to any other Board member who
24 would like to share or provide information.

25
26 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair, this is Chris
27 McKee.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Chris, you have
30 the floor.

31
32 MR. MCKEE: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I
33 believe Chad to step away for a brief moment. I just
34 wanted to introduce myself to anyone that might be new,
35 I'm relatively new to the Bureau of Land Management. I
36 moved over to BLM from OSM in June as the subsistence
37 coordinator. So just wanted to reintroduce myself to
38 any folks involved with the Program that don't know
39 about my transition.

40
41 I also wanted to just give a quick
42 update on one thing that I'm helping with here at BLM
43 related to subsistence. I'm helping work with some
44 folks here in the State office and with some field
45 Staff and a working group looking to revise the Bureau
46 of Land Management's ANILCA Section .810 policy. As
47 many of you know the Section .810 of ANILCA requires
48 several agencies planning projects on public lands to
49 evaluate the potential effects of those projects on
50

1 subsistence uses and needs and to consider possible
2 means of avoiding or minimizing those effects. So what
3 we're doing is revising that, trying to get it to be
4 more receptive and clear for field Staff and like I
5 said there's a lot of field folks on that working group
6 that are working on that as well and we're in the -- in
7 the near future we're also going to be working on a
8 desk guide, a kind of how-to, technical writing guide
9 for field Staff working on .810 issues.

10

11 So just wanted to bring that to the
12 Board's attention and thank you for allowing me to
13 speak.

14

15 Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
18 Chris. Well, it's good to hear your voice, it's sad we
19 lost you but I'm glad you got a new position there and
20 you're still in the subsistence arena and you provide a
21 really affective voice for the job at hand, so, thank
22 you, and congratulations on your new position.

23

24 Any other Board member who would like
25 to speak or provide information to share at this time.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It sounds like
30 we're winding down on information sharing in round-
31 robin.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'd just like
36 to thank everyone for providing an update and the
37 recognitions that have been extended here to the Staff
38 and all the people who have invested in the Program
39 over the years and we truly appreciate that service and
40 all the people on the call here today, thank you for
41 taking the time to bear witness to the recognition of
42 important people and a moment of silence.

43

44 And with that, if I hear no more
45 information sharing or any Staff who wants to provide
46 an update, we will move on to the next agenda item,
47 which is the Regional Advisory Council update on the
48 appointment issue that we continue to face for our
49 Advisory Councils. So I'd turn that over to you, Sue.

50

1 MS. DETWILER: That would be Katya who
2 is going to give that update.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, sorry,
5 Katya, not Sue.

6
7 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, Katya, uh-huh.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Members of the Board. This is Katya Wessels, Acting
11 Policy Coordinator with OSM and I also did oversee the
12 appointment process in 2020 so I am going to provide
13 you with a brief update on the situation with 2020 RAC
14 appointments.

15
16 During 2020 open period for RAC
17 applications we received 74 applications, filled 62
18 open seats out of 109 seats total on all of the RACs.
19 Having 62 open seats equals to 57 open seats -- 57
20 percent open seats of the total number of all RAC
21 seats.

22
23 The InterAgency Nominations Panels
24 interviewed the applicants and their references and
25 rated and ranked the applicants based on the rating
26 standards developed and approved by this Board.

27
28 The result of the interviews, rating
29 and ranking were provided to the InterAgency Staff
30 Committee. Based on these results the ISC provided
31 their recommendations to the Board during the Board's
32 August 2020 work session. After reviewing the ISC
33 recommendations, the Board provided their
34 recommendations on the appointments to 10 RACs to the
35 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. OSM
36 finalized the Board appointment recommendations packet
37 and submitted it to the Department of Interior on
38 September 3rd, 2020, which is on time and provides
39 sufficient time for the Department to review the
40 Board's recommendations. On January 15th, 2021 OSM
41 received copies of the RAC appointment letters, signed
42 by the former Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Bernhardt.
43 The original appointment letters were sent by regular
44 post and the applicants, who's nominations were
45 approved, should be receiving their appointments soon,
46 if they have not already received them.

47
48 As of now, after January 15, 2021, we
49 still have 35 open seats on all RACs, which means that
50

1 56 percent of 2020 open seats were not filled.

2

3 Some RACs now have as many as 8 open
4 seats. Three of the 10 RACs did not receive
5 appointments at all. Those were the Western Interior,
6 YK Delta and Southeast RACs. Some RACs received
7 partial appointments that left them with three to four
8 vacancies, which is significant if the total number of
9 RAC seats is 10.

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We're working with our U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Headquarter's Office as well as with the
Department of Interior to see if we can get additional
appointments considered out of cycle. The application
period for this year, 2021 RAC appointments is open
until February 15th. By December 2nd of this year
we're going to have 62 open seats to fill and as of
today we have received very few applications. The
application period is open for another 19 days, and we
encourage people in subsistence regions to apply to
serve on the RACs. Serving on a RAC is the best way to
proactively participate in the Federal Subsistence
Management, and help to sustain traditional way of
life.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And I'm ready to answer questions.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Katya. I appreciate the update. Any questions from
the Board at this time.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
questions, we'll move on to the next agenda item and
thank you for that update, appreciate it.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: At this time we
will move on to Item No. 4, which is the Regional
Advisory Council Chair topics of concern with the
Board, which is an information item. And, so, I will
just turn it over to Sue at this time to recognize each
Council Chair in the order that she determines.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg
4 Siekaniec.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, go ahead,
7 you have the floor.

8

9 MR. SIEKANIEC: I think we were
10 expecting an OSM Staffing update before we moved on to
11 No. 4.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, okay, yeah,
14 I forgot to write that down. I knew there was one
15 thing I had missed so thank you Greg for that reminder
16 and I appreciate that.

17

18 If we can go ahead and, Sue, if you
19 could provide a short.....

20

21 MS. DETWILER: Yep.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: update
24 for.....

25

26 MS. DETWILER: Yep.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: OSM
29 and.....

30

31 MS. DETWILER: Yep, thank you for that
32 Greg. And if I hadn't given it today we could have
33 done it during the budget update later in the agenda as
34 well. But thank you for letting us do it ahead of the
35 meeting so that people, during the meeting, are more
36 familiar with who we have on Staff now.

37

38 So we have had quite a few changes in
39 the last year, some since the last Board meeting.

40

41 As has been mentioned a couple of
42 times, Tom Doolittle, did retire in December. So we
43 hope to be advertising for that position soon. I will
44 say that as with any new Administration, this one has
45 put a hold on advertising, filling positions at the
46 higher levels. This hold is currently for 60 days so
47 we're not likely able to actually announce that
48 position unless something changes, we're not likely to
49 see anything announced for another 60 days.

50

1 We have a new Anthropology Division
2 supervisor. That position has been vacant for at least
3 a couple of years. And we're very fortunate to have
4 Dr. Brent Vickers on our Staff. He's been with us
5 since December. He comes CDC and he has a Ph.D. in
6 cultural anthropology and has quite a broad breadth --
7 wide breadth of experience working with rural
8 communities world-wide through his work with CDC and
9 U.S. Aid and he was thrilled to be able to come to
10 Alaska and be able to work with us up here. So he's
11 getting -- he's learning about Title VIII and doing a
12 good job of getting his feet on the ground.

13
14 As Dave Schmid mentioned, Greg Risdahl,
15 our Fisheries Division Supervisor, has moved over to
16 the Forest Service. He left just a couple of weeks
17 ago. So in the mean time we have George Pappas on our
18 Staff, will -- is filling in for several months as the
19 Fisheries Division Supervisor in place of Greg. And,
20 George, will continue his work as our State Liaison as
21 well.

22
23 And within the Fisheries Division we
24 lost a couple of fisheries biologists to other
25 programs, Frank Harris and Scott Ayers. But we gained
26 two good fisheries biologists in the interim, Cory
27 Graham and Jared Stone.

28
29 In the Wildlife Division, you've heard
30 from Chris McKee, he was the Wildlife Division
31 Supervisor and he moved over to BLM so we advertised
32 that position, the wildlife position, supervisor
33 position, and are working through the list of
34 applicants now and hope to select someone soon. And
35 within the wildlife biologist -- within the Wildlife
36 Division we had four positions, three of which have
37 been vacant and so we are in the process of selecting
38 three -- hopefully three biologists to fill those three
39 vacancies now.

40
41 The Policy Coordinator position, that
42 is the position that Lisa Maas was acting in for
43 several months. Lisa's term in that position has ended
44 and so Katya Wessels, who has already -- has been --
45 who just briefed you is acting -- is currently acting
46 in that position right now.

47
48 And then, finally, the Regional
49 Advisory Council Coordination Division Supervisor, the
50

1 position that Carl Johnson had up until a couple of
2 years ago, Tom Kron has been acting in that position
3 for at least a year, probably more, since before I came
4 to OSM, and we're currently finishing up the selection
5 and HR process for the permanent supervisor of that
6 division and hope to have an announcement out on that
7 selection within the next couple of weeks.

8

9

So that is the OSM Staffing update.

10

11

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate that
Sue. Any questions for Sue.

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
that update, Sue. Appreciate all the work that goes
into filling those positions.

20

21

22

And we'll move on to Regional Advisory
Council Chairs and I'll turn it back over to you,
again, Sue, to recognize the Chairs in order.

23

24

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26

MS. DETWILER: Okay. Southeast Chair,
Cathy Needham, was on the phone.

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MS. NEEDHAM: Good afternoon. Thank
you, Mr. Chair and members of the Federal Subsistence
Board. For the record my name is Cathy Needham. And
it is my honor to provide a report of the Southeast
Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. I am the
current Vice Chair of the Southeast Council filling in
for the Chair while we wait to find out whether Mr.
Hernandez has been reappointed to the Council.

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The Southeast Council is very
disappointed about the last Council member
appointments. Not only this year but also in previous
years. As you are aware the Southeast Council
represents a large area made up of numerous islands and
communities that have their own culture and all have
very different resource management issues. On our
upcoming meeting agenda we will address our regular
business discussing annual report items, reviewing our
charter, hearing agency reports on issues we've been
working on for the past couple of years, and we will
also be discussing and crafting responses to more than

1 23 State Board of Fisheries proposals that relate to
2 our constituents in our region.

3
4 During this session, we will likely
5 have to do this work with only five seated Council
6 members when we would regularly have a 13 member
7 Council that has broad representation for both
8 geographic and issues within our region. I'd like to
9 point out that this issue has been a concern for us for
10 more than just this year as we have reported in our
11 past annual reports.

12
13 I anticipate that our Council will talk
14 about this at our next meeting and will likely send a
15 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board asking for
16 these members to actively advocate for appointments and
17 pursue any available avenue with the Secretaries and
18 obtain commitments to fully seat all Councils for the
19 state of Alaska in the future.

20
21 Last year for the fisheries cycle the
22 Southeast Council worked on a number of issues. We
23 made one recommendation on one fishery closure, which
24 was to maintain status quo for the closure on herring
25 harvest in the Maknati Island Federal public waters in
26 Sitka Sound, except by Federally-qualified subsistence
27 users. The Southeast Council has heard testimony for
28 more than a decade that people are having a hard time
29 meeting their subsistence needs for herring eggs and it
30 is widely known that herring numbers have been
31 decimated throughout Southeast Alaska. At our last
32 Southeast Council meeting we were advised that the
33 Kaagwaantaan Clan sent a letter to the Secretary of
34 Agriculture regarding a petition for extraterritorial
35 jurisdiction in this area because of increased State
36 fishery targeting 20 percent of the older spawning
37 fish, which drops the biomass considerably. The
38 Southeast Council feels that the continued closure was
39 consistent with explicit wording and the intent of
40 ANILCA and also consistent with fish and wildlife
41 management principles.

42
43 Other fisheries related work that we
44 did during this past year included submitting five
45 Board of Fish proposals regarding State management. We
46 discussed several Board of Fish proposals that also
47 affect constituents in our region and we'll also be
48 finalizing comments at our upcoming meeting on those
49 proposals. We have requested and hope to have one
50

1 Council member attend the Board of Fish meeting in
2 support of our proposals if the Board of Fish does
3 indeed meet -- or does not have a delay in their
4 meeting -- their regulatory cycle.
5

6 Outside of the fisheries, over the past
7 year, other business that the Southeast Council has
8 worked on includes writing several letters. The first
9 of these are in response to several Forest Service
10 projects that are going on within our region. Those
11 letters include developing scoping comments for the
12 Twin Mountain II timber sale. Expressing concerns
13 regarding Hecla Greens Creek tailings expansion with
14 respect to water quality. That mine is located on U.S.
15 Forest Service lands. And we've also engaged and
16 participated over the past couple of years in the
17 Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process. We sent a letter
18 requesting the suspension for the decision due to the
19 Coronavirus pandemic and a letter requesting that the
20 supplemental environmental impact statement be
21 conducted, in particular, with regards to subsistence
22 analysis. The Southeast Council also noted additional
23 concerns in Roadless, which resulted in letters
24 addressing ANILCA procedures as they relate to
25 subsistence hearing requirements and the authority for
26 the Chair of the Council to provide timely responses on
27 such matters.
28

29 Other correspondence besides Forest
30 Service correspondence that the Southeast Council
31 worked on included sending letters regarding the need
32 for a deer summit in Unit 2 to discuss emergent deer
33 issues. We've also sent a letter requesting funding
34 for Council members to attend the Board meeting. And
35 we also developed and sent an appreciation letter to
36 the Federal Subsistence Board for its decision on the
37 recent Organized Village of Kake food security special
38 action that this Board took.
39

40 Myself, and former Chair Mr. Hernandez
41 and Council Member Schroeder provided testimony to the
42 Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Division
43 of Office Management, OIRA, as it is often referred to,
44 under the Administrative Procedures Act, which was
45 based on the Council's comments over the Alaska
46 Roadless Rule work that we participated in over the
47 last few years. We intend to include that testimony
48 along with our next annual report.
49
50

1 The Southeast Council, like all
2 Councils, and including all Board meetings, have
3 conducted its past two meetings virtually, or
4 telephonically, and the Southeast Council recognizes
5 that these meetings really need to resume in-person as
6 soon as safely possible in order to effectively conduct
7 our business.

8
9 It's my understanding that during our
10 Chair's reports we also have the opportunity to share
11 with you our recent observations from across our region
12 so the comments that I previously made were actions
13 that the Council has participated in over the past
14 year.

15
16 Emergent issues and observations from
17 around our region include the Covid19 pandemic that has
18 had widespread impacts, not the least of which is food
19 security concerns. In Southeast Alaska we've had ferry
20 services suspended for some communities and travel
21 restrictions early on during the pandemic that made it
22 very difficult for our small isolated communities to
23 maintain a steady food supply. Much of the Southeast
24 suffer economically which, of course, is widespread
25 across the state and that suffering came from not only
26 commercial fishing, but tourism-based industry in our
27 region.

28
29 This has been a hard year for -- 2020
30 was a hard year for both subsistence and commercial
31 fisheries in Southeast, although there was a
32 significant effort in fishing for both subsistence and
33 commercial, there was very little catch across the
34 region. King salmon, coho salmon, and sockeye salmon
35 as well as the halibut fishing were not successful this
36 past year. In fact, even in areas that are not fished
37 commercially, subsistence users did not do well due to
38 the low returns of salmon across our region. This
39 effect in our region is really felt by the fact that a
40 number of our Alaska Native communities in Southeast
41 Alaska received a majority of their subsistence fish
42 from donated fish boxes that were brokered through
43 Bristol Bay commercial fisheries where some communities
44 received sockeye salmon and brokered through our ANCSA
45 regional corporation, Sealaska, where some communities
46 received coho salmon. So these low fish returns have
47 caused this hardship on subsistence users within our
48 region.

49
50

1 Most Southeast communities including
2 tribal communities were very disappointed with the
3 result of the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking and they
4 remain concerned about the impact that this rule may
5 have on the management of resources within the Tongass
6 National Forest. The Southeast Council may request
7 this Board forward its previously submitted comments to
8 the new Secretary of Agriculture and to this new
9 Administration. There have been reports that members
10 of Congress are looking at reinstating the Roadless
11 Rule and our 26 page comprehensive public comment
12 letter on this issue may prove to be very informative
13 to the new Secretary.
14

15 Local Prince of Wales Islands have
16 called into question the manner used to obtain accurate
17 wolf population estimates. Based on long-term local
18 knowledge of the resource they being there are many
19 more wolves than the estimate that is given. At our
20 fall meeting, the Southeast Council had Unit 2 wolves
21 as an agenda item to discuss the latest population
22 information and provide a recommendation for the
23 upcoming trapping season. The Southeast Council has
24 been engaged with the Forest Service and the Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game for the last several years
26 to find a better way to effectively manage wolves on
27 Prince of Wales Island. We are dedicated to supporting
28 a newly developed management plan and were disappointed
29 when we were told that the recent population count in
30 which the management plan is structured would not be
31 given to us so that we could provide our
32 recommendation. The reason given was that the Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game had to consult with the
34 Forest Service in determining this year's season before
35 the estimate could be publicly released, however, that
36 was our one and only time, as a Council, to provide
37 input and tradition ecological knowledge that could be
38 considered in the decision for the upcoming trapping
39 season. The Southeast Council has invested years of
40 effort into the culmination of the new wolf management
41 strategy. At a minimum a range could have been
42 provided at our meeting so that we could have provided
43 a recommendation back for the Forest Service to
44 consider and implement under its delegation of
45 authority. Given that there is a pending Endangered
46 Species Act petition for the Alexander Archipelago
47 wolf, the Southeast Council wants to stay engaged on
48 this issue and we hope that in the future the agencies
49 involve us and keep us informed and extend the courtesy
50

1 of allowing us to continue to weigh in on this
2 controversial matter while it executes and perfects the
3 new wolf management plan.
4

5 On a related note, I would like to
6 report that the public hearing held for the wolf issue
7 by the Forest Service was one of the most successful
8 that I have witnessed in my time on the Council. I
9 know our Council has been disappointed in the way
10 ANILCA Section .810 subsistence hearings have been held
11 in the past, but this wolf public hearing was very
12 productive. It provided for worthwhile public
13 engagement and I, personally, appreciated that Doug
14 Vincent-Lang, the Commissioner for the Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game stayed on the phone
16 listening to everyone on Prince of Wales Island's
17 concerns for the entire three hour meeting. I
18 appreciate the dialogue that the agencies were open to
19 modifying their original trapping season plan and I'd
20 like to commend the Forest Service for their efforts to
21 provide a productive public meeting and subsistence
22 hearing and we'd like to see some of those lessons
23 learned shared with the employees who arrange the
24 subsistence hearings for more effective Section .810
25 hearings in the future.
26

27 Other emergent issues within our region
28 include deer hunting being more challenging for this
29 past years than in most years. There is an increased
30 competition for this resource, particularly on Prince
31 of Wales Island in Unit 2. We have subsistence users
32 that are competing with wolf take on deer as well
33 emergent issues that bears are preying on fawns and
34 also impacting populations. Regarding bears, has also
35 increased bear/human interactions in Southeast Alaska
36 which is likely due this past year to an abundance of
37 the bear population and diminished fisheries resources
38 for those bears to rely upon and, thus, increases
39 bear/human interactions.
40

41 On the more northern portion of our
42 region, up in Yakutat, it does sound like that most
43 people are pleased with the relatively new moose
44 management plan that has been implemented. The moose
45 season was good on the west side of the Dangerous
46 River, however, moose harvest on the east side was a
47 bit slower. The Yakutat area is also experiencing a
48 heavy migration of waterfowl in some areas and this is
49 starting to cause some conflicts with potential safety
50

1 risks with aircraft. The airport is on the Yakutat
2 forelands.

3
4 Lastly, I'd like to express my
5 appreciation on behalf of the Southeast Council for the
6 Board's decision on the food security special action
7 submitted by the Organized Village of Kake last year.
8 The harvest of five additional deer and two moose were
9 distributed throughout the community and it helped
10 greatly with food reserves. As I mentioned before, we
11 have experienced ferry delays and failures in Southeast
12 and with the pandemic and the difficulty in accessing
13 food that Covid has caused, it was wonderful to see
14 that this Board recognizes the community's sincere need
15 and then take action to help them meet that challenge.
16

17 That concludes my report for the
18 Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council.

19
20 I thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ms.
23 Needham. Is there any questions for Cathy.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
28 presentation and covering an overview of Southeast.
29 Some of these issues I'm aware of myself and definitely
30 been a challenging season so appreciate the effort from
31 the Regional Advisory Council to still be able to
32 continue to weigh in in the extenuating circumstances
33 we find ourselves in, both in Covid and in
34 appointments, as well as the challenge resource
35 depletion region-wide and so just continue to hope the
36 Council can function and continue to provide a positive
37 avenue for the public to utilize in trying to get their
38 needs met, and so thank you for your report.

39
40 Any questions from the Board.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
45 hearing none, Sue, we'll move on.

46
47 MS. DETWILER: I believe Greg
48 Encelewski was here from Southcentral.

49
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Tony. And Federal Board members. Greetings. It's
3 absolutely beautiful. We should be out hunting
4 something down here in Ninilchik. Anyway I will give
5 you my report. I have some talking points and some
6 details.

7
8 Last year for the fisheries cycle, this
9 Council, we made recommendations on six fishery
10 proposals at its fall meeting. There were a lot of
11 good discussions, some of these proposals were quite
12 controversial and we'll be discussing in the future --
13 in the meeting. The recommended rescinding the fishery
14 closure on the Tanana drainage. We provided support as
15 written by the proponent for the non-rural [sic]
16 determination for Moose Pass. We wrote a letter
17 requesting that the Board delay the decision on the
18 National Park Service individual C&T issue until more
19 information is shared with the Regional Advisory
20 Councils and Subsistence Resource Commissions.

21
22 The Council remains concerned about the
23 impact and delays and failure to appoint Council
24 members as you have just heard. In the past few years
25 this has been an ongoing representation. So
26 Southcentral regarding decisions made on the
27 subsistence issues, we have a 13 member Council, we
28 were down to five, we got five more appointed here last
29 week, two incumbents and three new so we're still short
30 but at least we got some appointments.

31
32 The Council conducted its last meeting
33 virtually but it looks forward to resuming meeting in
34 person. And I will tell you that virtual meeting,
35 they're very hard to be able to gage people and
36 sometimes hear. These telephonic meetings we seem to
37 get by pretty good, but we're all looking very much
38 forward to getting a venue where we could all sit apart
39 from each other and converse.

40
41 Around the Southcentral region, Council
42 members shared some observations, if I may.

43
44 One was the Covid19. Everyone's
45 probably got the same pandemic significantly impacting
46 the communities both socially and economically.

47
48 Various areas in our region report low
49 number of sockeye and chinook salmon. There were
50

1 concerns of minimal escapement goals would be met in
2 some areas. Hatcheries saw some weak returns, some of
3 the hatcheries as well as the struggle to get their
4 cost recovery, their brood stock. We noted some high
5 water in some rivers and streams washed out some of the
6 salmon runs. For wildlife, many hours saw an increase
7 in most deer population and bear activity, however, the
8 weather was not good for the moose season in some
9 areas. I will report on my area here in Ninilchik, we
10 were pretty fortunate, we had a pretty good moose hunt.
11 Not many caribou had been observed on the Richardson
12 Highway at the time of our last meeting. We heard
13 there was disappointment from local families unable to
14 hunt due to the new wildlife special action, the
15 closure of 13A and 13B for non-Federal-qualified
16 subsistence users for moose and caribou. The Ninilchik
17 Tribal Council subsistence net on the Kenai was very
18 successful this year. And as a matter of fact we
19 fulfilled all Federal permits for the community -- were
20 filled, the Kasilof was a little slow, but that was our
21 saving grace. There was very few king salmon this year
22 in Greg's smokehouse and that's a really sad thing as I
23 provide for all our Council meetings and other things
24 so we ate red salmon. I got a few hidden king salmon
25 though.

26
27 So anyway that's my report. I'll be
28 getting into questions when you take up proposals or
29 want me to speak to them. And in my absence, DeAnna,
30 our Council coordinator. I do have a commitment on
31 Thursday to be out and she will cover my talk.

32
33 Thank you very much, and I'll answer
34 questions.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
37 that Greg. Nice to hear you and I hope you and your
38 family are well.

39
40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
43 for Greg.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tell Ivan I
48 said hi.

49
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: You bet.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
4 move on, next on the list there, Sue.

5

6 MS. DETWILER: Sue Detwiler here, that
7 would be Kodiak/Aleutians. I believe Della was on the
8 line -- Della Trumble was on the line.

9

10 MS. TRUMBLE: Yes, Sue, this is Della.
11 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 The Kodiak/Aleutians held their
14 meetings -- the last Council meeting, and the issue, I
15 think that we first have in our report has to do with
16 Adak caribou and the continued need to have a
17 management plan put in place. And I'm hopeful and we
18 are hopeful that that will be through the process and I
19 know there was some discussion on the Alaska Maritime
20 supporting it and hopefully being the lead to take this
21 on. I think it's also very important and looking at
22 some of the numbers from prior years and I think it's
23 an important issue, especially it's important for Adak.

24

25 Izenbek National Wildlife Refuge. The
26 Council would like to express their -- they're very
27 pleased that someone has been hired and is working at
28 the Refuge in Cold Bay, that there is a manager, and
29 we're very thankful for that.

30

31 We're hopeful that with Covid that at
32 some point in time that people can start traveling
33 again and being able to see some of our communities.

34

35 The Regional Council expressed, I
36 think, maybe that, you know, we still have two vacant
37 seats and possibly designating alternate members to
38 each of the 10 Councils as needed for open seats, to be
39 able to continue to do business.

40

41 Sea otter designation. Kodiak remains
42 -- the question I think still remains is how they are
43 part of the designation of the Southwest Alaska stock,
44 and they feel like that something needs to be done to
45 separate that designation of the groups, or the areas.
46 It's including the Southwest and the Prince William and
47 the Southeast stocks are identified as different stock
48 designation and wanting to know what the criteria,
49 administrative genetic population size and reviews to

50

1 designate the Kodiak Island sea otter population as
2 part of the Southwest population. There is still --
3 the population within the Kodiak Archipelago be
4 classified as a separate stock and that the stock
5 assessment and habitat assessment within the Kodiak
6 area should be conducted to determine if the population
7 is healthy. There are members of our Council that
8 would like to continue to participate in sponsored
9 meetings and other public forums regarding the sea
10 otters within the Kodiak area, the Council is willing
11 to send a delegate to future meetings if funding is
12 available. And would like to be able to have a member
13 off the Council sponsored to be able to attend and
14 participate.

15
16 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
17 Program, we worked this with the Bristol Bay area
18 Regional Advisory Council, and we would really like to
19 say and express our appreciation for both Robbin LaVine
20 and Jared Stone. I've participated in a number of
21 these sessions and this is one that we all agree was
22 the most prepared, the presentation and the amount of
23 work put together by both Robbin and Jared was amazing.
24 There was also -- 2022 draft priority needs for the
25 Southwest region together, there was also a young man
26 by the name of Keith Ivy who was an intern and created
27 some of the backlog information material and all of
28 this was just tremendous amazing work and I think he's
29 a young man that we need to keep our eyes on, hopefully
30 to be a part of this process in the future. But we
31 definitely would like to thank them and also Robbin and
32 Jared and helping us working on the subsistence and
33 fishery closure review process.

34
35 Food security. We didn't really do
36 anything with that. There was some discussion on
37 trying to do something with caribou, that didn't -- of
38 course, one, this was decided in the last meeting, it
39 was passed those dates.

40
41 The closure reviews. We continue to
42 work on that. It was a little -- it was kind of tough
43 to try to get through this process. This year has been
44 fairly -- a bit of a struggle, not only in trying to
45 create meetings of getting people together to discuss
46 some of the things, but this -- our goal, I think at
47 this point is to defer this until the next fisheries
48 cycle. But hopefully for the portion of the
49 Kodiak/Aleutians and then Aleutians, specifically, I
50

1 think, to -- hopefully we'll be able to start traveling
2 again to have our meetings and if we get our meeting in
3 Cold Bay for the fall, this is a place where we really
4 need to talk about Russell Creek and the Lagoon, and
5 then -- and also the Unalaska Bay drainage. And
6 working with Kodiak, and they were, I think, trying to
7 get some -- work some meetings together with some of
8 the Advisory Committees there on these seven closures.

9
10 Kodiak also still, I think, has a
11 concern with the invasive species, and that is the
12 crayfish in the Buskin Lake drainage and the river, and
13 I think there was some -- there is some effort being
14 done with the Sun'aq Tribe on this. So we continue to
15 work on that.

16
17 And other than that I think this past
18 year, I think many of the regions, the salmon was very
19 bad for the commercial fishermen and it's been slow and
20 the issue with Covid has put quite the strain on many
21 of us in our communities, but people continue to work
22 together to try to get past it. I think as we all are
23 aware, there's a fairly big impact in Unalaska, Dutch
24 Harbor right now with the three processors closed due
25 to Covid. So we're hopeful with the vaccinations being
26 done in our communities that we can get a handle on
27 this and hopefully put some of this behind us in the
28 future.

29
30 But that's basically where we are at at
31 this time. And if anyone has any questions I can
32 answer, I would.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
37 Appreciate that for the reporting out of your guys'
38 area. Is there any questions.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
43 appreciate the thorough report there.

44
45 Sue, we'll move on to the next Regional
46 Advisory Council Chair.

47
48 MS. DETWILER: Bristol Bay. Nanci
49 Morris Lyon.

50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you. This is
2 Nanci Morris Lyon with the Bristol Bay Regional
3 Advisory Council. And I'll keep this as brief as
4 possible since we have lots of reports to go through.
5

6 At had our fall October 2020 public
7 meeting we discussed individual C&T that the Park
8 Service is working on revising and we moved to defer
9 that process and the guidelines for all National
10 ParkLands in Alaska to our March meeting because we
11 were not that familiar with what they were working on
12 putting through and we look forward to hearing more
13 about that at our meeting here next week, or the next
14 10 days I guess. And the Council stated that it needs
15 additional time to review and develop its comments on
16 the document. This is very important to those that
17 live basically in the northeast region of our area
18 because it's pretty much surrounded by ParkLands, and a
19 lot of subsistence is on Park Service lands in order to
20 subsist and get the resources that they need for
21 winter.
22

23 OSM Staff used the Microsoft Teams, the
24 same thing we're using now in addition to our audio and
25 the videoconferencing was a great way to introduce
26 agency reports and other issues displayed that we
27 needed to see in front of us for us to follow along for
28 our meeting during this pandemic. It's been a very
29 meaningful way to get the Council members engaged as
30 well as other participants. The videoconferencing
31 should be investigated for future teleconference public
32 meetings to accommodate documents to be displayed
33 visually as well when we have agency Staff perhaps that
34 are kept away from our meetings because of weather or
35 other obligations, they can still participate and make
36 use of that. I always like to see the bright side of
37 things and I do see that as potentially something that
38 we can look at using in the future very effectively. I
39 would say, though, that during the Regional Advisory
40 Council public meetings that we did by teleconference,
41 there was a huge lack of public participation through
42 the teleconference method. We normally have fairly
43 decent public participation. We had none. So it just
44 -- I think that we decided that OSM should conduct
45 additional outreach efforts to notify the public and
46 encourage the public to participate when holding public
47 meetings via teleconference to engage in discussions on
48 important subsistence related issues. The other thing
49 that was entirely missing as also part of that public
50

1 participation was the fact that we generally have our
2 meeting at the Dillingham School and have participation
3 by school children and teachers, during and throughout
4 the day and that has become an important part of
5 integrating into our Advisory Council, future --
6 hopefully future applicants for the openings that we
7 have.

8
9 Which, of course, as everyone else, we
10 are very much for our appointments and wishing that we
11 could have more timely appointments and a more
12 thorough, quicker vetting of them. We didn't even have
13 the ability to have a quorum for our February meeting
14 until just literally the Thursday or Friday of last
15 week, we finally got enough appointments that we could
16 actually hold a meeting. Our Council reaches through
17 so many miles of land and it spreads so far north and
18 south that, in good conscious, I could not Chair a
19 meeting without having proper representation from these
20 areas because sometimes it's years before we are able
21 to go and visit these places and hear and listen to the
22 people to know what they need. We need to have these
23 people seated and at the table when we make these
24 decisions for our area. So I think it's a huge
25 importance.

26
27 The Council prioritized the research of
28 sockeye salmon as meaning the Chignik Watershed. This
29 is a perfect example of what I was just saying. The
30 Chigniks are from the far stretches to the south of our
31 region and this fishery is in extremely, extremely bad
32 shape. It's in danger and is not feeding the people of
33 that area at all. A lot of the Bristol Bay fishermen
34 have recognized that and have participated in helping
35 them out by sending fish down there but we do need much
36 more research for this fishery and have answers
37 provided to see why, the cause of the runs, and their
38 huge decreases, is it environmental factors, is it
39 climate change, is it other fisheries. We just want to
40 reiterate that the funding for this fishery needs to
41 continue to be a priority just because of the very
42 desperate straight that the Chignik communities are in
43 currently.

44
45 One of the other reasons that we're
46 having a lot of difficulty, the Alaska Department of
47 Fish and Game in Dillingham has been without a Staff
48 wildlife biologist. The Staff biologist has been able
49 to provide biological information to our residents in
50

1 the area of the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd, the
2 Unit 17A winter moose is also State managed, and a
3 significant portion occurs on those Refuge lands and on
4 site local State wildlife biologists are important for
5 information on Unit 17A moose management strategies.
6 The holes that we have in all Staff for State and
7 Federal agencies has definitely taken a toll on our
8 ability to make good solid science-based decisions and
9 we would really like to see efforts made on all those
10 agencies to have those positions filled so that we can
11 get caught back up to know exactly where we stand on
12 wildlife so that we don't over use it, properly
13 conserve it so the generations to come can enjoy it as
14 well.

15
16 And then finally Robbin LaVine is going
17 to provide an update to the Federal Subsistence Board
18 on the FSB WP20-26 positioning of animals on Federal
19 lands in Unit 17 and 9. You had instructed us to put
20 together a working group for this proposal and we have
21 met a couple of different times and I will allow Robbin
22 to fill you in on where we are at with the positioning
23 of animals for subsistence hunting in the area.

24
25 And, with that, I will close down my
26 report and welcome any questions anybody might have.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
29 Appreciate that good thorough report.

30
31 Any questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
36 questions from the Board I'll go ahead and thank you
37 again and hope that we could fill those positions that
38 you're talking about because those are very important
39 to have those connections and conduit to the Board as
40 well as those agencies that you need to help us with
41 our issues. And so definitely will continue to strive
42 for that.

43
44 Can we move on to the next one, Sue.

45
46 MS. DETWILER: Yes. The next one would
47 be Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Mr. Ray Oney.

48
49 (Pause)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Was there
2 somebody available for that Sue.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Ray Oney was on
5 earlier, he may have dropped off. I don't know if
6 there's anybody else on the -- for the.....

7
8 MR. ONEY: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear
9 me?

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, loud and
12 clear, you have the floor.

13
14 MR. ONEY: Yeah, Ray Oney here, can you
15 hear me?

16
17 REPORTER: Yes, Ray, go ahead.

18
19 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Tina. Okay,
20 thank you. Again, for the record my name is Ray Oney,
21 I'm with the Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Advisory
22 Council. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you on
23 the happenings that are here on the Yukon Kuskokwim
24 region.

25
26 We've addressed climate change in our
27 area for a long time. As you know things are
28 happening, you know, as we speak, the different changes
29 that we see over the years, and we're continuing to see
30 the impacts that it has to the resources that we depend
31 on. As you know, this past summer wasn't a good year
32 for salmon fishing on the Yukon, both Yukon and
33 Kuskokwim. It was a really bad year for us. But,
34 particularly, you know, we're able to make ends meet by
35 utilizing other resources that we have like the
36 sheefish and the pike and there's other resources that
37 they have in their area. And we don't know what's
38 going to happen as a result of the crash that we seen
39 this past summer, there were a lot of families that had
40 smokehouses that were empty. It continue to affect
41 them today. As you know we have annual potlatches but
42 this year, because of the Covid, it's an eery feeling
43 of no kind of activity going on because usually about
44 this time we usually have potlatches throughout the
45 Delta and, you know, villages will go and be a part of
46 the potlatches so it's very, very, very eery this year
47 to not hear any announcements of, you know, potlatches
48 that occur annually.

49
50

1 And the bycatch continues to hurt us as
2 far as the chinook salmon on both the Yukon and
3 Kuskokwim. The decline of chinook salmon that we
4 depend on for time immemorial is beginning to decline
5 is still affecting us today. And also with last
6 summer's salmon crash, now we have the other resources
7 that are, you know, following suit so we are concerned
8 about the impact that it's going to have on us this
9 coming this summer so we need to be vigilant on to see
10 how that resource is going to affect us this coming
11 summer.

12
13 And also the Mulchatna Caribou Herd are
14 beginning to decline and I'm very happy that you guys
15 are on it to continue to ask for research and
16 information to address the decline of the caribou herd
17 for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

18
19 And as I mentioned earlier, climate
20 change is still affecting us today. The weather
21 pattern is changing. And this also affects how the
22 traditional knowledge is used when we predict things
23 like this, like the coming of the salmon, that, you
24 know, is affecting us too, you know, we can't tell, you
25 know, from time to time what the season's going to be
26 because of the changes that are happening right before
27 our eyes and continue to happen. I'd like to see more
28 research going to that, to try and at least maintain
29 some of the resources that we have that we depend on
30 for both the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

31
32 And we also are concerned about the
33 lack of appointments to the Council. We've been
34 operating for the last two years with minimal
35 appointments to the RAC and hopefully this year we'll
36 be able to have a full quorum.

37
38 Other than that, that's all I have.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair. Tony, are
45 you on?

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MS. DETWILER: Do we need to go --

50

1 perhaps Tony dropped off, maybe we need to go on to the
2 next in line there, Rhonda, are you on -- Rhonda Pitka.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MS. DETWILER: I think Rhonda may have
7 had a conflicting appointment this afternoon.

8

9 MR. STRIKER: I can hear you, Sue, if
10 you're wondering if you're just talking by yourself.

11

12 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Well, thank
13 you for that. And, I -- you know, I do not know who
14 would be third in succession there after Tony and
15 Rhonda to keep the meeting moving.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: Sue, this is Katya, I'm
18 just contacting.....

19

20 MS. PITKA: I'm on here.

21

22 MS. WESSELS:Orville to let him
23 know that.....

24

25 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda, Katya.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Oh, Rhonda is on.

28

29 MS. PITKA: Yeah, I'm on.

30

31 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Rhonda, we
32 seem to be missing Tony and Ray Oney had just finished
33 giving his report on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional
34 Advisory Council, so I think if Tony were there he
35 would have asked if there were any questions for Mr.
36 Oney.

37

38 MS. PITKA: Oh, great, thank you so
39 much. Mr. Oney -- is there anybody that has any
40 questions for Mr. Oney in his report.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. PITKA: If not then we'll move on
45 to the next one. Sue, who's next.

46

47 MS. DETWILER: Okay. That would be
48 Western Interior and that would be Jenny Pelkola who
49 was on earlier.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, I'm on, thank you.

2

3 MS. PITKA: Hi, Jenny, you're up now.

4

5 MS. PELKOLA: Hello, are you there?

6

7 MS. PITKA: Hi, I can hear you this is
8 Rhonda.

9

10 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, okay. Yeah, this is
11 Jenny Pelkola, Acting Chair for the Western Interior.

12

13 And our Council is concerned about the
14 appointments. There are continued delays in Council
15 member appointments. The Council will have this year's
16 winter cycle meeting with just four seated members.
17 For a region as large as Western Interior, this is
18 unexcusable. Also the rejection of qualified Council
19 members based on political positions has resulted in a
20 30 percent vacancy rate on the Western Interior
21 Council.

22

23 Mean high water mark. The Council
24 appreciates the Board's past response to its concerns
25 but we need to stress, that the current definition of
26 mean high water mark does not provide for identifying
27 these areas under snow cover. This leaves subsistence
28 users vulnerable to regulatory violations during winter
29 hunts.

30

31 Large industrial projects like Ambler
32 Road and Mining, these proposed projects will
33 negatively impact fish and wildlife population,
34 interfere with rural users trying to feed their
35 families, will pollute air and water and give easier
36 access for non-Federally-qualified users to critical
37 subsistence resources. And as you all know, we had
38 low.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Anthony
41 Christianson's back on the call and I apologize.

42

43 MS. PELKOLA:fishing -- can you
44 hear me?

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

47

48 MS. PELKOLA: We had a low year of
49 fishing and I think everyone was hurting. Like

50

1 everyone else we all depend a lot on our fishing. We
2 don't know if, you know, with the open and closure, and
3 I know it's needed that we do have to have closures to
4 continue having fish for our family.

5
6 But the main concern that I have right
7 now is our appointments. And I know all the Councils
8 are struggling with the same thing. Hopefully -- I
9 don't know how this Board can speed up the process to
10 get timely appointments for our Board, like I said
11 we're only going to have four members next month for
12 our meeting and that shouldn't be, you know, I believe
13 we have the right to have our Board's filled.

14
15 And I just want to thank you for your
16 time and, I don't know, maybe Karen Deatherage, later
17 will have more to add to my report but for now that
18 concludes my report.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
21 questions, appreciate your report.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
26 hearing none, we'll call on the next in line.

27
28 MS. PITKA: Jenny. Sorry.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
31 Rhonda.

32
33 MS. PITKA: You mentioned that you only
34 have four seated members, is that because there weren't
35 a lot of seated members to begin with or is it because
36 you guys have had lots of (indiscernible - breaking
37 up)?

38
39 MS. PELKOLA: It's because the ones
40 that were appointed or applied were not appointed yet.

41
42 MS. PITKA: Okay. So they.....

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

45
46 MS. PITKA:just haven't been
47 appointed?

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya
50

1 Wessels.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
4 floor, Katya.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
7 Chair. Rhonda, I would just clarify for you that what
8 you asked, Western Interior RAC did not receive any new
9 appointments this year, that's why they only have four
10 seated members currently. All the names that were
11 forwarded by the Board to the Secretaries during last
12 year did not receive an approval.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
15 Deatherage, Western Interior.

16

17 MS. PITKA: I'm sorry, can you please
18 refresh my memory, Katya. How many applications did we
19 get for Western Interior. I can't remember off hand
20 but I believe.....

21

22 MS. WESSELS: We received.....

23

24 MS. PITKA:it was several.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: We received five
27 applications.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
30 Deatherage, can you hear me?

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Karen, you
33 have the floor.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, very much.
36 Yes, we did receive five applications for the vacant
37 seats and including incumbents. My understanding,
38 correct me if I'm wrong, Katya, is we -- they weren't
39 not appointed, my understanding is that the Secretary
40 of the Interior's Office did not get to three of the 10
41 Regional Advisory Councils, this is what was reported
42 to the Staff. I'm not sure if that's changed. My hope
43 and I think for YK Delta and for Southeast is that
44 those appointments will be made by the new
45 Administration later this spring but currently, as
46 Jenny has indicated there are only four seated members
47 on the Western Interior Council.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 MS. PITKA: So, wait -- sorry, this is
2 Rhonda again. So when you say was reported, was
3 reported by whom, and was there some sort of a -- was
4 there an issue on our part as the Federal Subsistence
5 Board that we could correct? Because I feel like we do
6 a lot of the same similar actions and maybe I'm just
7 being confused.

8

9

Sorry.

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MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya
Wessels.

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Katya.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
just want to clarify. So, Rhonda, we receive the
appointments for seven Councils. Some of the Councils
received full appointments. Some of the Councils
received partial appointments. We did not receive any
appointments, as I said earlier in my report, for
Western Interior, YK Delta and Southeast. We don't
know why we did not receive those appointments. Nobody
provided us with this information. So we are currently
working with the Department and with the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife on seeing, you know, what can be done in
regards to those three Councils where they did not
receive the appointments. And, of course, you know,
Board can support us in this effort.

Thank you.

MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
Gene, you have the floor.

MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
this discussion progresses, it may be a bit confusing
for those applicants from within the region because at
times it is getting confusing for us on this side, so

1 based on OSM's interpretation of the actions for the
2 three subject Councils, would you recommend that those
3 applicants, which did not get addressed, reapply in
4 this next round or could we get clarification in
5 whether those applications are still standing for
6 consideration for placement on the three outstanding
7 Councils.

8

9

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,

12

Gene.

13

14

MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya
15 Wessels. We are trying to find this out now. We do
16 not have a definite answer at this point.

17

18

MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Katya. Thank
19 you, Mr. Chair.

20

21

MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is

22

Greg.

23

24

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
25 have the floor.

26

27

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr.
28 Chairman. One, you are correct in there is no
29 visibility into the actual vetting that takes place
30 even at the agency level within the Department of
31 Interior. And to Gene's question, yes, we are going to
32 continue to try and figure out whether we can just
33 submit the package or the package that has been
34 submitted can just be looked at again with the new
35 Administration. But within the first week to two weeks
36 here we're -- we've got a lot of other things and it's
37 just not being picked up right away.

38

39

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
42 that Greg. And I was kind of reiterating my statement
43 as well as, you know, I think Board executed as much as
44 it could. And I know individual Board members
45 constantly pull at the reigns to get the question
46 answered and, again, there's a lot of grey area for us
47 to understand but hopefully we'll be able to get
48 through the next couple of regional vetting processes
49 so we can continue to do business.

50

1 Thank you.

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If there's no more questions, Sue,
we'll call on the next Regional Advisory Council Chair.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you. The next
Council would be the Seward Peninsula and that would be
Louis Green.

MR. GREEN: Yes, I'm here. I'm just
pulling something up. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair and
the Board and hello to everybody and a Happy New Year,
and to the Staff also.

I hear there's a lot of issues about --
or a lot of disturbance about these Council seats and
we, on the Seward Peninsula, kind of staggered there
for awhile but now we're up to nine out of 10, and
we're very happy for that.

During the last couple of meetings I've
had a couple of absences, my old friend Tom Gray, the
Vice Chair took over and did a very good job. Our
Coordinator, Karen Deatherage, super job, Karen,
helping me get ready for this meeting.

I had an absence last March, I thought
I'd share this, due to a trip across the state with my
first Sergeant, my brother, First Sergeant Green there
and his two daughters, he told me I needed to go with
them, so I was glad to go, of course. It kind of goes
back in time where in 1984 I was going to ski from
Shishmaref to Nome across the Seward Peninsula and he
wasn't about to let me go along so, of course, he and
completed that trip and was successful, together, we
were the first official crossing of the Bering
Land Bridge according to the Park Superintendent, Larry
Rose, at the time, on foot. So a little trivia.

I'll go into my report here for the
Norton Sound red king crab. The Council continues to
be concerned about the commercial harvest and
population status of Norton Sound red king crab. The
king crab fishery was closed last year due to low crab
harvest and recruitment failures. It is, however,
scheduled to begin this winter on February 1st. The
Council was informed that the fishery's being opened
based on speculation that adult crabs will reach legal
or close to legal size by this year. You know this

1 crab fishery has been up and down since the '70s -- the
2 late '70s when they implemented it and in the beginning
3 rounds we had Bering Sea king crab fishing boats come
4 through our Sound and knock our numbers way down. So I
5 don't think that we've ever really rebounded from what
6 was there in the past. And subsistence has always had
7 a hard time with harvesting. Back, before the crab
8 fishery started, we always had them right close to
9 shore where it was easy picken's and everybody filled
10 their needs. So there seems to be poor management in
11 the commercial harvest, at this time, could greatly
12 reduce the population for many years to come. I
13 explained what happened in 1979, or '80, or '81 when
14 those big boats came through. In 2020 subsistence
15 harvest less than 1,200 crab from a resource that used
16 to provide tens of thousands of crab to feed local
17 Norton Sound families. The Council has once again
18 requested that the North Pacific Fisheries Management
19 Council and the State of Alaska close the commercial
20 red king crab season for the entirety of the 2021 year
21 season to allow this population to recovery and meet
22 priority subsistence needs.

23
24 Move on to the salmon, low chums and
25 low silver runs. There's a lot of competition with
26 pink salmon. Back a few years ago when the Board of
27 Fish came out and took us -- actually, Nome, itself,
28 the area there was the first Tier II fishery in the
29 state and the only one, so they decided they'd go to
30 commercial fishing, they opened up commercial fishing
31 but pink salmon and numbers of 1.3 million in the Nome
32 River, I think are detrimental to the other, especially
33 chum runs and those are problematic. The silver runs,
34 you know, they're getting targeted by the -- they're
35 building but they're getting targeted by commercial
36 fishermen locally throughout the Sound. So I'm not
37 sure if that's a good idea to even have a commercial
38 fishery for a period of time there. You know, we're
39 always discussing the issues of the low runs.
40 Commercial fishing of silver salmon, however, were
41 allowed to continue despite the fact that many
42 households in the Seward Peninsula region went without
43 fish. There are hundreds of thousands of pink salmon
44 as I just said coming into the river. The Council
45 believes that these fish are competing with chum,
46 silver and chinook salmon, and contributing to the poor
47 runs of the other species.

48
49 The Council is asking that the State of
50

1 Alaska close all but pink salmon fishing to commercial
2 users so that the subsistence users can get their needs
3 met.
4

5 In the Nome River systems there's seven
6 major rivers there, maybe inclusive of some other ones
7 up to the west, Teller and we used to have king runs
8 and we don't have anymore. They struggle to even show
9 up in our streams.
10

11 So the Council is also concerned about
12 the Unalakleet River chinook salmon run and asks for
13 closure keeping it in status quo. Due to the Covid19
14 the weir for chinook salmon at the Unalakleet River was
15 not operated this past summer. While chinook runs
16 improved in 2019, the Council hopes that this Board
17 would support its recommendation that the chinook
18 fishery remain closed in the Unalakleet River until
19 trends are established to show that chinook salmon can
20 sustain a reasonable harvest. You hear that there's a
21 good run one year and then, no, we're going to expect
22 another good run the next year and nothing shows, and
23 so under management you'd think you'd want to see a
24 couple of cycles of returns before you start saying
25 you've got plenty of a certain species.
26

27 So we go on to the moose populations in
28 the Unit 22A open to non-resident hunters. This past
29 April the Board approved opening Unit 22A remainder in
30 the Seward Peninsula to non-resident moose hunting.
31 The Council was opposed to opening up this portion of
32 Unit 22A because there have been no moose surveys
33 there. The population data in the Unit 22A remainder
34 is currently extrapolated from another area of the
35 subunit, which is vastly different than the area where
36 non-resident hunters are not allowed to take moose.
37 The Council was informed that moose surveys for this
38 specific area would be conducted and we will reassess
39 our position when the data is compiled. If a
40 conservation concern is shown to exist for Unit 22A
41 remainder, the Council will submit a special action
42 request to close the area to non-resident moose hunting
43 in order to protect the subsistence priority of local
44 moose hunters in 22A.
45

46 Climate change and other environmental
47 impacts. The Council reported warmer waters, increased
48 algae growth this past year. Sores and parasites were
49 found on fish and marine mammals and toxins remain a
50

1 concern for these important subsistence resources.
2 Some Council members believe that radiation from Russia
3 and Japan are negatively affecting the marine
4 environment and are killing, or sickening fish and
5 seals. The region has also experienced thinner ice and
6 the absence of ice. Last spring was really -- we had a
7 lot of good ice but this fall it's taken quite awhile
8 to freeze back over. So the absence of ice and the big
9 storms and winds as a result of a lack of sea ice
10 really do impact our subsistence abilities.

11

12 And, with that, I'd like to say thank
13 you and ask if there are any questions.

14

15 Oh, Charlie, Happy Birthday and Happy
16 Anniversary and Happy New Year to you, too.

17

18 MR. BROWER: Okay, thank you, Louis,
19 Louis.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Right on,
22 Louis. Good to hear your voice again. Man, I wish we
23 were visiting there face to face but just glad we're
24 capable of doing business, again like I said thankful
25 we have the Staff available to make it happen because
26 it's not happening elsewhere.

27

28 MR. GREEN: Yeah, it's good to have at
29 least this much.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah.

32

33 MR. GREEN: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, thank you
36 guys for your commitment to this process and continuing
37 to provide us with feedback.

38

39 Any questions for Louis.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
44 hearing none, Sue, we'll move on to the next region.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. DETWILER: Northwest Arctic. Do we
49 have anybody on from Northwest Arctic.

50

1 (No comments)

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MS. DETWILER: Okay. It sounds like not so that would bring us to Eastern Interior and I understand Andrew Firmin is on the line.

MR. FIRMIN: Yes, this is Andrew Firmin in Fort Yukon. I'm here filling in for Sue Entsminger. She had some other obligations today that she couldn't get away from so I called in just to give our Council reports.

We had our last meeting here, teleconferenced, so we didn't get to meet in person as probably all Councils did. The biggest -- some of the biggest concerns of our Council is having no fishing opportunities this past summer for king salmon and chum salmon. Some folks, myself included, you know, at Fort Yukon we had travel restricted in and out of the community from March until pretty much now, there's still some travel restrictions, and with very few opportunities to travel outside to Fairbanks or Anchorage, you know, just to buy supplies it put a lot of other pressure on other species and resources, you know, especially with us not being able to fish. Myself, personally, I wanted to go to Seward or Copper Center to go fish for sockeyes but the travel restrictions made that nearly impossible.

There was a pretty successful moose hunt in the Fort Yukon area but, you know, we're concerned -- there are concerns that maybe that increase in harvest, you know, due to the pandemic, will make things -- that might hurt our moose populations in the long run.

We did have fair bird hunting but our water levels were high during the summer.

A lot of the hardship along the Yukon with the fish runs was especially seen by those that have their sled dog teams. I know a lot of dog mushers that have culled their teams, you know, as much as 50 percent or more. And it's also detrimental to a lot of the new mushers that are up and coming guys that don't have, you know, they don't have the methods and means, they're working or their young kids depending on, you know, family to help them come through but I've got to admire a few of the younger folks that are still out

1 there trying. I know we've got a couple of high
2 schoolers that have small teams and I think their hard
3 work allowed them to get just enough fish for the
4 winter.

5
6 I know in Eagle, Andy Bassich and Don
7 Woodruff both had concerns about the -- large concerns
8 about the number of fish. And then having the pretty
9 -- the caribou harvest on the Fortymile hunt, the two
10 bag limit was of concern to them because of the cari--
11 you know the management actions -- you know, food
12 security is a big huge issue for a lot of people out
13 here that are off the road system or that, you know,
14 those are our life lines to eat and when those are
15 taken away or liberalized, you know, the amount of
16 hunters that was on the Steese Highway this year was
17 pretty concerning. There was a lot of -- there was
18 questions and stuff about that. And, you know,
19 possibly, you know, some of our Council members were
20 concerned that it might, you know, affect their
21 migration patterns. I mean a lot of the trails and
22 stuff were just tore up and there was very little to no
23 law enforcement out there. I mean there was literally
24 -- when I passed through on the highway there was
25 literally thousands of people up there on top of the
26 mountain and you had to drive 20 miles an hour because
27 there was people parked all over the sides of the
28 highway, you know, and they're all over the place with
29 fourwheelers, ATVs, side by sides, you name it, there
30 were trucks stuck off the highway. I mean it was
31 almost detrimental for somebody that's local trying to
32 go hunt there versus the whole state being there. I
33 know we did get a lot of complaints on that. I know
34 the harvest, I believe, is still open for that right
35 now. But having that liberal harvest was a big concern
36 to a lot of people. And a lot of it is, you know,
37 having it, you know, altered -- you know it might alter
38 their migration routes with the hunting pressure and
39 for the people that live here on the resource, you
40 know, that's concerning for us.

41
42 A lot of other things that we were
43 concerned about is, you know, having the high water
44 events. A lot of times when our ice goes out that's
45 when the geese -- the geese travel with the ice so, you
46 know, it was hit or miss for some because the ice went
47 out so fast and then you had your two, three day
48 opportunity to get your birds and that was, you know,
49 it's a pretty narrow window to get out there and hunt
50

1 when you basically got to be sitting there waiting for
2 the ice to go to get out there, it can get kind of
3 dangerous if you want to go with the ice. I didn't get
4 stuck out there in it for too long, but I know others
5 that did.

6
7 I know some other people that had some
8 differing -- pointed out some differing things about
9 the amount of bugs in certain places versus others that
10 had none.

11
12 Some issues from Nenana that the bull
13 permits that were issued, they were all done by
14 telephone this year and they were all gone in 20
15 seconds is what was reported by our Nenana Council
16 members and he said only one person from Nenana was
17 actually able to get one of those permits, which is,
18 again, is detrimental to the subsistence lifestyle for
19 folks that depend on these resources and are unable to
20 meet those needs.

21
22 A lot of other concerns that we've been
23 speaking about and I've heard from other Council
24 members, or other Councils, is that the appointments.
25 We did receive a few appointments, however, we still
26 have empty seats. And one of our -- we're still
27 waiting for word back but one of the interesting
28 factors was a long time -- one of our long time members
29 sitting here, Andy Bassich, was not reappointed, which
30 is kind of alarming that somebody that's been on the
31 Council for this many years and all of a sudden he's
32 just passed over for somebody else without any rhyme or
33 reason given for that. He's always been a strong
34 advocate for our fish and, you know, for the amount of
35 dedication and years that he's been on and volunteered
36 for all this stuff, that it's kind of -- that kind of
37 came as a surprise and we're hoping that he still is
38 appointed and maybe his letter's lost in the mail or
39 something, you know, because he is a widely outspoken
40 advocate for our fisheries, especially.

41
42 And also I think a lot of our Council
43 members, we would also -- we're hoping here, not this
44 spring, but by this fall, we want to meet in person
45 because we're from such a large region there's just no
46 way we can actually get down and talk to each other or
47 streamline our meetings. I mean we're looking forward,
48 like you mentioned earlier, Anthony, is, you know, if
49 we're spread out in a large room there's no reason we
50

1 can't do that. I mean maybe if the public is -- I mean
2 there's got to be a method for us to meet in person
3 because so much gets lost in the translation of not
4 being able to see folks, or if you're just emailing back
5 and forth you lose the tone of what somebody's trying
6 to say or are they feeling passionate about it or are
7 they angry, you know, it's hard to read their emotion
8 or what's going on inside that person's mind when
9 you're just getting it in black and white, and that's
10 something that we want to see. I understand that
11 that's not something we can all effect at this time,
12 but it's something that's a big deal for us because I
13 don't go to these other places in our region a lot so I
14 don't know what's going on there. We depend on these
15 other folks from that part of the region to report to
16 us but not being able to sit down or pass notes or talk
17 to each other or have side bar conversations, you know,
18 maybe we're disagreeing on something we all really
19 agree on because we're not raising our hand to ask more
20 questions because, oh, they understand and I'm just
21 going to let it go, they know what they're talking
22 about when really I don't understand any better than
23 the next person maybe. So I just think so much gets
24 swept under the carpet or gets lost, we lose paying
25 attention to detail or we lose -- we lose so much in
26 translation not meeting in person. And I know there's
27 got to be ways we can do it and I'd like to see that
28 done -- something done at least with our next meeting
29 and in the future meetings that we can get back
30 together again.

31
32 And other than that if anybody had any
33 questions for me or if I missed something, feel free to
34 ask me.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It's good to
39 hear you Andrew. Like you said I wish we could all get
40 together and talk in person and hash it out a little
41 better in the side bars where the business really
42 happens where we come to consensus and come back to the
43 table and have a better flavor in our mouth about how
44 people feel on either side of an issue. So appreciate
45 those comments. And as far as the hunting pressure,
46 are you sure you weren't on Prince of Wales?

47
48 MR. FIRMIN: I could have been.

49
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, I
4 got to throw a little joke out there, but, all right,
5 thanks, good to hear you. Any questions for Andrew.

6

7 MS. PITKA: Andrew, this is Rhonda. So
8 you mentioned in Fort Yukon that hardly anybody met
9 their harvest needs. How many people are in Fort Yukon
10 and how many fisher people are there regularly.

11

12 MR. FIRMIN: I believe our census is
13 about 550-plus people. We get a little more of a
14 transient population in the summer because other people
15 from villages, or family or, you know, even Fairbanks
16 come home to visit and help fish. Myself, I personally
17 caught three king salmon and just kind of gave up after
18 that with the closures and then never bothered going
19 back out to try to fish anymore, with just getting
20 around the closures and having to take the time off
21 from work to go out and, you know, hearing the poor
22 quality of fish and stuff like that was -- is pretty
23 detrimental and then not being able to fish for chums
24 at all was another one. We had another Council member
25 from Eagle, he reported catching 12 king salmon and
26 they were -- that was early on in the year. So I think
27 the -- you know, and it was great having the -- I think
28 in Fort Yukon we have 200-some households altogether,
29 and it's great that, you know, the volunteer efforts
30 and the donations came in that the dog mushers were
31 able to get, you know, some fish I believe that was
32 donated and dog food that was donated by, you know, the
33 pet food companies. But that's not the same as going
34 and catching your own fish. If somebody throws me
35 three fish from the grocery store, sure, I'm happy for
36 that to be provided to my family but it's, you know,
37 it's not the same as going out and setting a fish net
38 and catching a few fish for your family, too, and
39 you're not able to have that camp lifestyle or teach my
40 children what we're doing out there. It's just not the
41 same.

42

43 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Definitely echo
46 that.

47

48 MS. PITKA: So I also had a question
49 about the caribou hunting on the Fortymile. Do you

50

1 know of any like subsistence hunters that were left out
2 because that hunt was so -- so overwhelmingly managed?
3

4 MR. FIRMIN: I think that if people --
5 I don't know of any personally but, you know, when I
6 traveled the highway back and forth I'm kind of on a
7 timetable or I don't have time to sit there and wait
8 for a thousand people to finish shooting so I can go
9 get in line. It's like you got to wait in line or -- a
10 lot of people were so far -- they had all the caribou
11 so far off the highway you needed to have an ATV to get
12 out there. And some of my friends did get out there to
13 manage to get them on both snowmachine and ATV but it
14 just seemed -- for Fairbanks -- for somebody that's in
15 Fairbanks or lives on the highway system it was a
16 little easier for them versus somebody that has to haul
17 all their gear from the village in a boat to the
18 highway to get up there to be able to try to hunt them.
19

20 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Andrew. I
21 really appreciate your report. It was definitely
22 thorough and filled with a lot of detail and I
23 definitely appreciate it.
24

25 Thank you.
26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
28 Rhonda. I appreciate you asking some questions. Thank
29 you, Andrew for taking the time to represent the region
30 there, filling in for your Chair and look forward to
31 hopefully helping you guys find some resolve to the
32 shortages that seem to be across the state and I hope
33 that the management groups is listening to the
34 testimony here today from our Regional Advisory Council
35 groups as well as the public testimony earlier in our
36 consultation process about the struggle rural Alaskans
37 are facing in trying to meet their demands and needs
38 and hopefully we could formulate an action or statement
39 that reflects the struggle that we have out here,
40 myself, included, Federal Board Chair, I caught eight
41 sockeye last year so fish is a real commodity that we
42 need to really focus on and hopefully continue to
43 improve the management of.
44

45 So thank you, Andrew.
46

47 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you for the
48 opportunity.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sue, next
2 region. Thank you.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: So the final region is
5 the North Slope and Eva Patton said neither the Chair
6 or the Vice Chair are here today but I believe when she
7 first introduced herself, Eva said that she may have
8 some information on their behalf. So if Eva is here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
11 Eva.....

12
13 MS. PATTON: Yes.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: you
16 have.....

17
18 MS. PATTON:thank you and.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:the floor.

21
22 MS. PATTON:members of the Board,
23 this is Eva Patton, Council coordinator for the North
24 Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Both
25 Chair Gordon Brower and Vice Chair Steve Oomittuk are
26 engaged in other critical meetings for their community
27 this afternoon and won't be able to join us for this
28 call but they did request to just briefly highlight key
29 points from the Council's annual report to the Federal
30 Subsistence Board, and so I'll just provide those
31 updates very briefly here.

32
33 Similar to many, many other Councils
34 who have addressed the Board today, ongoing concern
35 about environmental change and impacts to healthy
36 subsistence foods and resources. Impacts to access to
37 those subsistence foods and resources and impacts to
38 preservation of those foods as well. And the Council
39 seeks, you know, engagement with the Board and the
40 Federal Subsistence Management Program and Federal land
41 managers and strategies to address food security and
42 flexible regulations and management strategy to try to
43 best continue that subsistence access to resources in
44 the changing environment.

45
46 The subsistence fisheries research
47 Monitoring Program is of great importance to the North
48 Slope Council. Fisheries are very important
49 subsistence food for all the communities across the
50

1 region and the Council is very interested to be
2 engaged, both with Federal Subsistence Program in that
3 process of developing research priorities and helping
4 to facilitate and guide in whatever way possible for
5 local North Slope communities and tribes to be partners
6 in that research process.

7
8 And, in particular, again, there's
9 observations of warming climate having an impact for
10 non-resident species coming into the region, concern
11 about impacts there. Warming waters increasing
12 prevalence of fish molds and other impacts to fish.
13 The Council is also very concerned about contaminants
14 in fisheries with both industrial development
15 intensively on the Colville River and other parts of
16 the region and relic military dumps that are also near
17 some communities there and while the Council recognizes
18 that the FRMP program is not able to address
19 contaminants directly, it is affecting communities and
20 the concern for those contaminants affecting community
21 consumption of subsistence fish and so the Council
22 seeks ways forward to try to address those issues as
23 well.

24
25 Similar to all the other Councils, the
26 North Slope Regional Advisory is very concerned about
27 Council appointments and the need for representation
28 from all North Slope communities across the region. It
29 is a vast region and each community provides critical
30 input and engagement for Federal subsistence management
31 in the region.

32
33 The Council is continuing to push for a
34 subsistence priority and continuation of subsistence
35 uses. In particular ongoing concerns about industrial
36 development surrounding some communities that may
37 impact not only subsistence resources through
38 deflection of migration, or traditional feeding or
39 calving grounds, but also disruptions in subsistence
40 hunting and fishing activities and gathering activities
41 and traditional camps. And so the Board [sic] seeks to
42 continue to work with -- or the Council continues to
43 seek to work with the Board and the Federal land
44 managers on continuation of subsistence uses and
45 ensuring a subsistence priority.

46
47 Ultimately the Council has been
48 directly affected by Covid19 with members and their
49 families being directly affected by this and
50

1 communities as well. And this comes to food security
2 again to provide healthy foods to communities and
3 especially with lack of flights and infrastructure for
4 bringing food into the region. The Council is very
5 interested to continue to pursue ways for traditional
6 sharing patterns and ways of sharing in communities and
7 across communities in the region, and would like to
8 find easier access or ways for designated hunter
9 permits so that individuals who are able to hunt for
10 others who cannot, or for other families who cannot,
11 have a mechanism to be able to provide for others and
12 to share in that traditional way.

13

14 And thank you members of the Board,
15 those are the key points from the North Slope Council's
16 report.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 OPERATOR: Excuse me, this is the
21 operator, if you're speaking in today's conference,
22 could I get you to speak closer to the mic, we have
23 some participants that are having issues with the
24 hearing.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Thank you. That concludes
27 the North Slope Council's report. Thank you.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 MS. DETWILER: So, Tony, Mr. Chair, did
32 you drop off the line or are you there?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda. Does
37 anybody have any questions for Ms. Patton at this
38 moment.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. PITKA: Am I still online?

43

44 REPORTER: Yes, you are Rhonda.

45

46 MS. DETWILER: Yes, Rhonda.

47

48 MS. PITKA: Oh, okay, thanks. So not
49 hearing any questions, so we'll move on to the next

50

1 Regional Advisory Council. Thank you.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Yes, this is Sue
4 Detwiler. The only Regional Council we have not heard
5 from is Northwest Arctic. I'm not sure if anybody from
6 Northwest Arctic has come on the line.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. DETWILER: And if we continue to
11 have no one on Northwest Arctic, that closes out the
12 agenda item on the Regional Advisory Council Chair
13 reports and discussion. That leads us to the next
14 agenda item, No. 5, which is a public comment period on
15 non-agenda items.

16

17 And, Madame Chair, I would also just
18 comment that Donald Mike has requested that before the
19 Board recesses for the day, Donald, would like to take
20 some time to properly introduce Harry Wilde, Sr.'s,
21 Yup'ik name, so one option would be to.....

22

23 MS. PITKA: Okay, please go ahead
24 Donald.

25

26 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, I'm sorry.

27

28 MS. PITKA: Donald, please go ahead. I
29 would very much like to hear that, thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And I'm back on
32 as well and I would entertain that if Donald wants to
33 get back on now, are we done with Council reports.

34

35 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sorry, I keep
38 getting dropped here, rural Alaska, you know. And so
39 we'll go ahead, Donald, if you want to get on and do
40 that for us now, appreciate that because I was trying
41 to get it earlier and I didn't want to chop it up or be
42 a disservice to honor the man.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Donald Mike, I'm one of the Council Coordinators for
46 OSM.

47

48 And in honor of Mr. Harry Wilde, Sr.,
49 of Mountain Village and in honor of my late father,

50

1 they were first cousins and I felt honored, you know,
2 Harry Wilde as my uncle, and his proper Yup'ik name is
3 Qapar'culi.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Qapar'culi.

8

9 Thank you, appreciate that.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Qapar'culi. And I want to
12 commend, Mr. Chair, for recognizing Mr. Harry Wilde
13 from the YK region, thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
16 that Donald, and appreciate you taking the time to do
17 that for us today.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 At this time I'm going to call for a
22 five minute break, which means 10 and then we'll come
23 back to individual customary and traditional use
24 process by Josh Ream, and that'll probably get pretty
25 close to the end of our day today so we'll take a five,
26 10 minute break and come on back here and reconvene.
27 Please don't hang up.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

30

31 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair.

32

33 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

34

35 MS. DETWILER: This is Sue. There was
36 one additional agenda item after the conclusion of the
37 Regional Advisory Council Chair reports and that was a
38 public comment period on non-agenda items.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, and if
41 you look at that it says the opportunity's available at
42 the beginning of each day and today is the end, so I
43 would.....

44

45 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:afford
48 that opportunity to the public in the morning, if the
49 Board so wishes, if not what we're going to do is we'll

50

1 probably get into a comment period here that's going to
2 end in the middle of it so I'm just fishing for
3 thought from.....

4
5 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:the rest
8 of the Board on how they feel about that at this
9 moment.

10
11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman, this is
12 Greg.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, go
15 ahead.

16
17 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, I would only
18 offer that perhaps a number of individuals have been
19 waiting to provide some thought by joining in today. I
20 don't know how you necessarily figure that out but they
21 may have had plans to be able to join today per what
22 the agenda that had been published and not be on
23 tomorrow.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
26 Katya Wessels.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Katya.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: I just want to clarify
31 about this agenda item public comment period on non-
32 agenda items. It usually comes, you know, no matter
33 when on the first day of the meeting, it needs to come
34 in the order of the agenda items, and then on the next
35 days it's available at the beginning of each day.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

38
39 MS. WESSELS: And on the first day it's
40 supposed to come in the order of the agenda items.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
43 well, let me restate what I said then, 10 minute
44 recess, we'll come back to public comment period on
45 non-agenda items.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll see if we
6 still have a quorum and we'll get started with the
7 public comment on non-agenda items.

8

9 MS. DETWILER: Okay. This is Sue, you
10 were kind of faded out in the background there, Tony,
11 just want to confirm that you're ready to go through
12 the attendees and make sure we have a quorum back.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep. Yep, that
15 was it. I just want to make sure we have a quorum
16 established, that we didn't lose too many people and we
17 will go ahead and start to recognize public comment on
18 non-agenda items and I'll turn it over to you and Staff
19 to recognize who wants to speak and I guess we can
20 recognize them as they raise their hand over the phone.

21

22 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So we'll start
23 out with a quorum call to make sure we have the Board
24 members back.

25

26 Don Striker, Park Service.

27

28 MR. STRIKER: Still here, thank you.

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Greg Siekaniec, Fish and
31 Wildlife Service.

32

33 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sue. I'm
34 still here.

35

36 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

37

38 Gene Peltola, BIA.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. DETWILER: Not hearing Gene.

43

44 Chad Padgett had to step away for the
45 rest of the day but Chris McKee is standing in for him,
46 Chris are you there.

47

48 MR. MCKEE: I'm here, Sue.

49

50

1 MS. DETWILER: Thanks, Chris.
2
3 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.
4
5 MR. SCHMID: I'm here, Sue, thanks.
6
7 MS. DETWILER: Okay.
8
9 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MS. DETWILER: Charlie Brower.
14
15 MR. BROWER: (In Inupiaq)
16
17 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Charlie.
18
19 Tony, I see you're here. We have six
20 people in attendance. So you do have a quorum.
21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue,
23 appreciate that. And we'll go ahead now open the floor
24 for public comment period on non-agenda items and this
25 is an opportunity we make available to the public to
26 speak about issues out there that aren't on the agenda
27 that can bring awareness to the Board, and maybe we can
28 find a path to help you resolve or put you in contact
29 with the appropriate people that can do that. And so
30 with that, Sue, we'll open up the floor for any public
31 who wishes to speak to a non-agenda item.
32
33 OPERATOR: Thank you. If you'd like to
34 make a public comment, please press star one, unmute
35 your phone and clearly state your name for public
36 comment and introduction. To retract your public
37 comment, please press start two.
38
39 Again, if you'd like to make a public
40 comment, please press star one, unmute your phone, and
41 clearly state your name for public comment and
42 introduction.
43
44 One moment.
45
46 (Pause)
47
48 OPERATOR: Our first public comment
49 comes from Tisha Kuhns. Tisha, your line is open.
50

1 MS. KUHNS: Hi, good afternoon. My
2 name is Tisha Kuhns, originally from Bethel Alaska. I
3 am the Vice President of Land and Natural Resources for
4 Calista Corporation. And we thank you today, Chairman
5 and Board members and operator for the opportunity to
6 comment.

7
8 Calista Corporation is one of 12 Alaska
9 Native Regional Corporations created under ANCSA law of
10 1971 encompassing a land entitlement of 6.5 million
11 acres, which include a large amount of communities
12 surrounded by massive Refuges. The Calista region has
13 58 communities and 46 recognized tribes with a
14 shareholder base of over 33,000 shareholders. These
15 communities continually struggle with housing
16 shortages, limited water, sanitary, and sewer
17 infrastructure, village erosion and limited health care
18 facility and personnel. Covid19 further complicates
19 these village issues. Just today, the Department of
20 Health and Social Services has just announced that the
21 United Kingdom variant strain is now found in Alaska.
22 I encourage those to get vaccinated as soon as possible
23 so that our people and traditions and subsistence
24 lifestyle can continue for our future generations.

25
26 I would also like to mirror Ray Oney's
27 comment regarding comment change. In the YK
28 (indiscernible) workshop in 2020, the YK region has
29 identified 28 high risk communities for erosion. Only
30 six communities have a hazard mitigation and plan,
31 which brings up several issues.

32
33 ANCSA conveyances. How do we correct
34 land loss due to erosion and what does that mean for
35 subsistence for these communities when they are busy
36 trying to relocate which takes years to do.

37
38 Navigability. BLM and the State have
39 different definitions so please keep an eye out for the
40 resolution regarding that cooperative management
41 agreement.

42
43 Refuge System Protection Act. We may
44 see some new language coming out from the new
45 Administration, and how would this affect our
46 subsistence lifestyle.

47
48 Finally, I'd like to announce something
49 pretty exciting for the YK region regarding one of our
50

1 projects. You might know, the Donlin Project. So what
2 we have right now is the Donlin Advisory Technical
3 Review and Oversight Committee, which is comprised of
4 Calista, the Kuskokwim Corporation and Donlin and we
5 have some great news for participation. Calista and
6 our partners are serious in protecting our subsistence
7 lifestyles while participating in natural resource
8 development. Calista owns the subsurface minerals of
9 the Donlin Gold Project and we have partnered with
10 Donlin to explore, operate and Donlin has an amazing
11 shareholder hire rate and positive environmental track
12 record. What we want to announce is the first
13 subsistence community advisory charter. This community
14 focuses on the relationship between the Donlin Project,
15 subsistence activities that fall within the Kuskokwim
16 River drainage. This committee will hold its first
17 meeting in the fall of 2021 after members are recruited
18 through an application process in the summer of 2021.
19 This advisory committee will receive and distribute
20 information on Donlin's plans, operations and
21 monitoring activities. Communicate information of
22 local subsistence activities and traditional knowledge
23 as it relates to information shared by Donlin. It also
24 will make recommendations to the head of DatRAC (ph)
25 committee related to the subsistence and assist DatRAC
26 (ph) into developing and periodically updating a
27 subsistence plan for land and waters affected by the
28 project. The membership of this committee consist of
29 the following designated seats. There are eight but
30 two member seats that we're looking at are members who
31 have formally participated on the Federal RAC or the
32 State level RACs with experience either currently
33 serving or not serving. So we're really excited to
34 roll this out in a couple months.

35
36 I think that is all that I have to
37 share and I do appreciate the time and also appreciate
38 the time this morning for the government to government
39 consultation earlier.

40
41 So I think with that, Chairman, I think
42 that's all that I've got.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
45 Appreciate you taking the time to call in and speak to
46 us. Any questions from the Board.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No. Thank you
2 for taking the time to call in today and appreciate
3 your comments and good luck to you.

4
5 Is there any other public comment,
6 Operator.

7
8 OPERATOR: Our next public comment
9 comes from Justin Mason. Justin, your line is open.

10
11 MR. MASON: Hello, this is Justin Mason
12 from Cantwell. I just was wondering if I could give
13 comment on C&T individual agenda item. I just have
14 concern for one of our community members here in
15 Cantwell. Can you guys hear me?

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. I would
18 say at this time you can, we're also going to have that
19 as an agenda item with Board deliberation and Board
20 action, which would be another opportunity which I
21 believe will be in the morning but we will
22 entertain.....

23
24 MR. MASON: Oh, okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:it and you
27 can do it again in the morning, which would probably be
28 the first order of business and we'll also have another
29 public comment period on the agenda but now is fine.

30
31 MR. MASON: Okay. I just wanted to
32 request that whatever you guys can do to move along the
33 C&T individual proposal. We have a community member
34 here that has been requesting approval for subsistence
35 rights and activities here in Denali for three years
36 now and he's missed out on three hunting seasons and
37 we're moving on to the fourth hunting season that he
38 won't be able to participate in subsistence activities
39 with his family. That's putting a lot of undue stress
40 on his family and his kids, trying to pass on some
41 traditions. So I just ask whatever you guys can do to
42 help move that along would be greatly appreciated by
43 the Cantwell community and Blaine Mayo.

44
45 Thank you for your time.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
48 that and I appreciate the comments. Any questions from
49 the Board.

50

1 MR. STRIKER: Just a comment, Mr.
2 Chairman, Park Service.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
5 Don.

6
7 MR. STRIKER: Loud and clear, thank
8 you. And I understand, please thank that individual
9 for his patience. It didn't occur to me that this is
10 actually the third, entering the fourth season now that
11 this has been held up while we consider how to
12 potentially make changes to that and you have my
13 commitment to not forget the individual issue without
14 regard to what direction we take on the larger issue
15 tomorrow.

16
17 MR. MASON: Thank you.

18
19 OPERATOR: I have no additional.....

20
21 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda, I just
22 wanted to let you know that I was back on.

23
24 OPERATOR:commentors.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

27
28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you.....

29
30 REPORTER: So could I just have one
31 person at a time. Next.

32
33 MS. PITKA: Sorry, this is Rhonda
34 Pitka, I was letting you know that I'm back on.

35
36 REPORTER: Thanks, Rhonda.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you.
39 Thank you, Tina, for keeping order.

40
41 All right. Operator, thank you for the
42 comments there, is there another person on that would
43 like to testify.

44
45 OPERATOR: I have no additional public
46 comments at this time.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And, again,
49 we'd like to offer that, again, we will be providing
50

1 the same opportunity in the morning. It will be the
2 first order of business as we start our agenda before
3 old business.
4

5 As we look at what's next on the agenda
6 we have individual customary and traditional use
7 process. Before we do get started I'm going to ask,
8 Josh, if he is online, what he feels this may take as
9 far as an agenda item for time.
10

11 MR. REAM: Thank you, Tony. Often, I
12 guess these issues take longer than I anticipate and so
13 it might be good to take it up first thing in the
14 morning, or I could give the presentation and maybe the
15 Board could think about things through the night and I
16 could answer questions in the morning. Whatever's best
17 for you.
18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, looking
20 at the Board, I would ask if there's any Board members
21 who have a specific feeling about the topic feel free
22 to speak what your wishes are for the day. I know
23 we've had a good easy day today, and so I would just
24 open the floor for thought on this.
25

26 MS. PITKA: I would like to try to get
27 through as much as we can. This is Rhonda.
28

29 MR. BROWER: Can we come back in the
30 morning. Charlie.
31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Of course it'd
33 be my two rural members, right on.
34

35 (Laughter)
36

37 MR. REAM: Disagreeing with each other.
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So could I get
40 a third person to say yea or nay.
41

42 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
43 this is Greg.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, you have
46 the floor.
47

48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
49 would recommend that we come back in the morning and we
50

1 start with the presentation as fresh and, you know, go
2 from there, instead of breaking it into two parts.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I concur.
5 Thank you for that recommendation. I would go ahead
6 and say today we will put a stop to the meeting for the
7 day and we'll reconvene first thing in the morning.
8 Our meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. We'll start
9 off with public comment on non-agenda items. And
10 seeing that we didn't take too many breaks, today, you
11 know, or this afternoon, I think it'd just be
12 sufficient to go ahead and call it a day and, again,
13 start with public comment on non-agenda items first
14 thing in the morning and then we'll jump right into the
15 individual customary and traditional use process with
16 Josh Ream, that way we're all fresh in the morning and
17 we can start busting through this stuff here.

18
19 Awesome.

20
21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
24 well, we'll talk to you guys all in the morning at 9:00
25 a.m., that convenes the meeting.

26
27 (Off record)

28
29 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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