

KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Community Center
Cold Bay, Alaska
September 21 – 22, 2022

Invocation:

Mr. Patrick Holmes provided an invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Establishment:

Wednesday, September 21, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am. Council Chair Della Trumble and Council members Coral Chernoff, Patrick Holmes, Christopher Price, and Rebecca Skinner were present in person, and Richard Koso and Natasha Hayden were present by teleconference. Samuel Rohrer was absent but excused. With seven out of eight seated Council members present (Council has two vacant seats) the quorum was established.

Attendees:

In person:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs Interagency Staff Committee and Federal Subsistence Board Acting member: **Glenn Chen, Ph.D.**
- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM): **Justin Koller, Jarred Stone, Katya Wessels, Scott Ayers, and Jason Roberts, Ph.D.**
- Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR): **Maria Fosado, Laticia Melendez, and Alison Williams**
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G): **Tyler Lawson and Mathew Keyse**

Via teleconference:

- Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska: **Vince Tutiakoff**
- Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak: **Matt Van Daele and Daniel Smith**
- Koniag Inc. Community Affairs Liaison: **Amy Peterson**
- Native Village of Ouzinkie: **Tami Jones**
- The Aleut Community of Saint Paul: **Lauren Divine**
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): **Jill Klein and John Gerken**
- USFWS Alaska Maritime NWR: **Jeff Williams**
- USFWS Kodiak NWR: **Mike Brady**
- National Park Service (NPS): **Kim Jochum, Ph.D.**
- OSM: **Kendra Holman, George Pappas, Brent Vickers, Ph.D., Robbin La Vine, and Orville Lind**

- ADF&G: *Mark Burch, Bill Dunker, Lisa Fox, Jackie Keating, Kelly Krueger, Mark Lavine, Tyler Polum, Susan Klock, Chance Wilcox, Jeff Wadle, and James Jackson*

Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion by Member Skinner, seconded by Member Chernoff, to adopt the agenda as read with the following changes:

- 6. Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes; discuss closure reviews and inclusion in minutes
- 11i. Board of Fisheries meeting announcement and discussion on Proposal 98
- 12.c.2 ADF&G Kodiak Area Wildlife Conservation update

The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

The Council discussed the meeting minutes. Mr. Holmes expressed that he would like to see that the minutes contain more detailed discussions the Council has during the meetings. In response to Mr. Holmes concerns, Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor for OSM, reminded the Council that all Council meetings are recorded, and transcripts are created and available for the public. She clarified that the Council Coordinator generally is responsible for summarizing the meeting transcripts for the minutes, and that the minutes only contain just the outline of the Council's meetings. She explained that the sole purpose of the minutes is a requirement by all the Councils that are chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Member Holmes motioned and seconded by Member Chernoff, to approve the winter 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports:

Patrick Holmes of Kodiak reported his subsistence season was disrupted due to recovering from surgery. He was, however, able to do some tide pooling and got some sea urchins. Berries were good around his house. The salmonberries that were in direct wind were not as productive. Lingonberries were sparse on Pillar Mountain, which tends to happen when they have a dry July every 10 years. The Buskin River opened late in the season and closed early due to a weak run. Folks that were able to fish reported having trouble with sea lions and seals. The deer population is still in the recovery phase, but those who he talked with were able to get some nice deer.

Richard Koso of Adak reported that the Adak caribou population is doing well although continues slow decline. There was an informal meeting last March in Adak and by teleconference, to discuss the Adak Caribou Herd arranged by the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Manager Steve Delahanty. Several staff with the refuge were in attendance along with the ADF&G Area Wildlife Biologist Dave Crawley, and representatives from the Aleut Corporation, City of Adak, a few local Adak resident

subsistence hunters and a local hunting guide. The main purpose of meeting was to share information about the Adak Caribou Herd that is in decline. The Alaska Maritime NWR staff were not able to conduct a caribou survey but noted that the NWR would like to see the caribou population in the range of 150 animals, which Mr. Koso said is concerning as caribou are an essential subsistence resource for the community.

The ptarmigan population is still low, local guides elected not to hunt them, which will help with recovery. Mr. Koso reported that the last couple of years the road access to Lake Andrew has been blocked by the Navy due to the unexploded ordinance and cleanup efforts. He said that Sockeye Salmon spawn in the Lake, but currently rocks and sand and other debris from the ocean have blocked the outlet of this lake and locals need to gain access to open the outlet. He has worked with the Adak Community Development Corporation and the Governor to try and open the access again, without much success. It is a big concern in the community that they are going to lose their red salmon (Sockeye Salmon) return with the lake access being blocked. The lake provides safe access to the resource by subsistence users.

Natasha Hayden of Kodiak reported the Buskin River was closed. She was able to get some subsistence Sockeye Salmon from Pasagshak in July. She didn't see a lot of gillnetters while she was out there a few times. She thought escapement was met, but there might not have been a surplus. She noted seeing a lot of sport fishers, but was unsure of the amount harvested. The salmon return in Port Lions was adequate. Folks were able to harvest a few deer, but they're not seeing a huge amount of them. Blueberries were good and were ripe earlier than usual. She spotted lingonberries and salmonberries on Pillar Mountain and noticed more dead stalks on the salmonberries than usual.

Christopher Price of Unalaska reported that McLees Lake weir was successfully installed. He was thankful for the partnerships in the community that made the startup of the project successful. The weather at the beginning of the summer wasn't great and the fish didn't show up until mid-July. Nets were lost and boats got swamped in dangerous conditions making it difficult to harvest enough fish for the local community, elders, and Tribal members. Boxes of fish were purchased from Chignik to supplement the community. He reported that fishing on Front Beach was hit and miss. He suggested the Council may want to discuss additional reductions on the catch levels of red salmon (Sockeye Salmon) until Unalaska Lake and Iliuliuk River recover. He shared his concerns about the local economy, the reductions in King and the Opilio crab fisheries, ocean conditions in the Bering Sea and the effect on commercial fisheries in his community.

Rebecca Skinner of Kodiak reported that food security is a concern and emphasized the importance of being able to harvest local resources for subsistence. She noticed that grocery stores are not as well stocked, even when the barge does come in. She highlighted the effects of changing ocean conditions and the impacts on subsistence foods and commercial fishery that drives the local economy. Salmon fishing in Prince William Sound and Kodiak was not great. In Kodiak, the Sockeye and Coho salmon seasons closed early. The cod population seems to be improving slightly. She reported that the summer weather in Kodiak was cold and rainy.

Coral Chernoff of Kodiak reported that June was a warm month, setting four records for high temperatures. The heat caused a short and early burst of salmonberries. The salmon run on the Buskin River was different this year; the season closed early and then reopened early with a big push of salmon coming through the weir. The Coho Salmon run on the other side of the island came in slow, and she was not able to harvest any. She heard from four sportfishing lodges that clients were not catching their limits either. Harvesting fireweed, nettles, plantain, and high bush cranberries was phenomenal this year. Crayfish in the Buskin River was closed this year, and she looks forward to hearing from the Sun'aq Tribe about their studies on what crayfish are eating. Crab seemed to be scarce this year; there has been an increase in pressure to the crab stocks from fishermen coming up from Oregon due to their commercial fishing restrictions. As a representative for Kodiak on the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC), Ms. Chernoff reported they were updating the management plan for Emperor Geese that will allocate harvest amounts to the communities in the goose's range based on the previous year's population survey. The last couple of years there has been a permit requirement to hunt Emperor Geese on the road system in Kodiak, roughly 40 permits have been issued and not many birds were harvested last year. The AMBCC will look at removing this permit requirement in the future.

Chair Della Trumble of King Cove reported that fishing in June was decent, July and August were slow. There were a lot of salmonberries before the rain came. Blueberry harvest was good; however, mossberries wasn't as good as in the past. The crab closure has had a big impact on the community. She heard reports from Sand Point that the salmon season was not good. She echoed Ms. Skinner's concerns about changing ocean conditions and the effect on subsistence resources. Ms. Trumble stressed that it would take a lot of effort going forward to work together to adjust to these changes. She attended virtually the Federal Subsistence Board meetings that discussed proposals for the Kodiak/Aleutians area. She looks forward to the next meeting being held in person.

Service Awards:

Dr. Glen Chen, Acting Regional Director for BIA and member of the Interagency Staff Committee presented Service Awards to Chair Della Trumble for 25 years of service to the Council and to Council Secretary Chris Price for 5 years of service. Dr. Chen also provided the award plaque to Council member Pat Holmes for his 20-year Service Award that was awarded during a previous teleconference meeting, but OSM was unable to present the actual plaque to Member Holmes out due to Covid travel restrictions. It was brought to OSM's attention that Coral Chernoff and Rebecca Skinner have served on the Council for 8 years and have yet to receive any award. Ms. Wessels apologized for this oversight and promised that OSM will present their 5-year service awards at the next Council meeting.

Public And Tribal Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Two representatives from the Sun'aq Tribe (Matt Van Daele and Daniel Smith) spoke about concerns for the Buskin River salmon returns. They are considering applying for funding for a Sockeye Salmon smolt project and provided a report on crayfish research in the Buskin and looking at their potential consumption of salmon eggs.

Mr. Smith, Tribal Biologist with the Sun'aq Tribe, provided a brief overview of the Sun'aq Natural Resources Department's research projects on invasive signal crayfish population dynamics within the Buskin River watershed and are worried just how much the crayfish are affecting the Sockeye, Coho and Pink salmon and rearing environment within the lake and upper Buskin River. He reported that signal crayfish have an omnivorous and opportunistic diet and biologists believe these crayfish utilize food resources including salmon eggs and potentially also salmon fry and smolt predation. He reported that the research with the stabilized isotope analysis study will likely find out the extent of their predation on salmon egg, fry, and smolt during different points of the year. Mr. Smith, Mr. Daele, and Tyler Polum (ADF&G) addressed some questions by the Council.

A representative of Qawalangin Tribe and Mayor of Unalaska Vince Tutiakoff requested additional enforcement for current sport and subsistence fisheries in the Unalaska area as he reported that there are many who are taking more fish than they are allowed, and some may be fishing illegally. He also said that the only enforcement officer stationed in Unalaska is relocated to Bristol Bay during the summer months, which is primarily when salmon fishing occurs. Mr. Tutiakoff also commented on Council member Richard Koso's concerns about the blockage of the outlet of Lake Andrew to salmon that are returning to spawn.

Aleut Community of Saint Paul Ecosystem Conservation Office Director Laruen Divine provided comments under Tribal reports to the Council about negative interactions between subsistence users and non-local sport hunters. She asked for assistance with outreach and education for the non-local users to help them understand the importance of subsistence hunting and access to local sites. The Council asked for a letter from Ms. Divine to further explain the issues so that the Council can take this up at their Winter 2023 meeting and have appropriate agency people to speak to the different issues.

Old Business:

The Council received presentations on the following topics:

- 805(c) Report summary. Council Coordinator Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough provided the Council with a summary of the 805(c) Report from the Federal Subsistence Board's (Board) actions on proposals affecting resident in the Kodiak and Aleutian Island Regions.
- Board FY-2021 Annual Report Replies summary. Ms. Hutchinson-Scarborough provided the Council with a summary of the Board's reply to the Council's items identified in their annual report. Member Chernoff shared with the Council that the State's new invasive species regulation did not go through the regular Board of Fisheries process and the affected Tribes were not consulted as part of the process. Tyler Polum, ADF&G Kodiak Area Management Biologist for the Sportfish Division, provided additional information to the Council on this topic.

New Business:

Fisheries Management Reports:

Jackie Keating, ADF&G Subsistence Resource Specialist, provided preliminary subsistence harvest data for Kodiak including specific detail about the Kodiak Station results. This information was provided to the Council to help inform their discussion on FP23-05a.

Tyler Lawson, the ADF&G Assistant Area Management Biologist for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, provided an overview of escapement and subsistence harvest for areas affected by the current proposals and closure reviews and provided general comments that ADF&G had for all the systems being considered by the Council. The presentation covered Adak-Kagalaska Island; McLees Lake, Unalaska Lake, Summers, and Morris Lakes on Unalaska Island; and Mortenson's Lagoon, Trout Creek, and Russel Creek in the Cold Bay portion of the Alaska Peninsula Area. A general trend in harvest is that fewer State subsistence permits have been issued over time for most of these areas. Salmon returns and surveys for these systems have been highly variable.

Mr. Lawson and James Jackson, ADF&G Kodiak Commercial Herring and Salmon Subsistence Management Biologist, and Mr. Polum, ADF&G Kodiak Area Sport Fish Biologist, provided ADF&G's comments on several of the proposals and closure reviews as they were presented by OSM staff, and when asked by the Council, provided additional information for clarity on the fisheries and systems during the Council's discussions and deliberations on the Fishery Proposals and Closure Reviews.

Public And Tribal Comments on Agenda Items: Fishery Proposals and Closure Reviews

Mr. Van Daele, Natural Resource Director for Sun'aq Tribe, Kodiak, provided the Council with the Tribe's position on the proposals and closure reviews for the Kodiak Island. The Tribe is definitely in favor of anything that's going to bring them to alignment with Title VIII of ANILCA, as well as protecting access to subsistence resource and especially wise use in management conservation of resources. Mr. Van Daele added that the Sun'aq Tribe requested that they see more information in future what the actual regulations would change to in terms of types of harvest, methods of harvest, etc., before they can provide more substantive comments.

Tami Jones, Grant Administrator for the Native Village of Ouzinkie, concurred with Mr. Van Deale's comments and urged the Council that any regulatory changes to the Kodiak area bring management in line with Title VIII of ANILCA.

Vince Tutiakoff, a lifelong Unalaska resident, member of the Qawalangin Tribe, and Mayor of Unalaska, testified via teleconference about his and other local subsistence users concerns over rescinding the closures for the Unalaska region; particularly within systems assessable by road citing lack of enforcement on both sport and subsistence fisheries. He said many in the subsistence community share concerns about increasing opportunity and additional gear, such as gillnets, that could be utilized for subsistence salmon fishing, which would add more pressure on these fragile systems already. Mr. Tutiakoff voiced concerns about conservation, ongoing enforcement issues, and the desire to generate a local solution before rescinding Unalaska closures.

Jeff Wasley, a Cold Bay resident and a 10-year licensed sport fish and hunting guide with Izembek NWR, testified in person over his concern if Fisheries Closures FCR 21-13 for Russel Creek and Nurse Lagoon and FCR 23-13 for Trout Creek were rescinded as this might affect his ability to take his clients sport fishing in these areas for Coho Salmon. In addition, he stated his objection to the Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposal 103 that if passed would reduce the bag and possessions limit of Coho and Sockeye salmon in salt water and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay to 2 per species per day. Mr. Wasley testified that his clients almost exclusively fish for Coho Salmon because Coho will bite a fly or lure whereas Sockeye Salmon you can only catch by snagging, which is illegal. He said most of his clients would not want to come all the way to Cold Bay to only catch 2 Coho Salmon per day. Furthermore, he reported that most local subsistence users prefer Sockeye Salmon and generally fish in other systems or locations than his clients. He concluded that this regulation, if passed, would hurt his and the other few local guides business that also bring money to the community. The Council asked Mr. Wasley several questions about his and other local guides to better understand his concerns and try to better understand approximately the number of salmon by species taken by his clients in a season.

Regional Fisheries Proposals (FP) and Closure Reviews (FCR).

OSM Fishery Biologists Jarred Stone, Justin Koller, and OSM Anthropologist Dr. Jason Roberts provided the Council with background information and OSM's analyses for each of the four Fishery Proposals (FP) and fourteen Federal Closure Reviews (FCR) for the Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Island Regions to aid the Council in their deliberations and determining their recommendations to the Board. After thorough evaluation, questioning for clarity from OSM and ADF&G Fisheries staff, information received from public comments, and often extensive debate, the Council deliberated on and made recommendations to the Board. This included four Fishery Proposals and seven closure reviews for the Kodiak Region; two closure reviews for the Alaska Peninsula Region (Cold Bay Area); and five closure reviews for the Aleutian Region, four for Unalaska, and one for Adak. The Council made the following recommendations to the Board.

Kodiak Area Fishery Proposals & Closure Reviews

FP23-05a – Customary and Traditional Use revisions for the Kodiak Area

FP23-05a was submitted by the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The proponents are requesting to recognize the residents of the Kodiak Coast Guard Base's (Base) customary and traditional use for salmon for the Kodiak Area. The proponents are also requesting to change the area descriptors for the customary and traditional use determination zones within the Kodiak Islands, to clarify the areas under regulation and reduce administrative complexity for the public and Kodiak NWR staff.

The Council was concerned that adding more users to customary and traditional use determination for salmon in the Kodiak Area would potentially cause conservation issues for the limited salmon resources in the Buskin River. The Council was also concerned that recognizing customary and traditional use of salmon by the Base might lead to a change in the rural status of the Kodiak Area. They additionally noted

the disparity in resources available to residents of the Base compared to other residents of the Kodiak Area. They also did not feel that Base residents met the factors for eligibility for customary and traditional use, and that the culture of how Base residents hunt and fish is different than that of other groups living in the Kodiak Area.

Motion to adopt FP23-05a by Member Holmes, seconded by Member Price. **The Motion failed on a unanimous vote.**

FP23-05b – Revisions to the Kodiak Area waters description

After much debate, The Council supported the intent of the proposal, but had concerns about the current area description not matching the area that is eligible for harvest of fish under Federal subsistence regulations.

Motion to adopt FP23-05b by member Holmes, seconded by Member Chernoff. Motion by member Holmes to amend the motion by starting with “In the Federal public waters of Kodiak Island” followed by the proposed revision to the area language, seconded by Member Skinner. **The Motion to amend failed on a unanimous vote. The Motion to adopt failed.**

FP23-06a and FCR23-15 were addressed simultaneously because of their overlap and if the Council voted to adopt FP23-06a, then no action likely would be needed for FCR23-15.

FP23-06a – Womens Bay Rod and Reel

In support of the Federal subsistence priority, this fishery would allow for subsistence harvest while also ensuring that conservation concerns are taken into consideration through the limited gear type.

Motion to adopt FP23-06a by Member Holmes, seconded by Member Chernoff. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

FCR23-15 – Women’s Bay Closure

Given the Council’s recommendation on FP23-06a to rescind the closure and implement a rod and reel fishery, the Council took no action on this closure review.

Motion to take no action on closure FCR23-15 by Member Skinner, seconded by Member Price. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

FP23-06b and FCR21-16 were addressed simultaneously because of their overlap and if the Council voted to adopt FP23-06b, then no action would likely be needed for FCR 23-15.

FP23-06b – Buskin River Marine Waters Rod and Reel

In support of the Federal subsistence priority, this fishery would allow for subsistence harvest while also ensuring that conservation concerns are taken into consideration through the limited gear type.

Motion to support proposal FP23-06b by Member Skinner, seconded by Member Price. **Amendment 1** by Member Chernoff “to rescind the closure and follow the general area provisions for the subsistence taking of fish”. **Amendment 1 failed** due to lack of second. **Amendment 2** by Member Chernoff to use Federal subsistence area harvest limits, rather than State harvest limits that are more restrictive, seconded by Member Skinner. **Motion to support proposal with Amendment 2 passed by unanimous vote.**

FCR21-16 – Buskin River Marine Waters Closure

Given the Council’s recommendation on FP23-06b to rescind the closure and implement a rod and reel fishery, the Council took no action on this closure review.

Motion to take no action on closure FCR21-16 by Member Holmes, seconded by Member Chernoff.
Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FCR21-18 – Afognak Bay Closure

The Councils recommends rescinding the closure to bring the Federal subsistence regulations in compliance with the rural subsistence consumptive priority set forth in Title VIII of ANILCA.

Secondary motion by Member Skinner, seconded by Member Chernoff, for the Council to further recommended that if the Board rescinds this closure, that the manager limits the gear type to rod and reel.
Secondary motion withdrawn by member Skinner with the consent of the second following Council discussion.

Motion to rescind closure FCR21-18 by Member Chernoff, seconded by Member Skinner. **The Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

FCR21-19 – Afognak Island Freshwater Drainages Closure and FCR23-22 – Little Kitoi Creek Closure

The Councils recommends rescinding the closure to bring the Federal subsistence regulations in compliance with rural subsistence consumption priority set forth in Title VIII of ANILCA. In addition, the Federal manager can step in as needed in times of conservation concern to limit fisheries if needed.

Motion to rescind closures FCR21-19 and FCR23-22 by Member Skinner, seconded by member Chernoff. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

FCR23-19 – Selief Bay Creek Closure

The Council believes that rescinding the closure will bring the Federal subsistence regulations into compliance as there are no Federal public waters in this location.

Motion to rescind closure FCR23-19 by Member Skinner, seconded by Member Chernoff. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

FCR23-21 – King Crab Around Kodiak and Afognak Closure

In Council's opinion, retaining this closure protects the depleted stocks while maintaining a rural priority for Federally qualified subsistence users.

Motion to maintain the status quo for closure FRC23-21 by Member Skinner, seconded by member Chernoff. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

FCR23-22– Little Kitoi Creek

The Council noted that these changes would bring the Federal subsistence regulations in compliance with rural subsistence consumption priority set forth in Title VIII of ANILCA. In addition, the Federal manager can step in as needed in times of conservation concern to limit fisheries if needed.

Motion to rescind closure FCR23-22 by Member Skinner, seconded by member Chernoff. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Alaska Peninsula Area Closure Reviews

FCR21-13 – Russel Creek and Nurse Lagoon and FCR23-13 – Trout Creek

FCR21-13 and FCR23-13 were deliberated on by the Council at same time. The Council acknowledges the current lack of priority for Federally qualified subsistence users at these locations. The Council prefers to provide opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users and to be able to provide a rural preference in times of conservation concern.

Motion to rescind closures FCR21-13 and FCR23-13 by Member Skinner, seconded by Member Chernoff. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Aleutian Islands Area Closure Reviews

FCR23-11 – Unalaska Bay Freshwaters

The Council supports maintaining the status quo for this closure in deference to recommendations and comments from Council members and other representatives from the area. Testimony included concerns about conservation, ongoing enforcement issues, and the desire to generate a local solution before rescinding the closure.

Motion to maintain status quo on closure FCR23-11 by Member Holmes, seconded by Member Price. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

FCR21-08 – Unalaska Lake Closure, FCR21-09 – Summers and Morris Lakes Closure, and FCR21-11 – McLees Lake Closure

The Council deliberated simultaneously on FCR21-08, FCR21-09, and FCR21-11. The Council supports retaining the status quo for these closures in deference to recommendations and comments from Council members and other representatives from the area. Testimony included concerns about conservation, ongoing enforcement issues, and the desire to generate a local solution before rescinding the closure.

Motion to maintain status quo for closures FCR21-08, FCR21-09, and FCR21-11 by Member Holmes, seconded by Member Price. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

FCR23-12 – Adak and Kagalaska Freshwaters Closure

The Council acknowledges the current lack of priority for Federally qualified subsistence users at this location. The Council prefers to provide opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users and to be able to provide a rural preference in times of conservation concern.

Motion to rescind closure FCR23-12 by Member Koso, seconded by Member Skinner. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP):

Mr. Stone, Dr. Roberts, and Mr. Koller presented the FRMP overview and worked through the Priority Information Need process for the 2024 FRMP Notice of Funding Opportunity. The Council reviewed the draft list provided to them by staff and made updates based on earlier testimony about concerns for Unalaska Lake and enumeration of smolt in the Buskin system. Member Skinner moved to adopt the Priority Information Needs as revised, which was seconded by Member Holmes. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program

Mr. Stone and Mr. Koller provided brief overview of the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring (Partners) Program and the upcoming Notice for funding opportunity for the next Partners Program cycle.

Joint meeting: North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference in May 2023

Kendra Holman, OSM Wildlife Division Biologist, gave an overview of the Joint Meeting of the North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference in Anchorage in May 2023 and requested that the Council nominate a member and alternate to attend. OSM would provide travel, lodging and per diem to attend. The topics of predator control and the importance of timely, complete surveys were suggested by the Council for the Alaska management symposium during this conference.

Member Holmes made a motion to nominate Rick Koso (primary) and Chair Della Trumble (as backup) to attend the Joint Meeting of the North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference in May 2023. Motion was seconded by member Chernoff. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Council Member reimbursement for telephonic/internet expenses related to Council teleconference meetings

Ms. Hutchinson-Scarborough read to the Council information for past or future reimbursement for telephonic/internet expenses related to Council teleconference meeting. The Council did not provide comment.

Fall 2022 Council application/nomination open season:

Ms. Wessels announced that membership applications or nominations for seats on the 10 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils are being accepted through February 21, 2023 and encouraged the Council and public to get the word out to Kodiak and Aleutian communities to recruit new applicants and reminded members that have terms expiring next year to reapply. The Council had a brief discussion about the need by Council Members and OSM to increase outreach in unrepresented communities.

State of Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) proposals:

The Council discussed BOF proposals 98 and 103 for the Alaska Peninsula/ Aleutian Islands, Chignik finfish meeting, February 13-17, 2023; and BOF proposal 169 for the Statewide Finfish meeting, March 10-14, 2023.

Member Skinner made a motion, seconded by Member Holmes, for the Council to provide a comment written by the Council Coordinator and Council Member Skinner, in support of proposal 98. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Candice Nielsen, Cold Bay resident and the proponent for proposal 103, provided an overview in person to the Council of the proposal and her reasons for submitting it.

Member Chernoff made a motion, seconded by Member Koso, for the Council to provide a comment written by the Council Coordinator and Council member Skinner, in support of proposal 103. **Motion passed by unanimous vote**

Member Skinner made a motion, seconded by Member Holmes, for the Council to write a comment written by the Council Coordinator and Council Member Skinner in support to the Board of Fisheries Statewide Proposal 169. **The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Identify Issues for FY2022 Annual Report:

Ms. Hutchinson-Scarborough presented a short overview of this action item asking the Council to identify regional issues or concerns they would like the Board to hear and respond to. The Council identified seven FY-2022 Annual Report topics:

- Fisheries Enforcement concerns. There has been much discussion during this meeting about concerns for Federal enforcement of regulations across the region.

- The King Cove Road. This has been a long-standing issue for this Council and there is support for moving things forward.
- Council meeting locations in hub communities. OSM policy has limited meeting sites to hub communities, and we disagree with that policy and which communities have been identified as hubs.
- Changing ocean conditions and climate change are having a big impact on our communities and subsistence lifestyle.
- The BIL (bipartisan infrastructure law) should have funded weirs. They are important infrastructure and should be noted as such.
- Increased access to Federal subsistence permits in Kodiak and tidying up the permitting process. Permits can only be obtained from one location currently, whereas there are villages across the island that need to get them and either need to fly into town to obtain them or ask ADF&G to mail them one. Chair Trumble noted that she has worked with the Izembek NWR to have permit materials mailed to her for King Cove and other communities, which works well.
- Concerns raised by Member Koso about the outlet of Lake Andrew on Adak Island being closed off from access to the sea for fish, which is directly impacting the Sockeye Salmon returns. Help is needed to coordinate efforts to get the lake reopened.

Reports:

Tribal Governments

- Qawalangin Tribe and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries McLees Lake Cooperative Weir FRMP project update presented by Tyler Lawson
- The Aleut Community of Saint Paul, Office of Ecological Service Director, report presented by Lauren Divine

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge update presented by Jeff Williams
- Izembek National Wildlife Refuge update presented by Maria Fosado, Laticia Melendez, and Alison Williams
- Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge update presented by Bill Brady

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

- Division of Division of Sport Fish, Buskin River Sockeye Salmon projects presented by Kelly Krueger
- Division of Subsistence, FRMP funded subsistence research projects presented by Jackie Keating
- Division of Wildlife, Kodiak Area Wildlife Conservation Office, Bill Dunker was scheduled present project update, but remote connection with him was lost

Office of Subsistence Management. Overview presented by Scott Ayers

Future Meeting Dates:

The Council selected March 29-30 in Larsen Bay for their Winter 2023 meeting, with a back-up location of Kodiak. Further, they selected King Cove on September 19-20 for their Fall 2023 meeting.

Closing Comments:

The Council appreciated the work of all the presenters at the meeting, and specifically noted the efforts of Mr. Lawson (ADF&G) and Mr. Stone, Mr. Koller, and Dr. Roberts (OSM). Member Holmes requested that the Council write letters about enforcement concerns in Unalaska and Cold Bay and to the appropriate people regarding Lake Andrew on Adak.

Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough, DFO
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Della Trumble, Chair
Kodiak Aleutian Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Kodiak Aleutian Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, April 5 and 6, 2023 in Larsen Bay or Kodiak, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

For a more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-310-4097, email at lisa_hutchinson@fws.gov.