

**YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes**

Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
Bethel, AK
October 27-28, 2022

Invocation:

Phillip Peter Sr. provided an invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 9:25AM. Council members Henry Parks, John Andrew, Jaqueline Cleveland, Alissa Rogers, Philip Peter, Sr., and Myron Naneng Sr. were present in person, and Robert Hoffman and Norma Evan were present via phone. With seven of 13 seated Council members present, the quorum was established. Myron Naneng Sr. presided as Chair due to Raymond Oney's absence. James Landlord was delayed by weather and joined in-person the afternoon of the first day. Norma Evan joined in-person the second day. Wasilly Alexie, Thomas Alstrom, and Raymond Oney were not present and were excused. Richard Slats was not present and was not excused.

Attendees:

* Denotes attended telephonically

- Yup'ik Interpreters: Sophie Evan and Joann Andrew
- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM): Brooke McDavid, Katya Wessels, Robbin La Vine, Tom Plank, Kevin Foley, Pippa Kenner, Cory Graham
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Regional Office: Jill Klein; Fisheries & Ecological Services - Gerald Maschmann; Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) – Aaron Moses, Ed Davis, Christopher Tulik, Bryan Daniels, Paul Larson, David Therchik; Togiak NWR – Andy Aderman*
- Bureau of Land Management: Walker Gusse*, Chris McKee*, Tim Sundlov*
- Bureau of Indian Affairs: Rosalie Debenham*
- National Park Service: Regional Office: Eva Patton*
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game: Wildlife Conservation - Luke Rogers*; Commercial Fisheries - Deena Jallen*, Kristy Gleason*, Shane Ransbury*, Nick Smith*, Sam Decker*; Sport Fisheries – John Chythlook*, Lisa Stuby*
- Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission – Terese Schomogyi, Nikki Pollock, Andrew Magel
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) - Catherine Moncrieff, Serena Fitka, and Gabe Canfield
- Kwethluk Inc. - Nick Ayapan*, Senka Guy*, Anthony Olick*, George Guy*

- Native Village of Napaimute: Dan Gillikin*
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC): Dr. Diana Stram*
- Association of Village Council Presidents: Ashley Johnson
- Donlin Gold: Enric Fernandez, Rebecca Wilmarth
- Public: Timothy Andrew, Jeff Sanders, Abrose Aguchak, Nels Alexie*, Stanilas Sheppard*

Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion by Member Peter, seconded by Member Andrew, to adopt the agenda as presented with the following changes:

- Addition of item 11(j) to elect a Council member to represent the Y-K Delta RAC on the State of Alaska Wood Bison Planning Team.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Member Peter, seconded by Member Andrew, to approve the winter 2022 meeting minutes as presented with the following modifications:

- Correct spelling of John Hanson's last name on page 9.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Council Member and Chair Reports:

Robert Hoffman of Bethel reported that he is proud of the Council for continuing to discuss important issues affecting subsistence in the region and for working together to find solutions to those issues. He kept his report short because he was joining via teleconference.

Henry Parks of Nunapitchuk reported that he was very excited to be meeting in person again after the pandemic. He shared about the various subsistence activities he participated in since the last meeting and observations he made during this time out on the land. He reported that ptarmigan numbers are increasing, salmon fishing was decent, whitefish fishing was great, and the salmonberries were good this year. Blackberries were low due to weather, and there were hardly any snow geese in the spring. He thanked Federal and State agencies for allowing some salmon fishing opportunity in the Kuskokwim Region during the summer. He requested that managers consider that some people cannot fish on Sundays due to religious practices causing their available fishing time to decrease when openers are on Sundays. He also requested that openers do not start at 6:00 am but shift to a later opening of 9:00 am. He ended by saying that everyone needs to continue keeping a watch on the land, sea, plants, and animals and making sure that they are taken care of so that the subsistence way of life that is so vital to culture and food security may continue.

John Andrew of Kwethluk reported that it was a tough fishing season this year because the fish came late and there were not many openers. They did not get enough reds (Sockeye Salmon) and kings (Chinook Salmon), so they were anxiously waiting for a chance to harvest silvers (Coho Salmon). He was very upset the Alaska Department of Fish and Game closed for silvers. They saw the fish jumping in the river but could not harvest them. Mr. Andrew said that a lot of people want to see restrictions put on Area M commercial fishing because they are catching salmon that should be coming to Kuskokwim, Yukon, and Norton Sound areas. He said they shouldn't wait for more studies. Same thing with Bering Sea trawlers; they need to restrict salmon bycatch. He said he has been asking for restrictions on those fisheries since the 1980s. Mr. Andrew wants to see community representation on the NPFMC, and not just one or two advisory seats because that will be a powerless minority on the Council.

Alissa Rogers of Bethel reported that she currently has only smelt and birds in her freezer because of the lack of salmon. She said that smelt were plentiful and good sized this year. She was also glad that the bird flu did not end up being as bad as they were afraid it might be. She observed the incoming bird migrations in the springtime were smaller than usual, but there were a lot of baby birds and the outmigration seemed much bigger. Her family also had a good year of trapping and gathering eggs and greens. Ms. Rogers shared how difficult it is to pass on traditions when they are not allowed to go salmon fishing. The closures are resulting in a lot of pain. She said that the king salmon ran very late this year, someone caught one on September 6th. She did not go salmon fishing in order to aid in conservation and let the elders who really need it have the salmon instead. She reported that blueberries and salmonberries were good, and the salmonberries ripened early. She has heard about a lot more bear activity than normal and camps getting broken into, attributing it to the lack of salmon in the spawning grounds. She ended her report by sharing that climate change is causing lakes to disappear and the land to sink and turn into swampland in some areas, but that other areas are uplifting into hills.

Jacqueline Cleveland of Quinhagak reported that there are no fishery monitoring programs in place for the Kanektok River except for an aerial survey for Chinook Salmon. The lack of monitoring data is an issue because management does not have much to go off when making decisions. Most Quinhagak residents were able to meet their needs for salmon. Sockeye Salmon were abundant. Most king salmon were jacks. Chum Salmon showed up very late at the end of July and there was more than the previous year. Silvers were lower than usual but not so low like on the Kuskokwim River. Overall, she observed fish racks to be about 60% red salmon and 40% kings since Chum Salmon were late. Climate change is impacting our communities significantly. For other subsistence foods, it was a good year except for berries. Erosion of our coastline and riverbanks is on-going and washing away archeological sites. Permafrost melt is putting village infrastructure at risk making some building unsafe. Hunting and fishing patterns are changing; for example, hunters must go further out to sea to get seals.

Phillip Peter, Sr. of Akiakchak reported that one of his uncles predicted to him a long time ago that someday the red salmon would take over and there would be no more Chum Salmon. They are starting to see this happening on the Kuskokwim River. Mr. Peter expressed concern about the small mesh nets sizes being required recently because they may be causing fish numbers to go down. He said that the Federal and State governments must work together and stop fighting about management because it's not a

game, subsistence is people's livelihood. When they set different regulations between the State and Federal Governments along the same river, it is confusing for people and makes them mad. They really needed Coho Salmon this year but weren't allowed to fish for them. Mr. Peter is glad that the Bering Sea bycatch and Area M impacts are finally getting attention after all these years. He ended by saying that moose have been plentiful, and everyone needs to work together to make salmon plentiful again too.

Norma Evan of Marshall reported that it was a bad year for blueberries in Marshall because it was very hot and dry in May and June. The subsistence salmon fishing closures resulted in very little fishing and people could not meet their needs. Some people set nets and caught pikes. Pike is getting bigger and bigger in size. She did not notice any small salmon fry swimming around this summer and is very concerned about that. She is also concerned about Lamprey Eels because it has been four years since they have seen them. Eels are an important food in her area. Grizzly bears have been hanging around the community and killed a moose one mile upriver from town. During a recent funeral she was so sad because they could not provide salmon like they traditionally do, but they were still able to share a little bit.

James Landlord of Mountain Village reported that the first fish they harvest after breakup are Cheefish and everyone is excited to get them after the long winter. He referenced the public comment from George Smith about four-inch mesh nets not being good for catching Cheefish. He said that there was a big wildfire near St. Mary's that resulted in evacuations from there and Mountain Village during June. Mr. Landlord was not able to go out this year because of health reasons, but he said that he was grateful for the whitefish and moose shared with him. He heard reports that moose were abundant.

Myron Naneng Sr. of Bethel reported on the on-going hardships related to salmon declines. He said it has been particularly hard for people on the Yukon who have had heavier restrictions in recent years. He has had to share more fish with his family on the Yukon because they cannot harvest their own. Even fishing in the Kuskokwim is difficult because of the restrictions. They travel to the non-spawning tributaries, which can be as far as a three-hour boat ride one way to get the food they need. Mr. Naneng grew up in Hooper Bay and reported that the Tomcods that used to be abundant during spring and fall have not been returning as they should. Halibut sizes are getting smaller, and more people are fishing them because of the salmon restrictions. He expressed frustrations toward decision making bodies such as the Alaska Board of Fisheries and NPFMC, who do not take the observations of rural residents seriously and just call them "anecdotal". Mr. Naneng is also angry that Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) subsistence fisheries have been closed, but commercial fisheries that intercept their salmon are allowed to continue. They have already done genetic studies that prove the Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries are mixed stock and that fishers there harvest a significant amount of AYK salmon. He stated the importance of all agencies working together to protect resources and cultural traditions. He said the restrictions are killing culture, leaving people without proper nutrition, and disrupting family unity.

Service Awards:

Jill Klein, the USFWS Alaska Regional Subsistence Coordinator and an Interagency Staff Committee Member, presented a 5-year service award to Alissa Rogers and a 20-year award to John Andrew.

Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Tim “Kamguk” Andrew from Bethel notified the Council of a recently filed lawsuit related to salmon management on Day 1 of the meeting. He also stated that there are major data gaps for important subsistence resources such as Arctic Lamprey, ptarmigan, and blackfish. He wants to see more studies done on these animals so that management can be better informed. On Day 2 of the meeting, Mr. Andrew let the Council know that he has been hearing about more bear problems in the Bethel area recently. He attributed the increase in bears coming into town to a lack of berries and salmon. He also let the Council know he intends to submit a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game to open a muskox hunt in the Kuskokwim Mountains behind Kalskag.

Serena Fitka with YR DFA relayed a comment on behalf of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee requesting that the Council support Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal 140.

Stanislaus Sheppard from Mountain Village reported that their culture and way of life is disappearing because of the lack of salmon for the past three years. He said that the Yukon River has been closed to subsistence fishing, but other areas can fish. He thinks the U.S. and Canada Pacific Salmon treaty should do more to protect the salmon.

Adolph Lupi from Tuntutuliak provided a comment about the difficulties of merging traditional indigenous ways of knowing and governance systems with Western science and regulations. He said it is even more difficult during times of conservation.

George Smith from Scammon Bay provided a written comment, which was read into the record by Acting Chair Naneng. Mr. Smith stated that the four-inch mesh size restriction only allows them to harvest skinny and undesirable species of whitefish in the spring. It is too small to harvest the Broad Whitefish and Sheefish that they want to catch. He also noted that it is not fair that Kuskokwim region residents can harvest salmon in non-spawning tributaries, but that they are not allowed to do the same in the Yukon region. He highlighted the Kun River, stating that all its tributaries end in lakes to the north and become dead ends to the east just like the Johnson and Tuntutuliak rivers do in the Kuskokwim.

Old Business:

The Council received presentations on the following topics:

- Federal Subsistence Board (Board) 805(c) Report Summary by Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator
- Board FY2021 Annual Report Reply Summary by Ms. McDavid
- Council Correspondence Update by Ms. McDavid
- Special Actions Update by Pippa Kenner, OSM Anthropologist

New Business:

Fisheries Management Reports:

Yukon River update

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Yukon River Assistant Manager Gerald Maschmann provided the Council with a review of the 2022 salmon fishing season. There was no Chinook Salmon fishing opportunity in 2022 due to the lowest Chinook Salmon runs ever recorded. Summer and fall Chum Salmon runs were also too small to fish. Mr. Maschmann also told the Council about an *Ichthyophonus* sampling project aimed to help better understand in-river mortality and about how the USFWS is trying to offer more opportunities for Government-to-Government consultations with Tribes. Deena Jallen, ADF&G Summer Season Manager, and Shane Ransbury, Assistant Fall Season Manager, extended their sympathies to the Council for another poor year of salmon returns and provided information about upcoming Yukon River Panel and Alaska Board of Fisheries meetings.

Bering Sea Salmon Research Update

Sabrina Garcia from the ADF&G Salmon Ocean Ecology Program presented an update on Bering Sea salmon research including juvenile salmon abundance estimates and factors impacting marine survival. She stated the most important takeaway from the research is that whatever is causing good or bad future run sizes of Yukon River Chinook Salmon is occurring very early in their life stage, either during the year they spend in the fresh water, their first few months in the ocean, or a combination of those two life stages. She also told the Council that she is working on a habitat model for Chinook Salmon in the Bering Sea as part of her PhD dissertation.

Kuskokwim River 2022 Season Summary

Aaron Moses, Subsistence Resource Specialist, and Spencer Rearden, Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, from Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge provided an overview of Kuskokwim River salmon management for the 2022 season. Yukon Delta staff worked collaboratively with Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission and ADF&G to manage salmon runs. Chinook and Chum salmon numbers were once again low and required fishing restrictions. Limited fishing opportunities were provided to harvest Chinook, Chum, and Sockeye salmon during June and July, and allowable gear was limited to six inch or less gillnets to conserve larger female Chinook Salmon. Coho Salmon returned in very low numbers and no fishing opportunity was provided for that species.

Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission Fall 2022 Update

Terese Schomogyi, Programs Manager with the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission (KRITFC), provided an update to the Council about KRITFC's participation in Salmon Management during the 2022 season, staff changes, research and monitoring projects, and advocacy work. She also provided an overview of the KRITFC 2022 Kuskokwim River Salmon Situation Report, which was given to the Council as a handout.

Broad Whitefish Project Update

Frank Harris, Fisheries Biologist with the USFWS Kenai Fisheries Resource Office, updated the Council about a Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) funded research project to collect baseline data about Broad Whitefish spawning in the Kuskokwim River drainage. The project is a collaborative effort between Orutsararmiut Native Council, the Native Village of Napaimute, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Project partners are striving to estimate number of spawners in the area between McGrath and Medfra, to estimate harvest rates on the spawning aggregate, and to describe the population's demographics, such as age and weight. Fall 2022 was the first year of data collection.

Temporary Fisheries Special Action FSA23-01 Briefing

Kevin Foley, OSM Fisheries Biologist, let the Council know that Temporary Fisheries Special Action Request FSA23-01 had been received and validated by OSM. The request was submitted by the Native Village of Kwinhagak and seeks to close the Kanektok River to the harvest of Chinook and Chum salmon to non-federally qualified users during the month of June. OSM will analyze the request and present the analysis to the Council at their Winter 2023 meeting.

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Update

Mr. Foley let the Council know about an open funding opportunity through the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. It is a competitive grant for Alaska Native and rural non-profit organizations. The intent of the program is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural involvement in Federal subsistence management by providing salary funds to organizations to hire biologists, social scientists, or educators. The grant also provides funds for science and culture camps and paid student internships.

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

Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife Biologist, presented to the Council about the North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference to be held in May 2023 in Anchorage. Mr. Plank requested that the Council provide input into topics and issues that should be discussed during a facilitated discussion about State and Federal ungulate management. The Council did not offer any suggestions.

Mr. Plank also notified the Council that OSM would pay for one Council member to attend the conference and asked the Council to choose a member to represent them. Jacqueline Cleveland was nominated with Phillip Peter, Sr. as an alternate.

Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews:

Regional:

FP23-02: Revise customary and traditional use determination for Yukon River salmon

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Andrew, to support fisheries proposal FP23-02.

The Council noted that residents of the three communities in the proposal rely on subsistence foods and are highly dependent on salmon that are destined for the Yukon River drainage. They have a long-term pattern of use of all species of salmon. These communities are known to share their harvests of salmon with other communities through kinship networks. These communities were not included in a customary and traditional use determination when they clearly should have been. Supporting this proposal will fix the regulations.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Crossover:

FP23-01: Rescind Jim River nonsalmon closure, institute Arctic Grayling harvest limit

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Peter, to support fisheries proposal FP23-01.

The Council stated this proposal would support subsistence uses in the area and sport fishing should not be allowed when subsistence uses are prohibited. There is no conservation concern with the proposal.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FCR23-02: Review closure to subsistence harvest of all fish in the Kanuti River

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Andrew, to modify the closure to only rescind for non-salmon species.

The Council believes rescinding the closure to nonsalmon fish would support subsistence users in the area but felt the closure to salmon should be maintained due to conservation concerns. They noted that a special action can be used to temporarily set harvest limits for nonsalmon species until a proposal can be submitted by the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Western Interior Council) during the next fisheries regulatory cycle.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FCR23-03: Review closure to subsistence harvest of all fish in Bonanza Creek

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Peter, to modify the closure to only rescind for non-salmon species.

The Council noted that rescinding the closure to nonsalmon fish would support subsistence users in the area but felt the closure to salmon should be maintained due to conservation concerns. They noted that

special actions can be used to temporarily set harvest limits for nonsalmon species until a proposal is submitted by the Western Interior Council during the next regulatory cycle.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FCR23-05: Review closure to subsistence harvest of all fish in the Delta River

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Peter, to defer the closure review.

The Council noted the home region wanted to defer to hear from affected users. The Council believes the home region should make the decision.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Update and Priority Information Needs Review:

Mr. Foley reviewed regional FRMP projects that were funded for the 2022 cycle. This included 5 new projects in the Yukon region and eight in the Kuskokwim region. Mr. Foley also provided information to the Council about the upcoming 2024 FRMP funding opportunity. Finally, he presented the draft list of Yukon and Kuskokwim regions priority information needs to the Council.

Motion made by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Evan, to support the draft priority information needs outlined in the 2024 FRMP presentation for the Yukon and Kuskokwim regions. The Council thought that all the areas of research listed would produce information beneficial to management.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

During discussion of the priority information needs, Member Landlord brought up a concern about potential impacts to salmon caused by mining in Canada and the Whitehorse dam. The Council agreed they would like more information on these issues.

Motion made by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Peter, that the Council write a letter to the Yukon River Panel expressing concerns about the impacts of mining and dams in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River and requesting information about the issue.

The motion passed on unanimous vote.

Fall 2022 Council application/nomination open season:

Ms. McDavid notified the Council that the Board is currently accepting applications and nominations to serve on Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils with a deadline of February 21, 2023.

Elect Council Member to represent YKDRAC on Wood Bison Planning Team

Luke Rogers, ADF&G Wood Bison Project Technician, provided an update to the Council about the Innoko Wood Bison Herd and the outcome of recent planning meetings. The Council elected Raymond Oney to represent the Council at future planning meetings with Wassily Alexie and Philip Peter serving as alternates.

State of Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals:

Proposal 80 - Restrict subsistence king salmon harvest in the middle and upper Yukon River

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Peter, to support Proposal 80.

The Council supported Proposal 80 because they feel that lower Yukon River fishing districts have been unfairly restricted in the past while upper river districts were allowed more opportunity.

Motion passed with a vote of 7-0, with one member abstaining

Proposal 90 - Create a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Acting Chair Naneng, to support Proposal 90.

The Council did not support this proposal because subsistence fishers should not be more heavily regulated under a Tier II system while commercial fishers in the Alaska Peninsula continue to intercept our salmon stocks for profit. This is unjust and does not adhere to the subsistence priority. By law, restrictions should be put on commercial fisheries before subsistence fisheries.

The motion failed on a unanimous vote.

Proposal 91 - Modify Kuskokwim Area lawful gear and gear specifications and operation to provide greater opportunity to harvest salmon other than king salmon, during times of salmon conservation.

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Peter, to support Proposal 91.

The Council supported Proposal 91 because it would give managers the tools needed to allow targeted fishing opportunities for other species of salmon during times of Chinook Salmon conservation. It will potentially increase subsistence harvest opportunity and help people better meet their subsistence needs while still protecting Chinook Salmon stocks.

Motion passed with a vote of 7-0, with one member abstaining

Proposal 140 - Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time

Motion by Member Rogers, seconded by Member Andrew, to support Proposal 140.

Motion to amend the motion by Acting Chair Naneng, seconded by Member Phillip, with the modification that commercial fishing is prohibited beyond a distance of 3 miles from shore.

The motion to amend passed on a unanimous vote.

The Council agrees that commercial salmon fishing time should be reduced in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan because there is a major conservation concern for Western Alaska salmon that are intercepted in these commercial fisheries. Subsistence fishing has been closed for several years on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, while commercial fishers have been allowed to harvest the same stock of concern. This does not adhere to the subsistence priority nor sustainable management practices. By law, restrictions should be put on commercial fisheries before subsistence fisheries. In supporting the modification, the Council seeks to limit the commercial fishers in the South Unimak and Shumagin islands to the same geographical restrictions faced by commercial and subsistence fishers in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region that is limited to fishing within 3 miles from shore.

The motion as amended passed on a unanimous vote.

The Council nominated Raymond Oney, Myron Naneng, and Alissa Rogers to represent the Council at the upcoming Alaska Board of Fisheries meetings in Winter 2023.

Identify Issues for FY2022 Annual Report:

The Council identified the following issues of concern to be included in its FY-2022 annual report:

- Kuskokwim River Salmon management
- Typhoon Merbok impacts to communities and subsistence
- Interception and bycatch of AYK Salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Region (Area M) and Bering Sea commercial fisheries
- Declines in Tom Cod and halibut, especially near Hooper Bay
- Competition between international hatchery salmon and wild Alaska salmon
- Fukushima radiation effects on salmon and other marine life
- Lamprey declines and needed monitoring on the Yukon River

- Salmon fishing should be allowed in non-spawning streams of Yukon Region like it is in the Kuskokwim Region
- Increase in bears raiding fish camps in the Kuskokwim Region
- Increased harvest pressure on whitefish during times of Salmon conservation and concerns about four-inch mesh size impacts
- Increasing Northern Pike and declining trout near Quinhagak

Agency Reports:

- *Salmon Bycatch Update* by Dr. Diana Stram North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- *Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Update* by Serena Fitka, Catherine Moncrieff, and Gabe Canfield
- *Avian Influenza Report* by Bryan Daniels, Yukon Delta NWR
- *Donlin Gold LLC Update on Barging Plans, Subsistence Committee, and Rainbow Smelt Study Results* by Enric Fernandez and Rebecca Wilmarth
- *Snowy Owl Report* by Steve Lewis, USFWS

Future Meeting Dates:

The Council confirmed their Winter 2023 meeting dates as April 4 - 6, 2023, in Alakanuk with St Mary's as the alternate location.

The Council selected their Fall 2023 meeting dates as October 10 – 12, 2023, in Anchorage with Bethel as the alternate location.

Brooke McDavid, Designated Federal Officer
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Raymond Oney, Chair
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its April 4-6, 2023, meeting in Alakanuk or St. Mary's, 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 Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator, at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-891-9181, email brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov.