

0001  
1                   SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE  
2                   REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
3

4                   PUBLIC MEETING  
5

6                   VOLUME I  
7  
8  
9

10                  TELECONFERENCE  
11                  October 5, 2021  
12                  9:05 a.m.  
13  
14  
15

16                  COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
17

18                  Donald Hernandez, Chair  
19                  Calvin Casipit  
20                  Michael Douville  
21                  Albert Howard  
22                  Ian Johnson  
23                  Harvey Kitka  
24                  Cathy Needham  
25                  Harold Robbins  
26                  Robert Schroeder  
27                  James Slater  
28                  Frank Wright  
29  
30

31  
32                  Regional Council Coordinator, Katya Wessels (Acting)  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39

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0002

1                   P R O C E E D I N G S  
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3                   (Teleconference - 10/5/2021)  
4

5                   (On record)  
6

7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: At this time I  
8 would like to call the fall meeting of the Southeast  
9 Regional Advisory Committee to order. It looks like  
10 it's 9:05. And I will ask our Secretary, Frank Wright,  
11 to call the roll. Frank, do you have a list of our  
12 current members there, I think I heard you online.  
13

14                   MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
15 I'll call the roll. Ian Johnson.  
16

17                   (No comments)  
18

19                   MR. WRIGHT: Ian Johnson.  
20

21                   (No comments)  
22

23                   MR. WRIGHT: Frank's here.  
24

25                   (No comments)  
26

27                   MR. WRIGHT: Cal Casipit.  
28

29                   (No comments)  
30

31                   MR. WRIGHT: Is anybody hearing me?  
32

33                   REPORTER: Yes.  
34

35                   MS. WESSELS: Yes, we can hear you.  
36

37                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm hearing you,  
38 Frank.  
39

40                   MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Cal Casipit.  
41

42                   (No comments)  
43

44                   MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.  
45

46                   (No comments)  
47

48                   MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.  
49

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0003

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

8

9 REPORTER: Hey, Frank. Frank.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

12

13 REPORTER: This is Tina, the court  
14 reporter. Okay, so folks, at the beginning of the  
15 conference I put all the lines on a muted call because  
16 there were lots of calls that were unmuted. So I know  
17 some of these people that Frank is calling are online.  
18 You need to star 6 to unmute your phone and then put  
19 yourself back on mute if you're not talking. So you  
20 might be saying you're here, I know you're online, so  
21 make sure you star 6 to unmute and then put yourself  
22 back on mute when you're done talking.

23

24 Go ahead, Frank.

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you. I'll  
27 start over.

28

29 Ian Johnson.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Hey, I'm here. I hope  
32 that fixed it.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: Ian. Okay, thank you,  
35 Ian.

36

37 Cal Casipit.

38

39 MR. CASIPIT: Hey, Frank, did you hear  
40 me, this is Cal, I'm on too.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, I've got you, thank  
43 you.

44

45 Michael Douville.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

50

0004

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

12

13 MR. SCHROEDER: Bob Schroeder's here.

14

15 MR. SLATER: Can you hear me now,

16 Frank?

17

18 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater?

19

20 MR. SLATER: Yes, can you hear me,

21 Frank, I'm here.

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I could hear you,  
24 thank you.

25

26 MR. SLATER: Okay, great, thanks.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

29

30 MR. HOWARD: Good morning. Albert  
Howard.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm here.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: He's here.

39

40 Harold Robbins.

41

42 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville is here.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, Michael, thank you.

45

46 Harold Robbins.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

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1 MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: Hey, Harvey. Harvey  
14 Kitka.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

23

24 MR. ROBBINS: This is Harold Robbins,  
25 I'm here.

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

28

29 Larry Bemis.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

38

39 MS. NEEDHAM: Cathy is here.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Cathy. Mr.  
42 Chair, we have a quorum.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
45 Frank. So next up we'll start with our welcome and  
46 introductions. This morning we will be having a  
47 welcome, I understand, from Dave Schmid. I think he's  
48 going to be available in about 20 minutes unless he's  
49 here now. But first we need to find out everybody who  
50

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1 is online and participating. So we'll want all the  
2 Staff people to identify themselves, and then we'll ask  
3 if you're a member of the public or representing a  
4 tribal organization to identify yourself. And we do  
5 ask, you know, for the public to -- seeing how we're  
6 doing a virtual meeting it is kind of important that we  
7 kind of an attendance to know who's participating. So  
8 if you're on the phone and you're just a member of the  
9 public, we would like to hear your name. And also for  
10 this morning, we offer public testimony, which would be  
11 a little bit later in the meeting after we conduct some  
12 other business and meet with Dave Schmid and possibly  
13 Earl Stewart and we hear our Council member reports.  
14 We will be taking public testimony. So if you are a  
15 member of the public and you would like to testify,  
16 we'd appreciate you letting us know so we have an idea  
17 of how many people we do have lined up to testify.  
18

19                 One thing I'd like the public to take  
20 notice of is our agenda calls for public and tribal  
21 comments on non-agenda items, which is available every  
22 morning at the start of the meeting. I would like to  
23 point out that if you are wanting to testify on a  
24 specific proposal, for instance, it would be more  
25 effective if you were to give that testimony at the  
26 time we're deliberating on the proposals, however, if,  
27 you know, there is time constraints where you may not  
28 be available, and we can't tell you for sure when those  
29 times will happen, you know, you can testify at any  
30 time that it's available. I might also point out that  
31 it might be more effective if you give those types of  
32 testimony on the morning that we probably will be  
33 conducting that business, it might be helpful. But we  
34 will have public testimony available this morning after  
35 we hear our Council member reports and take care of the  
36 other initial items on the agenda.  
37

38                 So with that we'll do the introductions  
39 and seeing how we're scattered about and not all in one  
40 room I guess we'll just have to do kind of a shout out,  
41 but maybe to be a little more organized maybe we'll  
42 start with all of the Federal Staff that are online.  
43 So if you could just identify yourselves and we'll try  
44 and take note of who's here.  
45

46                 So thank you very much, go ahead,  
47 somebody.  
48

49                 MS. WESSELS: Good morning. This is  
50

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1 Katya Wessels and I am Council Coordination Division  
2 Supervisor with OSM. And today I am your Council  
3 Coordinator instead of DeAnna. Thank you, and thank  
4 you for joining the meeting.

5

6 REPORTER: Okay, wait a second, before  
7 we go any further. This is Tina, I'm sorry to  
8 interrupt, Don. So there's quite a few calls that are  
9 not muted. Unless you're speaking, other than Don,  
10 could you please mute your line because we can't really  
11 hear who's talking. So just to give respect to the  
12 people that are talking, please mute your line, star 6  
13 or mute your phone.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 Go ahead, next Federal person.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
20 Tina.

21

22 REPORTER: Next Federal person.

23

24 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning. This is  
25 Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Brian.

28

29 MS. DARR: Good morning, Brie Darr with  
30 the Forest Service.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning.

33

34 MS. HOWARD: Good morning. This is  
35 Amee Howard with OSM.

36

37 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Don, and  
38 Council members. This is Greg Risdahl, USDA Forest  
39 Service, Subsistence Program Leader and ISC member.

40

41 MS. YOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim  
42 Yochum, National Park Service, Subsistence Program  
43 Regional Office.

44

45 MS. MARKEGARD: Good morning. This is  
46 Sara Markegard with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

47

48 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning everyone.  
49 This is Terry Suminski with the U.S. Forest Service,

50

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1 Subsistence Manager for the Tongass National Forest.

2

3 MS. OEHLERS: Good morning. This is  
4 Susan Oehlers, Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Forest  
5 Service based in Yakutat.

6

7 MR. DUNN: Good morning. This is Greg  
8 Dunn, Tongass National Forest, Wildlife Planner.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are there any  
11 other Federal Staff that we haven't heard from.

12

13 MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. This is Amee  
14 Howard. I believe.....

15

16 MR. LIND: Chairman Don.

17

18 MS. HOWARD: .....Orville Lind -- there  
19 he is.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

22

23 MR. LIND: Yes, good morning, Chairman  
24 Don and Council members.

25

26 MS. HOWARD: Good morning, Orville.

27

28 MR. LIND: This is Orville Lind, Native  
29 Liaison for Office of Subsistence Management. Good  
30 morning.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning,  
33 Orville. Is there anybody else from Federal Staff.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not hearing  
38 anybody, I think we have everybody. Is there anybody  
39 online that's representing the State of Alaska this  
40 morning.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Apparently not  
45 yet.

46

47 MS. SILL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
48 This is Lauren Sill. I'm with the Department of Fish  
49 and Game, Division of Subsistence, and I am on the  
50

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1 line.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Good  
4 morning, Lauren.

5

6 MS. SILL: Good morning.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
9 else from the State.

10

11 MR. SCOTT: Ryan Scott, Fish and Game  
12 here in Juneau.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think I heard  
15 Ryan Scott.

16

17 MR. SCOTT: Yep, good to hear you Don.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Good  
20 morning, Ryan. Anybody else, speak up.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, perhaps not.  
25 Do we have anybody representing a tribal organization  
26 or corporation.

27

28 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch  
29 from the Department of Fish and Game as well.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, hi,  
32 Mark. So that appears to be everybody from the State.  
33 So tribal representatives or Native Corporations.

34

35 MR. SANDERSON: Hello. This is Keenan  
36 Sanderson. I'm a Staff person for the Ketchikan Indian  
37 Community.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning,  
40 Keenan. Anybody else, tribal or Native Corporations.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not hearing  
45 anybody else. How about members of the public, and  
46 just.....

47

48 MR. CARSON: Yeah, this is Chris  
49 Carson. I'm a property owner in the Lisianski Straits

50

0010

1 out of Pelican.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Chris  
4 Carson, good morning.

5

6 MR. CARSON: Good morning.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else from  
9 the public that would like to identify themselves.

10

11 MR. GALLEGOS: This is Tony Gallegos  
12 with the Ketchikan Indian Community. I'm the Cultural  
13 Resource Director for the tribe.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, good  
16 morning, Tony.

17

18 MR. SHOREY: Yes, hello, my name is Bob  
19 Shorey. I'm a Juneau resident.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, could you  
22 say your name again.

23

24 MR. SHOREY: Bob Shorey, S-H-O-R-E-Y.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Bob Shorey, okay,  
27 good morning, Bob.

28

29 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Hernandez.  
30 This is Patricia Phillips calling from Pelican.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning,  
33 Patty.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm going to be emailing  
36 in a summary comment of the Pelican Fish and Game  
37 Advisory Committee for WP22-9 and 10. And then I'll be  
38 providing comment as well, personally. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
41 And thank you for reminding me. I am going to ask  
42 Katya to kind of give another little information on  
43 additional public comments and how they might be  
44 accepted in the course of the meeting and that kind of  
45 relates to email comments. So thank you for reminding  
46 me of that Patty. After we get through the attendance,  
47 I'll ask Katya to tell us what that policy is.

48

49 So anybody else from the public.

50

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1 (No comments)

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I don't  
4 think I'm hearing anybody else from the public. One  
5 more opportunity here.

7 MS. WELLER: Good morning, can you hear  
8 me?

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

12 MS. WELLER: Good morning. This is  
13 Celeste Weller. I'm a full-time resident of Pelican  
14 and City Council member.

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, good  
17 morning, Celeste. Anybody else.

19 MR. CARSON: You might want to remind  
20 folks that the star 6 will unmute because mine was  
21 automatically muted by the conference call when I first  
22 got on until someone reminded us. So anybody that got  
23 on late might not have heard that.

25 MR. CORBIN: Yeah, hi, this is Denny  
26 Corbin from Pelican.

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There you go,  
29 okay, that's going to bring out some more people.  
30 Okay, who was that last person?

32 MR. CORBIN: Denny Corbin from Pelican.

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
35 Denny. Yeah, that's a good reminder. If you initially  
36 dialed into the call everybody was put on mute by our  
37 phone person so you might have to press star 6 to  
38 unmute your phone. So.

40 MR. CARSON: Yeah, good morning. This  
41 is Norm Carson from Pelican calling in to comment on  
42 09.

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Norm  
45 Carson, thank you.

47 MR. CARSON: Good morning. This is  
48 Scott Carson calling in to comment as well.

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Scott.  
2 Okay, anybody else, who recently pressed star 6 and can  
3 now speak.

4

5 MR. CARSON: Richard Carson.  
6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Richard Carson,  
8 okay.  
9

10 MR. FOLEY: Good morning. This is  
11 Kevin Foley with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in  
12 Anchorage.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, good  
15 morning, Kevin. And, right, if you are a Staff person  
16 and missed the initial opportunity here, you may have  
17 to press star 6 to be heard, so any other -- more  
18 people from the public go ahead and chime in.

19

20 (No comments)  
21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Do we have  
23 anybody else from the public, organizations, or Staff  
24 that's joined the meeting.

25

26 (No comments)  
27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, perhaps not.  
29 So Katya if you could just go over what the policy is  
30 in regards to accepting -- I don't know, I guess, I  
31 don't know if we're calling them email comments or  
32 comments that might be written in the form of an email  
33 but not necessarily in regards to in person comments  
34 and the policy on how we're going to deal with those  
35 for the benefit of the folks in the public there.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Don.  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair. So as you all probably know, the  
39 Council meeting, you know, provides an opportunity for  
40 the public and tribes to provide oral and written  
41 testimony and comments. And throughout this meeting  
42 there will be several opportunities for this.

43

44 At the beginning of each day there's an  
45 opportunity to provide testimony on non-agenda items.  
46 The Chair will announce these opportunities to provide  
47 testimony on non-agenda items. There is also an  
48 opportunity to provide oral comments on the wildlife  
49 proposal and closure reviews during and after analysts  
50

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1 present proposal analysis. And, again, the Chair will  
2 be announcing these opportunities as well. And in your  
3 meeting book, you can also find out the order of  
4 procedure for each proposal and that's when you will  
5 get an opportunity in this order of procedure to  
6 provide your oral testimony.

7

8                 Additionally, there is an opportunity  
9 to submit a written comment on the proposals during the  
10 meeting. If you have a written comment please email it  
11 to starting right now until your proposal that you want  
12 to comment on is, you know, presented to the Council.  
13 And this email that you need to email it to is  
14 subsistence@fws.gov. Subsistence@fws.gov. So please  
15 clearly indicate the number of the proposal or closure  
16 review that you are commenting on in the title of the  
17 email. If you emailed your comment to the Council  
18 coordinator or anyone at OSM or Federal Subsistence  
19 Management Program prior to the meeting, please  
20 resubmit it to subsistence@FWS.gov. If we have less  
21 than 10 written comments they will be read into the  
22 record. If we receive more than 10 written comments on  
23 each particular proposal then they will be tallied and  
24 the results will be presented to the Council prior to  
25 their deliberation of that proposal. We might need to  
26 take a few little breaks here and there throughout the  
27 meeting in order to tally the proposals and access how  
28 many -- I mean not proposals, comments and assess how  
29 many were received.

30

31                 So these are the opportunities  
32 throughout the meeting to submit your written comments.  
33 And also oral testimony during presentation of each  
34 proposal.

35

36                 So, additionally, as already has been  
37 said, please keep your phones muted when you're not  
38 speaking, star 6 is mute and unmute. If you receive  
39 another phone call please do not put this meeting on  
40 hold because we will hear the elevator music if you put  
41 us on hold. Please hang up and call back. You can  
42 call back into this meeting as many times as you need.

43

44                 Thank you, very much.

45

46                 (Teleconference interference -  
47 participants not muted)

48

49                 REPORTER: Okay, so before you start,  
50

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1     Don, there are calls that are not muted right now  
2 because we can hear background radio and whatever. It  
3 makes it really hard to listen to the speaker, so if we  
4 could all check whatever device you're using, make sure  
5 it's on mute so we can, you know, give respect to the  
6 person talking so everybody can hear what they have to  
7 say.

8

9                 All right, sorry, again, Don.

10

11                 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Several of us have  
12 not been able to get in and announce that we are part  
13 of this hearing too.

14

15                 REPORTER: Okay. So in order to speak  
16 to the Council you need to star six your phone, unmute  
17 it, and then, you know, get the attention of the  
18 Chairman and he'll proceed, and then when you're done  
19 speaking, if you could star six your phone again to  
20 mute it again that takes the background noise off. So  
21 at the beginning everybody was placed on mute. And you  
22 will need to star six.....

23

24                 KAREN: Yes, well, we still tried.....

25

26                 REPORTER: Okay, just a minute.....

27

28                 KAREN: Well, we tried.....

29

30                 REPORTER: I'm sorry, go ahead.

31

32                 KAREN: Can we still try to let them  
33 know we're here?

34

35                 REPORTER: Absolutely. Okay, I'll turn  
36 it back over to Don. I just wanted to make that quick  
37 announcement because there is a lot of background  
38 noise. So, yes, absolutely, go ahead and please let  
39 Don know who you are.

40

41                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
42 Tina. So, yeah, we'll continue on. It sounds like we  
43 have more members of the public that have dialed in so  
44 go ahead and state your name.

45

46                 (No comments)

47

48                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Am I being heard  
49 now?  
50

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1                   REPORTER: Yes.

2  
3                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. It sounded  
4 like there was somebody else who wanted to participate  
5 and we'd appreciate hearing your name if you would.  
6

7                   KAREN: This is Karen Sulley and  
8 Michael Murphy, residents of Lisianski Inlet.  
9

10                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Karen and  
11 Michael, gotcha.  
12

13                  KAREN: Thank you.  
14

15                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
16

17                  MR. PHILLIPS: This is George Phillips  
18 and Mike Allard, residents of Pelican.  
19

20                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: George and who?  
21

22                  MR. PHILLIPS: Mike Allard, residents  
23 of Pelican.  
24

25                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mike, okay.  
26

27                  MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you.  
28

29                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else.  
30

31                  (No comments)  
32

33                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
34 that has any questions on how we're going to deal with  
35 email public testimony comments that Katya just  
36 outlined.  
37

38                  (No comments)  
39

40                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Just so  
41 we'll have an idea of maybe the number of people who  
42 were planning on testifying this morning would be  
43 helpful. This testimony is available for non-agenda  
44 items, which is, you know, anything, any issue that  
45 anybody wants to bring before the Council regarding,  
46 you know, subsistence activities not necessarily on our  
47 agenda today; this is an opportunity. And as I  
48 mentioned earlier, if people did not hear, we would  
49 also take public testimony on specific proposals,  
50

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1 however I will remind people that if you are available  
2 it may be more effective to give your testimony when  
3 we're actually discussing those proposals so they're  
4 fresh in the Council's mind. But if you can't call  
5 back in at a later time we can hear that testimony this  
6 morning.

7

8 So are there people on the line who  
9 know they want to give testimony this morning and kind  
10 of get a count.

11

12 MR. CARSON: This is Scott Carson. I  
13 would like to give testimony today.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
16 Scott.

17

18 MR. CARSON: This is Chris Carson and  
19 I'll be giving testimony today.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Chris, got  
22 you.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: Patricia Phillips.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty, got you.

27

28 MR. PHILLIPS: George Phillips.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I heard Patty and  
31 George Phillips; is that correct?

32

33 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, George Phillips and  
34 Mike Allard would like to give testimony today.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mike Allard, okay.

37

38 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, good morning,  
41 Harvey. It sounds like you just came on.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Yeah, it took awhile to  
44 figure out all the electronics.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you planning  
47 to give testimony as a tribal representative this  
48 morning, Harvey.

49

50

0017

(Teleconference interference -  
participants not muted)

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Again, names of  
5 people who would like to testify this morning.

7 MS. WELLER: Celeste Weller.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Celeste Weller,  
10 okay, Celeste got you.

12 MR. CARSON: Dick Carson.

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that Richard  
15 Carson?

17 MR. CARSON: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
20 else.

22 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning,  
25 Cathy, go ahead.

27 MS. NEEDHAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
28 I just wanted to remind you about a time certain  
29 testimony from Regional Forester Dave Schmid, who, I  
30 believe only has until 10:00 o'clock this morning to  
31 give welcoming remarks.

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Dave is up  
34 next. I didn't hear him on the introductions, but is  
35 Dave Schmid with us now.

37 MR. SCHMID: Good morning, Mr.  
38 Chairman. I am here whenever you're ready, thank you.

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
41 Dave, you're up next. Okay. I think I have a list  
42 here of people who would like to testify this morning.  
43 I can't tell you exactly when that will be. We will be  
44 hearing from Dave Schmid and then we'll go through our  
45 Council member reports and then public comments are  
46 next so it might be an hour or so or more.

48 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

50

0018

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: I think we need to adopt  
4 the agenda.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Actually,  
7 Frank, I have that on my agenda after Dave Schmid.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Anyway, thank you,  
10 Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thanks.  
13 We'll do that. Like I say the way it's written on my  
14 agenda that comes after the introductions so, yes, we  
15 will get to that.

16

17 All right, so, Dave, I think we can.

18

19 REPORTER: So, Dave?

20

21 MR. SCHMID: Okay, I think that's my  
22 cue to start here, Mr. Chairman. And thank you so much  
23 again for the invite and opportunity to welcome the  
24 Council here as well. I am sitting in just an  
25 absolutely gorgeous day here in Juneau. First, I  
26 should make sure can you all hear me okay, or at least  
27 the Chair and others, I think I'm off mute.

28

29 REPORTER: Yes.

30

31 MR. SCHMID: Oh, good thank you.

32

33 MR. SCHMID: All right, outstanding.  
34 Hey, gosh, I know folks we had, it's a little bit funky  
35 here trying to work through but this is really  
36 important work that the Council is performing  
37 especially vital to our rural communities and all of  
38 Southeast Alaska. So I really applaud and thank you  
39 all for your patience in working through a clunky  
40 system at times on teleconferences but I know with the  
41 leadership of the Chair and the members of the Council  
42 you will get through that and a lot of good work will  
43 happen here over the next couple of days. So I really  
44 appreciate that. And I really do cherish the  
45 opportunity to spend some time with you. I cannot wait  
46 for the time that we can meet again in person. As I  
47 said, I thought this would have happened by now where  
48 we were in the middle of summer and as you all know the  
49 state has really been challenged by Covid, especially  
50

0019

1       in some of our rural communities and in Southeast  
2       Alaska. So we are here and thank you for being here.  
3

4                 I think the last opportunity I had to  
5       address the Council was in the spring as well. We've  
6       had a few changes in the agency and I'd like to just  
7       share a little bit of that and so just a real kind of  
8       high level overview of where I think we are headed  
9       here, certainly some areas that are of interest to the  
10      Council and then I'll pass the baton over to Earl  
11      Stewart, Forest Supervisor Stewart of the Tongass, and  
12      he can probably get into more specifics. And, again, I  
13      can hang with you until 10:00, I had an unavoidable  
14      commitment and then I'm going to join back up after  
15      lunch as well and listen in to the Council and as much  
16      as I can take in over the next couple days.  
17

18                 But let me just start with change. One  
19       of the big ones here for us and for me and for the  
20       agency is we have a new Chief of the Forest Service  
21       since I had an opportunity to address you the last  
22       time. Chief Randy Moore became the 20th Chief of the  
23       Forest Service in 100, I don't know eight or 10 years  
24       here with our agency. I've had the opportunity now to  
25       serve under 10 of those Chiefs. But Randy has been a  
26       good friend and a mentor to me. He was formerly the  
27       Regional Forester in California and really his heart is  
28       in making things happen on the ground and a close  
29       connection to the field programs. I have extended an  
30       invite for him to come visit Southeast Alaska and the  
31       Chugach as well and hopefully will be able to do that  
32       and maybe meet some of you in your communities here  
33       likely in the spring of next year.  
34

35                 And then I'd just go back and remind  
36       you all of the first day in office, President Biden,  
37       last January, set up, you know, some broad priorities  
38       for the Administration. Again, those were responding  
39       to Covid19 and, of course, we're still working our way  
40       through that. A second was advancing racial equity. A  
41       third, supporting the economic recovery of the country  
42       here, certainly following Covid. And another big one  
43       is tackling climate change, which most of you see that  
44       front and center here in Southeast Alaska with some of  
45       the shifts, everything from our fisheries to our  
46       weather patterns and things. So the Forest Service and  
47       the Department, we've tried to align around these  
48       priorities.  
49

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0020

1                   What I'd like to share today, I know  
2 many of you have already engaged, but would like to  
3 share that a lot of our work is going to be in the very  
4 near term here around what we're calling a Southeast  
5 Alaska Sustainability Strategy. And this was announced  
6 by the Secretary, Secretary Vilsack in July. This is  
7 set up here to help guide and direct us around  
8 supporting a diverse economy and enhancing community  
9 resilience and capacity here and also to conserve  
10 natural resources. There's really four main primary  
11 components to the strategy and I'd like to just talk a  
12 little bit about each one and would be happy to address  
13 any questions you might have.

14

15                  The first one, and I know this has been  
16 a huge topic within this Council and, certainly, in  
17 Southeast Alaska over the last couple of years, and  
18 that is around the Roadless Rule protections. So the  
19 Secretary's announced and we are proposing to restore  
20 the 2001 Roadless Rule protections that were in place  
21 until more recently. And many of you, most, if not all  
22 of you have lived in Southeast a long time, this has  
23 ping-ponged back and forth since 2001, when I was  
24 living on Prince of Wales myself, and so I'll talk a  
25 little bit more about that.

26

27                  A second big piece of this strategy  
28 that was announced was ending large scale or larger  
29 scale old growth timber harvest on the Tongass and  
30 focusing resources -- really, shifting the focus to  
31 support Forest restoration, recreation, climate  
32 resilience and a sustainable young growth management  
33 looking into the future.

34

35                  Another area that I know has garnered a  
36 lot of interest here is really identifying near and  
37 long-term opportunities for investment here in the  
38 region that affect, you know, diverse opportunities.  
39 And I'll speak to that a little bit as we're right in  
40 the middle of a public outreach process here to engage  
41 with folks.

42

43                  And then the fourth is really  
44 highlighted here, it's around advancing some of the  
45 racial equity as it relates to Southeast Alaska. And  
46 that's engaging in truly meaningful tribal consultation  
47 with our tribal governments and Alaska Native  
48 Corporations.

49

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0021

1                   So those are kind of the four pillars,  
2 four areas that were announced that are a part of this  
3 strategy that we're moving forward with. So I'll go  
4 back to the Roadless piece and I know the Council has  
5 commented several times as well in doing that.

6

7                   So, again, the USDA, Department of  
8 Agriculture is proposing to repeal or replace the  
9 Alaska Roadless Rule and this is which exempted the  
10 Tongass from the 2001 rule. This proposal is pending  
11 right now on the regulatory agenda for further action.  
12 And we expect here in the next -- actually within the  
13 next couple of weeks that this will come out and be  
14 posted in the Federal Register. Again, the proposal  
15 will be to restore the 2001 protections that will  
16 include a public comment period. That's, again,  
17 expected likely later this month as well. And, again,  
18 throughout the Roadless Rule there are exemptions to  
19 the Roadless Rule as well and I'd just remind folks  
20 that some of those activities, certainly around  
21 hydropower and some of the other inter-ties and things  
22 that are really important to some of the communities,  
23 that there is -- that those all fit under some of the  
24 exemptions to the Roadless Rule. And so that, I think,  
25 again, I know that your voices were heard, loudly,  
26 coming in with this new Administration, from Southeast,  
27 many of the residents, certainly hard from tribal  
28 communities and from the other, commercial fishing and  
29 other recreational interests that affected that. So  
30 that's one of the components there.

31

32                   And then the second, which I talked  
33 about, was ending large scale old growth timber harvest  
34 and really refocusing on resources that we've spent,  
35 before, or more on Forest restoration, recreation,  
36 sustainable young growth management into the future as  
37 well as climate resilience. And we are really looking  
38 at increasing -- significantly increasing the pace and  
39 scale of restoration, not just with the Forest Service  
40 but trying to leverage those resources across other  
41 partners and Federal agencies and tribal nations as  
42 well.

43

44                   And we're also continuing to support  
45 small, micro sale old growth program. We do have a  
46 number of small mills that continue to operate and  
47 Forest Supervisor Stewart can speak a little bit to the  
48 Forest Plan that we still envision and the plan, even  
49 at a full transition to a young growth program does  
50

0022

1 provide old growth opportunities. Smaller sales for  
2 value added, certainly for cultural wood, in poles and  
3 canoes and others pieces. We're also working, I would  
4 share, with the State of Alaska, Sealaska and other  
5 partners to look at more of an all hands -- all lands  
6 approach to some of the young growth management as  
7 well.

8

9                 The third part of the strategy which  
10 is, like I said, has garnered a lot of interest here  
11 lately is the investment strategy. And we have formed  
12 kind of an interagency, USDA interagency team here with  
13 the Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation  
14 Service, NRCS, and rural development. We're really  
15 looking at a two-tiered approach. The first is -- and  
16 we are right now in the middle of an open public  
17 engagement process. We've held some open meetings,  
18 we've been engaging and invites are out to meet with  
19 any -- pretty much any local groups, communities, that  
20 are interested. As well, there's also online  
21 opportunities to provide comments. But this is to  
22 initially to really identify locally driven priorities  
23 here in Southeast Alaska and fairly quickly deploy or  
24 fund up to \$25 million of work here in Southeast.  
25 There's a strong commitment to that through the  
26 Department, but within the Forest Service and those  
27 funds will be made available.

28

29                 That's the part that folks are  
30 interested in. What we'd also like to really hear  
31 about and hear from folks is those longer term  
32 investment opportunities in Southeast. So we're  
33 looking, again, at a near-term and a very short-term  
34 priorities here. We expect to recommend to the  
35 Secretary here by mid-November what those priorities  
36 might be and hopefully have announcements ideally  
37 before Thanksgiving that we would be able to put into  
38 motion here moving into this next calendar year. And  
39 as I said we're in the middle of about a 30 day period  
40 here. We're also consulting with tribes and  
41 corporations and key stakeholders to really garner some  
42 feedback on this initial set of funding.

43

44                 And I think given the time and where  
45 we're at I just wanted to stop here and share that  
46 that's kind of a very broad strategy, an outline of  
47 where the Forest Service, in partnership with others,  
48 tribes, communities, stakeholders and especially our  
49 Federal family here looking at moving forward. So I  
50

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1 just wanted to, if you haven't heard, kind of give an  
2 overview of that and I can get back, through the Chair,  
3 opportunities for folks if you haven't been able to  
4 connect yet, either online or through contacts, we have  
5 a steering team, we have a working team and folks that,  
6 as I said, we are engaging directly with folks here  
7 over the next couple of weeks yet.

8

9 So with that, Mr. Chair and Council, I  
10 would, again, thank you all for the opportunity here  
11 this morning. I am going to try and listen in to as  
12 much of the Council meeting as I can here over the next  
13 day or two and, again, wish you all well here in the  
14 meeting. I will turn it back to you, or however you'd  
15 like to go, if you want to go directly to Earl, I've  
16 got a few minutes here if there were some questions  
17 from the Council. So with that thanks and back to you  
18 Chairman Hernandez.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. SCHMID: Chair Don, you may be on  
23 mute or I may have been talking to myself for the last  
24 15 minutes.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: You have not been talking  
27 to yourself, we could hear you just fine.

28

29 MR. SCHMID: Thanks, Katya.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks Katya. Can  
32 you hear me now?

33

34 MR. SCHMID: I can, thank you.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we can.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, I was  
39 just going to say my line's gotten dropped a couple  
40 times here and I had to redial in. Cathy, if I get  
41 lost again I'm hoping you could jump in if I don't get  
42 heard. So Dave you've got a few minutes, maybe you  
43 could take a couple quick questions from the Council if  
44 they have any before you have to leave, and then I'm  
45 sure Earl could answer any more specific questions.  
46 But Council members, you have a question for Dave  
47 Schmid go ahead and speak up.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, this is

50

0024

1       Frank.

2

3                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

4

5                   MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I was just wondering  
6 what -- replace Roadless Rule, I was just wondering  
7 what that meant? Because, you know, that Roadless Rule  
8 has been there since -- is it going to be going back to  
9 2001, I think that's when the Roadless Rule came in?

10

11                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13                  MR. SCHMID: Yeah, through the Chair.  
14 Frank. Yes, so what the Administration is proposing to  
15 do is -- and this will come out in a Federal Register  
16 notice. I do not want -- it is going through a  
17 rulemaking process. It will be, I'd say fairly  
18 expedited relative to maybe the last rulemaking, a lot  
19 of work was done the last couple of years. And so when  
20 it says, replace and restore, not to be predecisional  
21 but the proposal is to do just that, which is to  
22 restore the 2001 protections. So it would go back  
23 again to the Tongass. And this was a state specific  
24 rule but it was specific to the Tongass National  
25 Forest. So, yes, the short answer is yes it would go  
26 back to 2001 if that's where the decision comes out at.  
27 But that's what the proposal that's going into the  
28 public comment period.

29

30                  MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31 Just another.

32

33                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

34

35                  MR. WRIGHT: So when does the public  
36 comment coming on this replacement rule? Thank you,  
37 Mr. Chair.

38

39                  MR. SCHMID: Through the Chair. Frank,  
40 this will begin with the notice in the Federal Register  
41 and we expect that notice to begin -- it is going  
42 through that process now within the next -- I'm  
43 guessing in the next two to three weeks at the latest.  
44 And when that notice is posted we'll make sure that the  
45 Council, through the Chair, knows, and that will begin  
46 a public comment process. I believe it's a 45 day  
47 comment.

48

49                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anything

50

0025

1 else Frank.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: No. No, I just -- the  
4 comment period, so that 45 days doesn't seem long  
5 enough but anyway thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.  
8 Any other questions from Council members.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Ian.

11

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. KITKA: Don, this is Harvey Kitka.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Ian and  
18 then Harvey.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: I was just wondering, you  
21 know, we talked about -- Dave, hi, this is Ian. You  
22 mentioned an expedited process, I was just wondering  
23 will comments submitted during the last process be  
24 considered in this new Register or are those have just  
25 been essentially closed out at this point? Do people  
26 need to resubmit comments?

27

28 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, through the Chair.  
29 Ian. That's an excellent excellent point. Yes, folks  
30 should resubmit the comments that they've submitted  
31 before or new comments during this open period. That  
32 will be important to do that as well. So when I say  
33 kind of an expedited, what we're looking for, we also  
34 consulted with several tribes as well here and they  
35 were open also asking. So we will not be planning a  
36 number of public meetings and engagement over a longer  
37 period of time given that the work that was completed,  
38 they're using the same environmental document, there  
39 was a range of alternatives, if you remember, in the  
40 Roadless Rule. They were bookended with Alternative 1,  
41 which would have been keeping the 2001 protections in  
42 place or Alternative 6, which was an exemption. There  
43 was a range of alternatives in between there as well.  
44 So the document, the environmental documents that were  
45 completed are still valid and so the process will be  
46 just that, it'll be an opportunity to comment. And,  
47 again, short answer, it would be important to resubmit  
48 your comments unless things have changed and you want  
49 to add or modify those comments that came in.

50

1                   MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

2  
3                   MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka, I believe you  
4 had a question for Regional Forester Dave Schmid.

5  
6                   MR. KITKA: Yes, I do. Basically it  
7 has to do with the mining that's starting to take  
8 place, exploratory mines and whether they're going to  
9 allow them to go ahead and build temporary roads or  
10 temporary things to them. What are the regulations on  
11 their tailings and things like that.

12  
13                  Thank you.

14  
15                  MR. SCHMID: Yeah, through the Chair,  
16 Vice Chair there. Mr. Kitka. Good question as well.  
17 We do have a couple of proposals here on the Forest and  
18 that might be better directed to the Forest Supervisor  
19 for more direct information. But under the Roadless  
20 Rule, the 2001, with the protections, it does provide  
21 for some opportunities to do exploratory work and build  
22 temporary roads. Right now there are a couple of  
23 proposals on the Tongass. I know in one of those, and  
24 they're both near Juneau here, Herbert Glacier is one  
25 that, again, there's no road building with that  
26 associated, but there is some temporary tree removal  
27 with the exploratory and then as well as the Kensington  
28 Mine right now is looking at they have -- they're in  
29 the middle of an objection period actually around a  
30 NEPA decision that would expand the tailings. So there  
31 are some areas that are provided for within the  
32 Roadless and I do know there is interest in Southeast  
33 Alaska. But I would defer to the Forest Supervisor  
34 when -- and ask you to reask that question again, Mr.  
35 Kitka because that's a good one and especially if  
36 you're specific to certain areas or projects.

37  
38                  MR. KITKA: Thank you.

39  
40                  MR. SCHMID: And with that, Chair, I do  
41 apologize, I do have to jump over to another call. But  
42 if we have other questions that come up I will be  
43 available here over the next two days sporadically.  
44 And so, through, Katya, if you'd like me to come back  
45 and pick up some questions as you think about things  
46 I'd be happy to do so.

47  
48                  MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you,  
49 Dave. I'd like to ask if Earl Stewart is with us right  
50

0027

1 now.

2

3 MR. STEWART: Yes, through the Vice  
4 Chair. This is Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor on the  
5 Tongass, I am available now. Thank you.

6

7 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Stewart.  
8 Please go ahead and give your introductory comments.

9

10 MR. STEWART: So I want to start off by  
11 offering through the Chair, Vice Chair and all the  
12 members of the Southeast Subsistence RAC how much I  
13 value and appreciate the time that you schedule and  
14 that you make available to the Forest Supervisor and to  
15 the Agency Staff on the Tongass National Forest. I  
16 sincerely appreciate your ongoing commitment to the  
17 value and resources across Southeast Alaska and the  
18 importance that each of you all place on that role and  
19 responsibility that you hold as a committee member.

20

21 With that you've heard the presentation  
22 on Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy. The  
23 elements I'm going to focus on is the element  
24 associated with ending large scale old growth timber  
25 sales across the Tongass National Forest with the  
26 renewed focus on Forest restoration, recreation and  
27 resilience while emphasizing the impacts on climate,  
28 wildlife and watershed improvement.

29

30 To start off I'm going to offer that  
31 our continued need for (indiscernible) commercial  
32 thinning across the young growth stands with the  
33 interdisciplinary team now assigned to consider options  
34 of the (indiscernible) culture, prescriptions and  
35 treatments to improve terrestrial and aquatic  
36 environments on the Tongass. With that as part of the  
37 Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy that ending  
38 large scale old growth timber projects on the Tongass  
39 has direct impact on the projects that you've asked me  
40 to speak to, which are Twin Mountain II, South Revilla,  
41 and Central Tongass. Each of those projects  
42 have been put to the side. We're really trying to  
43 refocus and emphasize our efforts on young growth  
44 activities and to promote young growth stands building  
45 the characteristics necessary for wildlife and Forest  
46 restoration needs across the Tongass. As I work  
47 forward on those elements, it's really important to  
48 recognize that it is a new shift and a dramatic shift  
49 in making those changes so that we can be more readily

50

0028

1 responsive to the interests and the needs of the  
2 communities and everything while building the needed  
3 characteristics for wildlife and restoration in the  
4 Forest systems.

5

6 As we work forward on these elements I  
7 think it's most important to acknowledge that Twin  
8 Mountain II, South Revilla and Central Tongass are not  
9 going forward at this time. I do want to recognize  
10 that a portion of the Central Tongass project with that  
11 (indiscernible - background noise) are looking to go  
12 forward. The young growth are going through a process  
13 as I said earlier to look at (indiscernible -  
14 background noise) terrestrial and aquatic environment  
15 on those young growth stands to try to seek to build  
16 the characteristics needed for fish, wildlife and the  
17 populations that are so critical to Southeast.

18

19 There is an ongoing effort to provide  
20 some small and micro old growth sales to those  
21 communities for the community consumption and cultural  
22 needs along with the recognition that many communities  
23 have totem pole needs, or canoe needs or tribal artist  
24 needs to fulfill their -- continue their historic  
25 traditions. We do have two projects going on. One  
26 with Hydaburg and one with Kasaan right now to help  
27 define what those represent so that the Forest Service  
28 can fulfill its duty by providing those cultural trees  
29 and those processes are going forward quite readily at  
30 this point in time, and continue to offer our  
31 appreciation to the Organized Village of Kasaan and to  
32 Hydaburg for helping develop those MOUs that are  
33 currently being prepared for final.

34

35 With that, those are the opening  
36 comments that I have so I'll refer back to the Chairman  
37 if there are any follow-up questions for me as Forest  
38 Supervisor.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
43 Earl. And Cathy thank you for jumping in, I've kind of  
44 been losing signal on and off here, is everybody  
45 hearing me okay now?

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we can hear you.

48

49 MR. STEWART: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

50

0029

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
2 Thank you, Cathy. Thank you, Earl. So Council  
3 members, do you have more specific questions for Earl  
4 Stewart, go ahead and speak up.

5

6 (Teleconference interference -  
7 participants not muted)

8

9 REPORTER: Could people mute their  
10 lines, please, unless you're speaking.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Harvey, did you  
13 have a more specific question on mining for Mr.  
14 Stewart.

15

16 MR. KITKA: Yeah, Don, I'm still having  
17 trouble trying to turn the mute on and off.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we're ready  
20 for you.

21

22 MR. KITKA: Basically I had -- we got  
23 some concerns over the exploratory mines and whether  
24 they're going to open up the mines before this Roadless  
25 Rule comes into effect. Basically because it affects  
26 not only our subsistence for fishing, but it affects  
27 the commercial industry as well. Some of the tailings  
28 are so bad that they're using -- they're not building  
29 the tailing dams well enough to last long enough, for  
30 the stuff to disappear. So we still have a lot of  
31 mines out there that are causing problems here and  
32 there. So I just wondered what kind of rules were in  
33 place for that.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. STEWART: Through the Chair to Mr.  
38 Kitka. Thank you for the associated with mining  
39 activity. I did hear the Regional Forester mention  
40 ongoing work associated with exploratory items  
41 certainly around Kensington and Hecla Greens Creek.  
42 Those limits are basically to the limited harvest of  
43 small diameter trees so that they can do exploratory  
44 work. Those elements have been going on for a number  
45 of years so they're probably not new to the Southeast  
46 Alaska Subsistence RAC members because of the work  
47 across Southeast Alaska. There are some newer  
48 activities that you need to be aware of that we're  
49 really kind of in the very early formative stages on.

50

0030

1 There are some associated with Cleveland Peninsula,  
2 effectively known as the Helm Bay area to where there  
3 are some interests to initiate some exploratory work  
4 there. That's been going on just in the last several  
5 months so it's fairly new. There are additional  
6 interests associated with the mainland over in the  
7 Hyder/Stewart British Columbia area. At this point in  
8 time don't have enough detail to really dig into each  
9 of those other than to say that the local District  
10 Ranger in Ketchikan Misty Fiords is engaging both with  
11 tribal entities to start the conversation and  
12 consultation needs while working with the request that  
13 are for staking associated with different elements.  
14 The Helm Bay area is currently ahead of any of the  
15 other projects that I'm currently aware of in the  
16 Southeast area -- or the Cleveland Peninsula area is  
17 ahead of the Hyder Alaska area. With that the  
18 restrictions are basically those as assigned under the  
19 Forest Plan and the limitations that are in all the  
20 national prioritization for duties such as the Roadless  
21 Rule with the future modification of that rule and a  
22 future decision pending.

23

24                 I hope that covers that sufficiently,  
25 Mr. Kitka. If there's a follow-up question that I  
26 might have missed I would certainly welcome follow-up,  
27 sir. And I'll stand by.

28

29                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey,  
30 if you have followup.

31

32                 (No comments)

33

34                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Perhaps not. Is  
35 there anybody else on the Council with a question for  
36 Mr. Stewart.

37

38                 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

39

40                 MR. KITKA: Don.

41

42                 MR. JOHNSON: Go ahead, Mr. Kitka.

43

44                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear somebody,  
45 go ahead.

46

47                 MR. KITKA: This is Harvey.

48

49                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

50

0031

1                   MR. KITKA: I'm still having trouble  
2 with mute on and mute off, but I got a member that's  
3 very concerned about the mining situation in Southeast  
4 Alaska. I'll probably get him online tomorrow, would  
5 that be okay, Don.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that something  
8 that he might want to testify in the morning?

9

10                  MR. KITKA: I'll get ahold of him and  
11 -- I'm at home now. I was going to use the tribal  
12 office but I got up this morning and almost couldn't  
13 walk, my arthritis kicked in real bad.

14

15                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

16

17                  MR. KITKA: So I'm sitting at home at  
18 my counter. So I'll get a hold of him and we'll talk  
19 about it.

20

21                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And  
22 somebody else may be able to take questions tomorrow as  
23 well so we'll standby.

24

25                  MR. KITKA: Okay, thank you.

26

27                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any  
28 other Council members with a question for Mr. Stewart.

29

30                  MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
31 Albert.

32

33                  MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Ian.

34

35                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear Albert, go  
36 ahead Albert.

37

38                  MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
39 I'm wondering if there's an update on the last tailings  
40 expansion that the tribe here in Angoon had. Their  
41 concerns with how it was conducted was the Forest  
42 Service sitting at the table as though they were part  
43 of the mine. I'm wondering if that has been addressed  
44 and if there's an update on that concern.

45

46                  MR. STEWART: Through the Chair, this  
47 is Earl. Appreciate the question, I'm not sure which  
48 mine that's relative to, could you give me a much more  
49 defined which mine you're referring to. The Kensington

50

0032

1 Mine right now is currently going through an analysis  
2 right now for expansion in the tailings, but that's  
3 also in the final decision stage and the objection  
4 meetings are pending in the coming days. Is that the  
5 one that you're referring to, sir?

6

7 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman. The one I'm  
8 referring to is Greens Creek. We went through another  
9 tailings expansion process with somebody, well, the  
10 president of the tribe and myself. We kind of got the  
11 feeling that the Forest Service person representing the  
12 Forest Service was actually -- appeared to be a Greens  
13 Creek employee the way they conducted the meeting, and  
14 I would have liked to have gotten a copy of the  
15 recordings of that meeting but apparently the file was  
16 too big to send me, and I still haven't received a copy  
17 of that. My concern is that the concerns of Angoon  
18 weren't being heard.

19

20 MR. STEWART: In response through the  
21 Chair. Thank you very much, sir. So Hecla Greens  
22 Creek meetings there are past actions associated with  
23 the tailings expansion. There are potential proposals  
24 for the future, there are none currently in operation  
25 since the last analysis and decision. With that, it's  
26 always our expectations for employees to represent  
27 themselves professionally and fully in all meetings and  
28 certainly any meetings that involve objectors or tribal  
29 members or community representatives. So if there is a  
30 need for me to look into something, sir, I would be  
31 glad to do that and I would be glad to follow-up on any  
32 future actions that we're aware of associated with  
33 Hecla Greens Creek for both leadership and elected  
34 leadership in Angoon and for the representatives on the  
35 Southeast Alaska Subsistence RAC.

36

37 Thank you, sir.

38

39 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

42

43 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 I think we'd just like to have an open and transparent  
45 process when it comes to tailings expansion and have  
46 our voices heard and we didn't get that during the last  
47 one and there's a lot of concerns with how things are  
48 being done there. And that just caused more concerns  
49 when the process was done that way. I know I've heard  
50

0033

1 from people in Klukwan and Haines that Greens Creek was  
2 being used as an example of how to mine and I told them  
3 that I didn't agree with that because I had concerns on  
4 what's happening.

5

6                   The minerals that are being put into  
7 Chatham Strait from the mine had me really concerned  
8 there and it's been that way for years now and it seems  
9 like it isn't being addressed, somebody's kicking the  
10 can down the road and it's costing Angoon. And this,  
11 in my mind, is worth the cost of -- a sister-in-law  
12 lost her life to cancer after two years. A young man  
13 fought cancer for a year, he's 23 years old. And now  
14 we're probably going to lose a mother-in-law to cancer,  
15 they gave her six months. Now, we all live on  
16 subsistence and we're wondering if its the food that's  
17 going past the mine that's causing our community  
18 members -- I lost a good friend of mine to cancer and  
19 everyone knows him, Floyd, Senator Kookesh, is this  
20 because the minerals from the mine are getting into our  
21 food supply that we've lived off of for generations. A  
22 cousin I've spent most of my life with is in Anchorage.  
23 She's -- she also has cancer. We're putting things in  
24 the environment that were never there and I'm wondering  
25 if we can do mining more responsibly and eliminate that  
26 from the equation of maybe is that causing cancer.

27

28                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
31 Other Council members with a question for Mr. Stewart.

32

33                   MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Ian.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,  
36 Ian.

37

38                   MR. JOHNSON: I'm just wondering as we  
39 transition into young growth management and especially  
40 the focus on wildlife when we're doing that management,  
41 is there a priority towards -- a current priority, has  
42 it been discussed to have a priority around communities  
43 to do those actions. It just seems like creating  
44 better habitat around communities should be the  
45 priority.

46

47                   MR. STEWART: In response, through the  
48 Chair, thank you for the question. I think that it's  
49 important and critical for the agency to look at all  
50

0034

1 young growth stands, but I think those that are within  
2 a geographic distance of the communities probably have  
3 a higher or highest priority as it relates to community  
4 health and well being. We don't have a definitive  
5 element in what we've used to look at those individual  
6 young growth stands and decide how best to manage them.  
7 But I think that some of the proposals that we've heard  
8 from, other communities, related to other timber  
9 projects such as a perimeter around the communities  
10 might add value in both the importance to the  
11 community, but also an importance into prioritization  
12 of timing and scheduling for those treatments and may  
13 have a dramatic opportunity to decide how best to  
14 handle it from a prescription standpoint or from a  
15 treatment standpoint to optimize the impacts because  
16 effectively value and importance to the various  
17 communities across Southeast is the most critical step  
18 that we have as an agency.

19

20 And I yield back, thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any follow-up,  
23 Ian.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: No follow-up questions,  
26 but it does seem like a really good opportunity for  
27 communities to approach the SASS, or sorry I call it  
28 the SASS, but the Sustainable Alaska Southeast  
29 Strategy, and would encourage folks to do that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ian.  
32 Anybody else on the Council with a question for Mr.  
33 Stewart.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Earl, I do have a  
38 question myself. I have some concerns over the scale  
39 of the second growth harvest that could be taking place  
40 in the future. I recognize that a lot of the harvest  
41 is a ways off yet but you did offer up -- you have  
42 offered up some preliminary sales, I believe the sale  
43 taking place in Central Tongass on Mitkof Island and at  
44 Thomas Bay, in my view, is a fairly large scale. It  
45 seems like my recollection is it's closer to a million  
46 board feet of timber and quite a few thousand acres to  
47 be harvested. And that kind of raises some concerns as  
48 to, you know, what scale of commercial harvest you are  
49 anticipating on second growth and has the Forest  
50

0035

1 Service undertaken any kind of planning that would  
2 start to consider, you know, what scale this second  
3 growth harvest for commercial purposes might occur here  
4 as we look into the future.

5

6 MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, let me  
7 offer first that is a remarkably good question. It's  
8 one that we're in the initial stages of trying to work  
9 through. We don't have a very definitive idea or  
10 assessment of what it represents other than the  
11 acknowledgement and recognition that the size or scale  
12 of treatments continues to be a significant impact to  
13 subsistence users or remote rural communities. As we  
14 work through it right now we're trying to build the  
15 interdisciplinary team that literally is going to look  
16 at that as a holistic stage of Forest management across  
17 the Tongass as it relates to young growth and how do  
18 you develop treatments, initiate treatments, or plan  
19 treatments that allow for development of fish,  
20 wildlife, recreational uses in a more productive and  
21 sustainable way. As we work through that effort and  
22 hope to see some initial results in the coming months  
23 then we should be able to get a little more definitive  
24 answer on that but size and scale of young growth  
25 treatments is going to really shift or expected to  
26 shift so that it emphasizes fish and wildlife  
27 characteristics on terrestrial and aquatic systems  
28 which will have a really significant impact to the  
29 rural users of Southeast Alaska.

30

31 As we work through that I would gladly  
32 engage the Southeast Subsistence RAC with more  
33 definitive information, I just don't have anything at  
34 this stage of the game right now other than, as you  
35 indicated, young growth treatments are being planned on  
36 Mitkof and Thomas Bay, a vast preponderance of that is  
37 over in the Thomas Bay area. And, although we're  
38 reusing the information that was developed from the  
39 ground and field inventories from the Central Tongass  
40 project, that project is still in the planning stage  
41 for young growth treatment and it's going to come down  
42 to a difficult balance between what can be reasonably  
43 accomplished on the ground from an operability  
44 standpoint or from a user standpoint for those Forest  
45 products to make it also beneficial and suitable for  
46 terrestrial and aquatic systems. Just early in the  
47 stage at this game [sic] right now and so I don't have  
48 a much more definitive answer, Mr. Chairman.

49

50

1                   And I'll yield back, sir.

2  
3                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So, thank  
4 you, Earl. Just as a follow-up, I guess I'm wondering,  
5 you know, what the public participation would be in  
6 that process. I don't know if we're going to have to  
7 wait for the public to weigh in on specific  
8 environmental impact statements that might be  
9 developed, you know, in relation to a project, or if  
10 there is, you know, more public engagement that's  
11 anticipated, maybe even before you get to specific  
12 projects with environmental impact statements. I don't  
13 know if you can shed some light on how that might  
14 occur.

15

16                  MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, all I can  
17 offer at this point in time is it will go through an  
18 open public process. My assumption is that's more of  
19 an environmental analysis kind of arena. I don't have  
20 that much detail at this point in time but would gladly  
21 share through the Chair to the RAC members, or through  
22 the Coordinator, the future schedule on the proposed  
23 action associated with Thomas Bay and Mitkof if that  
24 would help give the RAC much more clarity around the  
25 timing and scheduling, if that would help, sir.

26

27                  And I yield back.

28

29                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you  
30 for that Earl. I guess we will just stay engaged as we  
31 move forward in the future on how this planning process  
32 takes place. So appreciate your answer.

33

34                  Is there anybody else with a question  
35 for Mr. Stewart.

36

37                  MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, this is Frank.

38

39                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

40

41                  MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Stewart, thank you.  
42 Is there going to have to be another EIS done on the  
43 changing of the Roadless Rule from today to 2001 or is  
44 it going to be what we had before?

45

46                  Thank you. Mr. Chair.

47

48                  MR. STEWART: Through the Chair. I  
49 apologize, sir, I don't have enough detail on what the  
50

0037

1 Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process is going to go  
2 through to be very definitive or offer more clarity  
3 other than I expect there would be a Federal Register  
4 publication in the coming weeks or months that would  
5 probably provide more daylight -- or daylight the  
6 situation more fully. I apologize, sir, I don't have  
7 anything more at this point in time unless there's a  
8 representative from the regional Forester's Office that  
9 can offer an answer, I can't give you any more detail.  
10 My apologies, sir.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other Council  
13 member with a question.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm not hearing  
18 any more questions for Mr. Stewart. So, Earl, I think  
19 I will thank you for your time, very much appreciated.  
20 Once again, we thank Regional Forester Dave Schmid for  
21 joining us this morning. And one last opportunity if  
22 there's anybody else on the Council with a question.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Hearing  
27 none, we will move on on our agenda. Next up is we  
28 need to review and adopt the agenda and in order to do  
29 that we would need a motion to adopt.

30

31 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman. I move we  
32 accept the agenda as a guide. This is Frank.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
35 Frank. A motion to accept the agenda.....

36

37 MR. HOWARD: Second. This is Albert.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....and Albert is  
40 a second. Okay, yep, a motion to adopt the agenda as a  
41 guide and there are maybe a few changes or adjustments  
42 to our printed agenda that we might want to amend at  
43 this time. I don't know, Katya, would it be best if  
44 you kind of inform the Council of what suggested agenda  
45 changes we have here before us.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
48 Chair. Members of the Council. There are a few  
49 suggestions to change the published agenda. That is to  
50

0038

1 move Item 10E, fall 2021 Council application nomination  
2 open season to be the first item under 9, old business.  
3 And then add to agency reports, U.S. Fish and Wildlife,  
4 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Subsistence Program report  
5 under Forest Service. And also move U.S. Forest  
6 Service tribal report from U.S. Forest Service C, to  
7 the first, so that it follows WECAN presentation. So  
8 these are the three changes that are requested.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
13 Katya. Frank, I believe maybe it's appropriate that we  
14 move to make those amendments to the agenda; is that  
15 correct?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Frank, do we need  
20 to make another motion to amend?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. WESSELS: Frank, if you are on  
25 mute, you need to press star six to unmute yourself.

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, I'm  
28 not sure but I think under discussion and additions,  
29 just a slight amendment, so we can just go on from  
30 here.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Is there  
33 any discussion then on those proposed changes to the  
34 agenda.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Call for the question, Mr.  
41 Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.  
44 I think we can do a voice vote on this. All in favor  
45 of adopting the agenda as presented with changes, say  
46 aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50

0039

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
2 opposed, say nay.

3 (No opposing votes)

4  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, the agenda's  
7 been adopted. So the next order of business would be  
8 to review and approve the previous minutes and that  
9 would also require a motion.

10  
11 MS. WESSELS: And for the Council's  
12 information, this is Katya Wessels, the Council meeting  
13 minutes are located on Page No. 5 of your meeting  
14 materials book.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Katya.

17  
18 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, I move to  
19 approve the minutes for the Southeast Subsistence  
20 Regional Advisory Council meeting of March 16th through  
21 18th, 2021.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
24 Second.

25  
26 MR. HOWARD: Second.

27  
28 MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal, I'll second.

29  
30 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, Mike Douville  
31 seconds.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I head  
34 numerous seconds there. So the motion's been made to  
35 approve the previous minutes as Katya informed us they  
36 begin on Page 5 of the meeting book. Take a few  
37 minutes, Council members, if you want to look over the  
38 previous minutes, if you made any notes of any changes.

39  
40 (Pause)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Always remind  
43 Council members they might want to look at their  
44 Council reports, they're kind of summarized for the  
45 notes, check and make sure the summary reflects your  
46 report adequately.

47  
48 (Pause)

49

50

0040

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any discussion on  
2 previous minutes from our March 16th meeting.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not hearing any  
7 discussion are we ready for a vote.

8  
9 MR. CASIPIT: Yes, call for the  
10 question, this is Cal.

11  
12 MS. NEEDHAM: Call for the question.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
15 Cal. Another voice vote. All in favor of approving  
16 the previous minutes from the March 16th meeting say  
17 aye.

18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
22 opposed to approving the previous minutes, say nay.

23  
24 (No opposing votes)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, previous  
27 minutes are approved. Next up on the agenda is Council  
28 member reports and then public comments. So if  
29 everybody's ready maybe I'll go right into the Council  
30 member reports and Chair's report and then maybe we'll  
31 take a short break and ready to hear public and tribal  
32 comments. So I will just go down the list here of  
33 Council members and ask for your report and maybe I  
34 will start with Vice Chair Cathy Needham.

35  
36 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 This is Cathy Needham. I reside in Juneau. As may of  
38 you know I spend a lot of time on Prince of Wales  
39 Island where I work and have a satellite office and a  
40 second place down there. For my report I'd like to  
41 keep it short and sweet.

42  
43 The one thing I'd like to bring to the  
44 Council's attention that has, what I've noticed during  
45 my work on Prince of Wales, is that this past season  
46 was pretty dismal for sockeye salmon returns. I do  
47 work with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for  
48 Hetta Lake, Eek Lake and we also added Kasikok\* Lake  
49 recently. And during the subsistence season the  
50

0041

1 community of Hydaburg was only able to harvest 785  
2 sockeye salmon and none of that harvest came from.....

3  
4 (Teleconference interference -  
5 participants not muted)

6  
7 MS. NEEDHAM: Very little of that  
8 harvest came from Hetta, approximately 30 fish came  
9 from Hetta out of the 785 fish. The rest came from  
10 other small sockeye salmon streams that are (ph)  
11 currently being monitored by the community. With that  
12 said, I think late season in mid-September, the Hetta  
13 Lake weir was actually seeing some sockeye salmon start  
14 to go past the weir, unfortunately kind of heavy rains  
15 kind of blew out the operation and they weren't able to  
16 extend all the way through the end of September this  
17 year. So in addition to potentially really low numbers  
18 of sockeye returning to Southern Southeast Alaska, one  
19 thing that I've mentioned in previous years is that I  
20 think we're starting to see a lot of delays in run  
21 timing of fish trying to come back into these systems  
22 with warmer waters, keeping them out into the --  
23 keeping them out into like Cordova Bay longer where  
24 they're more susceptible for a longer period of time  
25 being caught as bycatch during the pink salmon season.

26

27 Aside from that, I've been spending  
28 time talking to non-Federally-qualified subsistence  
29 users in the Juneau area regarding some of the  
30 proposals that our Council is going to be deliberating  
31 on during this Council meeting so that has also been an  
32 issue that I've been keeping tabs on since we last met  
33 in the spring.

34

35 And true to my words I'm going to keep  
36 it short and sweet and hand it over to the next person.  
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
40 Cathy. And I want to make another apology here, we  
41 were doing our introductions of Staff and everybody, I  
42 probably should have asked the Council members to just  
43 identify themselves and say where they were from and  
44 any affiliations they might want to mention. So we can  
45 do that now when we go through the Council reports,  
46 make sure you tell us, you know, where you live and  
47 anything else you want to say about your affiliations  
48 with communities or activities. So thank you, Cathy.  
49 How about we go to Frank Wright.

50

1                   MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

4

5                   MR. WRIGHT: This year the ships,  
6 because of the Covid, the tourist ships have been  
7 pretty small, which is -- I'm happy about but, you  
8 know, mixed feelings about the tourist ships coming in.  
9 But, you know, the ones that I did meet there was -- I  
10 was down at a place called the Cannery, and I talked to  
11 a couple of the tourists and they said, well, they said  
12 stay out of Hoonah because there's a big Covid outbreak  
13 in Hoonah. So we ended up with 51 cases when we used  
14 to be proud of when we only had four. But some people  
15 thought they're invincible. Anyway, so now the town is  
16 pretty much shut down again.

17

18                  But I'd like to thank some of the  
19 organizations, when Hoonah Indian Association was  
20 accepting food for people that was brought in from  
21 different organizations, and it was not only for the  
22 tribal members but it was for the whole community. So,  
23 you know, that was very much appreciated.

24

25                  You know this year, you know, I wonder  
26 if it's the environment or something but, you know, we  
27 have an apple tree behind our house and last year we  
28 had over 200 apples on our tree and this year we had  
29 20, you know, so we couldn't share too many. We kind  
30 of just kept it to ourselves so, you know, is it the  
31 environment or what's going on. And then I've talked  
32 to other people who have apple trees and they said they  
33 kept the apples for themselves too when there used to  
34 be an overabundance and would be able to share with the  
35 community. And, you know, even our raspberry bushes  
36 back there has changed, we used to get buckets, we used  
37 to invite people into our yard to get the raspberries  
38 but not anymore, not this year anyway.

39

40                  And, you know, the school closure, the  
41 school closure because of the Covid thing, has been  
42 shut down for awhile now, probably about a couple weeks  
43 now because of people not doing safe distancing and  
44 stuff like that. So that's kind of -- and then, you  
45 know, this year the rivers were full. I mean there was  
46 salmon in the rivers that were mostly just pinks and  
47 chums, but they were just full. I don't know what the  
48 rain did this year but the rain was pretty hard for  
49 awhile but not as hard as I've seen it so I'm hoping

50

0043

1 none of the eggs got washed out. So, you know, I think  
2 that climate change is making a big difference and, you  
3 know, it's the first time we've had snow on the  
4 mountains this early. We've had snow on the mountains  
5 twice this year already and then they melt off.

6

7                   So anyway not much else.

8

9                   One thing I observed was when I was  
10 fishing in Chatham, I was fishing in Hawk Inlet and I  
11 saw this tourist ship running by, I mean there was --  
12 he was causing -- that ship was causing a haze of smoke  
13 going by us and it was coming from the south and I'm  
14 sure the people in Angoon could see it, see that smoke  
15 that was in there. Here we got these big ships that  
16 have no consideration of the beauty of this country,  
17 beauty of this state, beauty of Chatham Strait. And,  
18 you know, I know that they go up -- when they go up to  
19 Glacier Bay, you know, we the tribal members are  
20 restricted from going up there unless we ask permission  
21 into our tribal ancestral home, but I know that they go  
22 up there and spew that smoke all over when they're  
23 supposed to be keeping everything pristine. I don't  
24 know what their meaning of pristine is but when you got  
25 a smoke stack that big that's spewing black smoke out,  
26 that's not too cool.

27

28                   That's all I have, Mr. Chair, thank  
29 you.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.  
32 How about if we hear from Mike Douville from Craig.  
33 Are you there Mike.

34

35                   MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, are you  
36 there?

37

38                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we hear you  
39 Mike, go ahead.

40

41                   MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. Yeah, Mike  
42 Douville. I live in Craig. I'm a member of the Craig  
43 Tribal Council. Not much to report here really. Cathy  
44 mentioned the sockeyes and, yes, a very poor sockeye  
45 year in all the small streams that I looked at, a  
46 little over 5,000 went into Klawock this year, which is  
47 really low, I think.

48

49                   It looks like the deer season is going  
50

0044

1 to be similar to or less than last year so I don't see  
2 a significant change in that population. What I am  
3 seeing is a healthy wolf population. I don't  
4 anticipate any -- it looks like -- well, in any case it  
5 looks like that population is healthy along with bears.  
6

7 There is one concern that the tribe has  
8 here is the kelp farm permitting. Everybody's on board  
9 with kelp farms, it's green, it's wonderful and  
10 everything, but in reality it probably is a plus but  
11 they need not to be permitted in subsistence sensitive  
12 areas. We, as a tribe, protested the last license that  
13 the State issued to Seagrove Kelp Farm, which is what  
14 we felt was in a subsistence sensitive area, not only  
15 that there's numerous seal haulouts and a lot of things  
16 that goes on there. But they got permitted and we  
17 appealed and it was denied. But I think along with the  
18 jumping onboard the great green train, we need to make  
19 sure that these things are not infringing on other long  
20 established uses.

21

22 That's all I have, thank you.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
25 Mike. How about Harvey Kitka from Sitka, are you there  
26 Harvey.  
27

28 MR. KITKA: Good morning, Don. My  
29 name's Harvey Kitka from Sitka, Alaska.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,  
32 Harvey, we can hear you fine.  
33

34 MR. KITKA: Okay. We got -- I won't  
35 rehash a lot of the things. The sockeye is a big  
36 concern of ours. We've got some things with the State  
37 going in to probably try to allow us to subsist with a  
38 net up in Redoubt since that system seems healthy but  
39 the other place we -- a lot of the people harvest would  
40 be Klagg Bay which has been kind of collapsing the last  
41 few years. So that's of concern to us.  
42

43 I was wondering about the coho salmon,  
44 it seems like they were either real late or there's not  
45 very many coming in. That was part of our subsistence  
46 too.  
47

48 We've got some -- I'm not too sure  
49 who's harvesting all the goats but I don't think  
50

0045

1 there's that many subsistence people from Sitka  
2 harvesting them. They closed down big areas so I don't  
3 know who's doing the harvesting because all I get is  
4 that they're closing goat season in different spots.

5

6 We've got problems with bear just like  
7 a lot of the communities in Southeast. The bear are  
8 starting to set up big areas of where they think they  
9 belong now and a lot of people are having a lot of  
10 problems with them. I don't know if there's any way to  
11 reduce the restrictions on the bear so that they can be  
12 either moved or removed, one or the other.

13

14 I have some things with the clean up of  
15 military sites. Also around Roadless Rule on new  
16 mining sites. Mike Douville talked about kelp farming,  
17 we've got some issues with the kelp farming that they  
18 keep trying to get permits and a lot of the places  
19 we've been able to talk them out of, trying to set up  
20 kelp farms in subsistence use areas.

21

22 Pretty much that's kind of where I'm at  
23 and that's pretty much my report.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
26 Harvey. How about Albert Howard in Angoon.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you ready to  
31 go Albert.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there  
36 Albert.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not hearing from  
41 Albert, I'm sure he's around somewhere on the line.  
42 Maybe we'll go to Bob Schroeder from Juneau, are you  
43 there, Bob, we'll come back to Albert.

44

45 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, can you hear me?

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, we hear you,  
48 go ahead, Bob.

49

50

1                   MR. SCHROEDER: Okay. Yes, I'm Bob  
2 Schroeder. I am a Juneau resident by introduction.  
3 I've had the good fortune to work on a subsistence  
4 issues in which the Regional Councils since they were  
5 formed in 1981 or '82, and then when they became  
6 Federal regional Advisory Councils after the State was  
7 out of compliance with ANILCA. So I'm honored to be  
8 here and thankful to still be around.

9

10                  I think other Council members are going  
11 over many of the resource issues. I kind of -- what  
12 I'm really interested in right now are opportunities  
13 that we have as a Council to address some larger  
14 concerns. So I'm sure we'll do a good job on our  
15 regulatory issues but we should notice that there's  
16 really huge change going on. We're all living in at  
17 this unexpected time of a continuing pandemic. A  
18 number of Council members, Frank Wright and others have  
19 talked about climate catastrophe which is coming our  
20 way and frankly scares the bejesus out of all of us who  
21 are concerned about natural resources and the  
22 subsistence use of natural resources. I'm also really  
23 enthused about discussions that we'll have later in  
24 this meeting concerning comanagement and efforts to  
25 restore tribal management of natural resources in  
26 Southeast Alaska. I think maybe being excessively  
27 optimistic, perhaps we're in a pivotal time when we can  
28 make some changes and get some things accomplished.  
29 The pandemic definitely shows that we can make huge  
30 changes.

31

32                  We've had a huge change in Washington  
33 in our national leadership. The Council has spent  
34 probably half its energy for the last couple of years  
35 working on Roadless doing what we could to protect  
36 subsistence and worked pretty effectively with Forest  
37 Service on that although we didn't always see eye to  
38 eye, we really liked being able to deal with our local  
39 Forest Service representatives.

40

41                  So I'm looking forward to this meeting.  
42 I'll also second what Mr. Wright said about the absence  
43 of cruise ships. This is economically tough for many  
44 people, however, it sure made the waterways of  
45 Southeast Alaska much more like what we remember them  
46 to be. So I'm looking forward to a good meeting and  
47 thanks everyone for taking the time out. Oh, by the  
48 way I'm doing this meeting remotely from Spokane,  
49 Washington, where I escaped the rain for a few days and  
50

0047

1       came down on a camper trip.

2

3                     Thank you so much. Bye now.

4

5                     CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
6 Bob. Albert. Albert Howard, are you with us and would  
7 you like to give a report.

8

9                     (No comments)

10

11                    CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there  
12 Albert.

13

14                    MR. HOWARD: Can you hear me, Mr.  
15 Chair.

16

17                    CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There you are, go  
18 ahead, Albert.

19

20                    MR. HOWARD: Yeah, I pushed the wrong  
21 button. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23                    Sockeye were hard to come by this year  
24 so it created a derby up in Kanalku with the local  
25 residents. We looked at Hanus Bay, Sitkoh Bay and  
26 Basket Bay and we burned a lot of gas to get what we  
27 have. So I think that's going to cause a concern going  
28 forward in the future as far as what made it up to the  
29 lake in Kanalku.

30

31                    I think that the thing on everyone's  
32 mind here in Angoon is the ferry service and if we --  
33 with the pandemic seeming to be on the rise again, we  
34 went from zero cases up to eight since the last ferry  
35 came in, so I'm wondering, our concern is going to be  
36 is a ferry worker gets Covid and they shut the ferry  
37 down for a week, that has an impact on our store. I  
38 think it's important that we find a way to gain access  
39 to resources in times like this.

40

41                    You know, we found a lot of pinks -- my  
42 son and I went out yesterday in the rivers just looking  
43 around and there were a lot of pinks on the banks and  
44 that was good to see because that's how it needs to be  
45 but we haven't seen any cohos, which is what we were  
46 after. Usually we can fish them in the streams all the  
47 way up to the end of October and we went all over  
48 creation yesterday and got one and it got away, which  
49 was probably a good thing.

50

0048

1                   As far as smoke from the cruise ships,  
2 one of the wonderful things of social media, is people  
3 post cruise ships going across Angoon and ask if you  
4 see smoke coming out of the stacks and I think that  
5 needs to be addressed. If you're going to sell  
6 pristine Alaska you shouldn't be polluting the waters  
7 and the air while you're advertising that is just kind  
8 of my own thought to that process.

9

10                  I've reached out to community members  
11 the last couple of days and their concern is still with  
12 the king salmon and closing it to us when it's open in  
13 places like in Sitka and the Lisianski area and we're  
14 not allowed to catch any. I think we need to take  
15 another look at how that's divvied up when the State of  
16 Alaska says the resource belongs to everyone equally  
17 and yet when they close that resource down we're not  
18 allowed to get any.

19

20                  There's a lot of concern with all the  
21 people having cancer and we're wondering if it's from  
22 the environment created by polluting Hawk Inlet and is  
23 it getting into our natural food source and is that  
24 causing the population here to have a majority -- it  
25 seems like there is -- every family in Angoon is  
26 affected by it now and it's been within the last five  
27 years. It's a statistic I'd rather not even see in our  
28 community, people are having issues with cancer and  
29 everyone's concerned and no one has answers.

30

31                  I remember when we first started  
32 addressing what's happening at the mine and thought  
33 that they were polluting water, all of a sudden, oh, by  
34 the way you can only eat so much fish and you shouldn't  
35 have too much seal and this was information we never  
36 knew before until we dug into the issue at the mine.  
37 If you're going to say -- if they're going to say that  
38 the mines are done responsibly and this is a good  
39 example of how to mine and they're going to use this  
40 mine as that example, then they should clean it up and  
41 it should be a good example, that would be great, you  
42 know, for everyone. It's a northern and southeast  
43 problem and it's going to continue to grow.

44

45                  Kelp farms, not to agree with Mr.  
46 Kitka, because when we went to -- when we go to Sitka  
47 to get herring eggs, eggs on kelp and everything else  
48 and I think listening to the locals before you allow  
49 kelp farming, they have the knowledge that I don't  
50

0049

1 have. I'll give you an example of what I mean is I  
2 never knew how to even get herring eggs and someone  
3 from Sitka taught me how. That's how local knowledge  
4 works. I think kelp farming is something that is being  
5 commercialized and will have an impact on local economy  
6 and economy meaning not necessarily money in the bank.  
7 I've explained this at a Tlingit and Haida meeting at  
8 one point. A gentleman going home with a boat load of  
9 fish is like a person going home with their paycheck at  
10 the end of the month, it's the same feeling.

11

12 It's cold here so that's unusual. We  
13 had to start the wood stove the last couple of days and  
14 we woke up to frost and we usually don't do that until  
15 the end of October.

16

17 I'd like to see our chums -- something  
18 done about the chum salmon. Our elders like to get the  
19 eggs but even the chums are hard to come by. The  
20 streams are usually -- there's two systems here --  
21 three systems, there's Favorite Bay, usually has a pile  
22 of chums, and Hood Bay and Chieck Bay, but many of those  
23 have rarely produced anything, so that's something to  
24 think about and consider. I'd like to do fish  
25 monitoring to have a more detailed information on water  
26 quality, water temperature, water flow to go along with  
27 the amount of salmon that made it to the spawning bed.  
28 And that would give us a better picture of what's  
29 happening throughout Southeast Alaska.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
34 How about if we move to Harold Robbins up in Yakutat.  
35 Are you wish us Harold.

36

37 MR. ROBBINS: Yes, good morning.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning, go  
40 ahead.

41

42 MR. ROBBINS: We've had a pretty  
43 interesting year also. The fish season here has been  
44 quite kind to us. Sockeye were relatively abundant,  
45 especially in the Situk, we exceeded the upper  
46 escapement goals on the Situk by almost double so there  
47 was plenty of sockeye to go around. And the kings also  
48 came in well. The Alsek River had a major flood event  
49 back in late August, or early August I should say and  
50

0050

1 it hit one of the all time high records, overflowed the  
2 banks and cut across into the East River and changed a  
3 lot of the fishery habitat there. And hopefully it was  
4 for the best, we'll see in the next four to eight  
5 years.

6

7 We had good sockeye in the Alsek and  
8 the East also. The escapement goals were met and  
9 exceeded the high escapement goals for kings and  
10 sockeye both in the Alsek up at the weir and so  
11 everybody was pretty excited about that.

12

13 We've had plenty of rain. We've got  
14 plenty to share if somebody could use some. It's kind  
15 of nice to have a halfway sunny day today but it's  
16 cold. So that's kind of how things are going here.  
17 The town's kind of slowed up quite a bit due to the  
18 Covid thing but everybody's working through it. And  
19 so, in general, things are going relatively well as  
20 could be expected.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
25 Harold. Let's see how about Ian Johnson in Hoonah, are  
26 you there Ian.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: Hey, good morning, can  
29 you hear me?

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. Ian  
34 Johnson, I live in Hoonah. And I'm associated with a  
35 lot of community Forest driven work here associated  
36 with the tribe and work with a lot of different  
37 partners here in Hoonah to do a lot of land management  
38 and stream restoration and other things.

39

40 So I guess that's one of the things I'd  
41 like to highlight from the summer is we completed a  
42 stream restoration here in Hoonah, it was on Hoonah  
43 Totem Land, it's one of our ANCSA Corporations. And  
44 those projects are completed by a local work force and  
45 with local contractors and I really like that model,  
46 it's being promoted pretty heavily through the  
47 Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy and I'd be  
48 happy to be a sounding board for discussing what that  
49 looks like in our community more.

50

0051

1                 Yeah, I'm definitely going to try to  
2 bounce on a lot of other things that were said,  
3 especially what Bob was remarking about about change  
4 and where things are at. Just environmentally, so two  
5 years ago during the drought we had the hemlock, you  
6 know, outbreak which didn't affect Northern Chichagof  
7 as much but certainly hit Admiralty pretty hard but,  
8 you know, there was a lot of tree stress that occurred  
9 then and then now this season there's been a dual kind  
10 of pestulants outbreak. We've had spruce rust, which  
11 has infected our young growth spruces pretty heavily  
12 where, you know, it basically kills off all of the new  
13 growth on the tree. IT doesn't ultimately kill the  
14 tree but it's pretty alarming to look at. So that's  
15 one thing turning our young trees brown. And then  
16 there's also been a pretty significant increase in bug  
17 worms, and they're like in a 30 to 40 year kind of  
18 cyclical cycle boom right now and that's turning a lot  
19 of our old growth Forests brown. We're seeing a lot of  
20 kind of drastic Forest. And, you know, springboarding  
21 on what Bob was saying earlier just, you know, in the  
22 past it's been able to -- you know an article will say,  
23 you know, this is not a concern, it's a one year annual  
24 event, but I just feel like there's these compounding  
25 things that are happening right now, multiple events  
26 impacting trees at once as well as climate change and  
27 other drivers. And there's a lot of unknowns out there  
28 right now on how it's going to affect our environment  
29 ultimately.

30

31                 And then springboarding off of what  
32 Frank was saying, you know, we had that really high  
33 rain event and there was a lot of concern in the  
34 community around scouring of our rivers and as part of  
35 some of those initiatives I mentioned we're looking at  
36 trying to monitor that and quantify that, especially  
37 thinking about the effect to pink salmon next year  
38 since that would be the two year run that would be  
39 affected by that scouring event, you know, basically a  
40 100 year rain event is what we predict, what came  
41 through and really rearranged rivers a lot and that was  
42 from December and into the spring of last year. And  
43 then all that rain resulted in a lot of landslides  
44 across our road system. I think actually -- I noticed  
45 in my report from last time I said eight and it's more  
46 than that, I think it's more like 20 to 30, not all of  
47 them occurred in roads that are open but it was a  
48 pretty significant -- we have about 150 miles of  
49 driveable road here and some of those landslides are  
50

0052

1 truly enormous, like whole sides of mountains came  
2 down. So they were still working on that. The Hoonah  
3 Ranger District was about to secure a bunch of  
4 emergency funding actually and they've been able to do  
5 a lot of work on the road system this year but there's  
6 some slides that just won't get cleaned up until next  
7 season.

8

9 And we are also kind of at the end of  
10 our barge and ferry service system so we'll be down to  
11 one barge a month here in Hoonah and our ferry service  
12 is still two a week which is great. That's a pretty  
13 reliable service, all things considered, for Southeast  
14 Alaska. But of course that is still going to have an  
15 effect on our ability to get resources into town. And  
16 I, and others are working towards some food  
17 sustainability and security initiatives that try to  
18 meet that, kind of change in ferry service and demand.

19

20 And I guess, yeah, last I'll just again  
21 bounce off of what Bob was mentioning around the  
22 comanagement discussion. Definitely looking forward to  
23 engaging in that. I think the Southeast Alaska  
24 Sustainability Strategy can create a lot of  
25 opportunities to, you know, have those discussions and  
26 actually maybe link some dollars to it right away and I  
27 think that's a good opportunity for maybe outside this  
28 call as well for communities to discuss what an  
29 investment looks like and to really create something  
30 that can get a project done and also build towards  
31 something bigger.

32

33 Oh, and then the last thing I wanted to  
34 mention, there's a lot of discussion in our community  
35 and I think other communities in Southeast Alaska about  
36 the affect of trawling on our fish populations,  
37 especially halibut and king salmon. You know when you  
38 look at bycatch numbers it's pretty alarming and so I  
39 want to throw that out there as definitely it's  
40 something I've heard in Hoonah as a concern and I'd be  
41 interested to hear what other folks have heard about  
42 that.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
47 Ian. How about Cal Casipit in Gustavus. Are you there  
48 Cal.

49

50

1                   MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, I am here. Thank  
2 you, Mr. Chair. Like I was introduced, my name is Cal  
3 Casipit, I live in Gustavus, Alaska. Been living here  
4 about six years now. By way of introductions I've been  
5 previously associated with this Council in another way,  
6 I've sat on the other side of the table as Staff for  
7 many years until I retired in 2015.

8

9                   Since coming to Gustavus I've been on  
10 the city council, I've been Mayor, I didn't run for  
11 reelection the last time. I just kind of felt like I  
12 should term limit myself out and was doing that for  
13 awhile. And so I've been kind of focusing on this  
14 assignment as a Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory  
15 Council member and actually been hearing from a lot of  
16 folks through the summer about concerns, a little bit  
17 -- lots of concerns about some of our deer proposals  
18 and I'll be looking forward to those discussions.

19

20                  As far as the season goes, the summer  
21 went, it was -- well, like everybody said it was kind  
22 of wet, in fact this is a really nice day and our moose  
23 season is still going and I haven't gotten mine yet  
24 and, boy, this is the first nice day in awhile so I'm  
25 kind of looking out my window.

26

27                  Our tourist season this year, I  
28 couldn't believe the amount of people in town on top of  
29 the construction that was going on out at the airport  
30 here. A lot of people in town. The Alaska Airlines  
31 jet was full almost every day and you never see that,  
32 you never see that through most summers. My daughter  
33 works for Alaska Airlines and she couldn't believe the  
34 amount of fish boxes that went out. So there was a lot  
35 of people in town here fishing and a lot of independent  
36 traveling that went on here. Through all those people  
37 coming through town and all the people in town we only  
38 had two Covid cases through the summer. So our  
39 community has, I think, responded pretty well to Covid  
40 and has pretty much kept it out of town. Most people I  
41 know in town are vaccinated. I think the last time I  
42 checked we were at over 80 percent of the residents are  
43 vaccinated. So apparently the word got out and so  
44 people felt comfortable coming here as far as the  
45 independent traveler.

46

47                  The moose season has been going really  
48 good. Our quota is 10 and there's been seven taken  
49 already, and no illegals, no illegal bulls so that's  
50

0054

1 good too. Most folks I know got the cohos they needed.  
2 I did get sockeyes out at Neva Creek, my limit of 10,  
3 and I was kind of following the reports -- the FRMP  
4 reports that come out of every week and it seemed like  
5 it wasn't a great escapement but it was better than  
6 what we've had in the past, so -- in the recent past so  
7 I was kind of grateful for that.

8

9 I guess other than that I'll just turn  
10 it on to the next person, that's about it from here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
13 very much, Cal. Let's see we still have Jim Slater  
14 from Pelican, you there, Jim.

15

16 MR. SLATER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 This is Jim Slater from Pelican. I think I'll echo a  
18 lot of what we've heard already.

19

20 This was a super busy year for our  
21 tourism businesses. We had a very -- I think the  
22 busiest charter season we've ever had and in addition  
23 to that we had, I think two to three cruise ships per  
24 week, small cruise ships that came in for shore tours.

25

26 Can everyone hear me okay, am I coming  
27 in loud and clear?

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You're loud and  
30 clear.

31

32 MR. SLATER: Okay, great. To date,  
33 Pelican has not had a Covid case so we're very  
34 fortunate for that. As far as subsistence activities  
35 go, so far this year, I think, a lot of people had a  
36 lot of success in seaweed harvest.

37

38 I, myself, did. I don't have -- I  
39 didn't do a lot of berry foraging this year but I did  
40 see a lot of people doing it so I think it was okay. I  
41 think the sockeye reports I've heard have been mixed.

42

43 We saw a few bears early on in the year  
44 but basically it's dropped off a cliff. We haven't  
45 seen any bears since late May or early June. I'm not  
46 sure what's behind that. I've heard a couple of them  
47 are at the creeks but in general we see much more than  
48 that.

49

50

0055

1                 There's been some recent mine activity  
2 here in the Inlet. There's a small mining exploration  
3 company named Millrock who has the rights to the Apex-  
4 ElNido Mine across from town. They recently signed a  
5 deal with Coeur Alaska, operator of the Kensington Mine  
6 to step up the exploration and actually do some  
7 drilling activity. So we expect to see that next year.  
8

9                 The ferry is switching to its winter  
10 schedule now. We have one ferry a month and the  
11 current planned schedule for next summer is one ferry a  
12 month as well.  
13

14                 The last time we talked our hydro was  
15 not yet operating at full potential but I'm happy to  
16 report that our hydro is on and working well and we're  
17 having no trouble there.  
18

19                 That's about it for my report. And,  
20 Mr. Chair, I have to, as I mentioned to you earlier  
21 this morning, I have to sign off for a little bit and  
22 I'll be back after the lunch break. Thank you, very  
23 much.  
24

25                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah, thank  
26 you, Jim.  
27

28                 MR. SLATER: Okay.  
29

30                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Let's see, I think  
31 that just leaves Larry Bemis and I don't believe Larry  
32 was here when we started the meeting. Have you joined  
33 us Larry.  
34

35                 (No comments)  
36

37                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I believe  
38 Larry had a prior commitment for today. So I think  
39 that just leaves my Chair's report.  
40

41                 And I'll start out with Council  
42 business. Let's see normally I might be reporting on a  
43 Federal Subsistence Board fish meeting but due to  
44 timing that happened prior to our spring meeting so I  
45 reported on that then. There was really only one issue  
46 for the Federal Subsistence Board for Southeast issues  
47 and that was a Makhnati Island closure which was  
48 reviewed and reinstated. So that's it for the Board  
49 report.  
50

0056

1                   We did, as several Council members  
2 said, we did start a working group on indigenous  
3 management at our previous meeting and we held several  
4 meetings. We had kind of an introductory meeting to  
5 set what the discussion topics would be and then we  
6 held another meeting that kind of started to flesh out,  
7 I guess, more of what kind of topics we would be  
8 considering dealing with indigenous management, food  
9 security discussions were part of that discussion. And  
10 food security kind of leads to food sovereignty, which  
11 is a different issue than security. So we had  
12 discussions on what all of that means to.....

13

14                   (Teleconference interference -  
15 participants not muted)

16

17                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And we will be  
18 hearing a full report on those work group meetings  
19 later on in the meeting and we'll have some  
20 presentations as well in regard to that. So I will  
21 leave that report until later.

22

23                   I also attended several planning  
24 meetings for a deer summit that we hope to hold on  
25 Prince of Wales Island. It's a joint effort between  
26 local groups and tribes and I've been representing the  
27 Council. It's an effort that keeps getting postponed  
28 due to Covid. We want to have a gathering in person on  
29 the island for people to come together and discuss many  
30 issues related to deer harvesting on Prince of Wales  
31 Island. As of right now we're hoping we can have that  
32 in-person meeting sometime this coming winter. It all  
33 depends on how the Covid19 pandemic plays out here. So  
34 we'll wait of any announcements on forthcoming meetings  
35 when we decide that they can happen.

36

37                   As far as my report for my community.  
38 I live in Point Baker on Prince of Wales Island. And  
39 I'm a commercial fisherman myself and have been for 40-  
40 odd years. I have a gillnet permit, some halibut IFQ  
41 and a hand troll permit and my household does a  
42 significant amount of subsistence harvesting throughout  
43 the year as well.

44

45                   So my report for the local area is,  
46 well, first of all as a commercial fisherman, fishing  
47 the waters of Sumner Strait for the past 35 years we  
48 kind of had an anomaly this year. We had very poor  
49 sockeye fishing through the month of August when our  
50

0057

1 sockeye, or our management plan calls for sockeye  
2 fishing, we had a lot of reduced fishing time and very  
3 poor catches for sockeye. It was a very poor run for  
4 the Stikine River. You know I catch those as a  
5 commercial fisherman but there also is a subsistence  
6 fishery on the Stikine River. Run and escapements were  
7 not good for Stikine sockeye this year. I haven't  
8 heard a report of how the subsistence harvest went.  
9 But I think there was a decent amount of harvest  
10 despite the poor return.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -

13 participants not muted)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So the interesting  
16 thing about this was we kind of had a real anomaly  
17 happen when our commercial fishing management ended for  
18 sockeyes and pink salmon management began at the first  
19 of August, we had a large influx of sockeye salmon show  
20 up in August. And looking back through my log book I  
21 have never seen a year when I caught as many sockeye in  
22 August as I did this year and that sockeye run  
23 continued late into August. And nobody that I've  
24 talked to has been really able to say for sure where  
25 those sockeyes were headed. We suspect that they were  
26 not local fish. They could be going down to Canada and  
27 passing through our waters, which is unusual. But we  
28 did catch quite a few in the commercial fishery and I  
29 don't believe the local subsistence fisheries benefited  
30 from those fish that were passing through in the  
31 Straits.

32

The other thing about this year's fishing was all species of salmon were a good bit smaller than the averages. Pink salmon were exceptionally small, which for, you know, commercial gillnet fishery, which is also a subsistence fishery, fishing with a gillnet, when the fish are smaller your normal mesh sizes are not as effective as fish swim right through the -- small fish can swim right through a larger mesh so even though we had a really strong pink salmon run not a lot were caught in the gillnets this year. And throughout the region it appears that all species were smaller fish this year, chums; cohos; kings; and sockeyes as well. So that was an effect. Nobody quite knows for sure, I guess, why that is but obviously there's something going on where the salmon are feeding primarily.

49

50

0058

1                   The other thing in our Forest  
2 observations, as Ian mentioned up in Chichagof Island,  
3 we had another sawfly outbreak this year in my area  
4 this year, on Prince of Wales, and this is the third  
5 year in a row that we've seen that. Previous two years  
6 were rather severe, this year was not as severe as we  
7 did have a wetter summer, but we did have one period of  
8 exceptionally dry hot weather back in June and we did  
9 see the sawflies out again. And they have done --  
10 there's been some significant impacts to the local  
11 Forest, a lot of hemlocks are very unhealthy, appear to  
12 be dying. Ian also mentioned spruce rust in the  
13 younger spruce trees and I think I observed that as  
14 well in our area. So something is affecting our  
15 Forest, we'll have to keep our eye on.

16

17                   So I think that's pretty much all I  
18 have to report from from my area.

19

20                   And I think that kind of concludes our  
21 Council member reports for this morning. So next up on  
22 the agenda is the public and tribal comment for non-  
23 agenda items. And I think at this time I'd maybe like  
24 to ask if there are other people who have joined the  
25 meeting on the teleconference line. Members of the  
26 public or possibly Staff that we didn't hear from when  
27 we had our introductions at the start of the meeting.  
28 And then if you called in and are wanting to give  
29 public or tribal comment, it'd be nice if we had a list  
30 before us so I have an idea how many people would like  
31 to comment. Right now from earlier this morning I  
32 think I have seven names of people who wish to testify  
33 or comment. So if you have signed into or called into  
34 the meeting since this morning and we haven't heard  
35 from you yet, I will maybe first ask if there's any new  
36 Federal Staff who have called into the meeting.

37

38                   (No comments)

39

40                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm not hearing  
41 any. Do we have any.....

42

43                   MR. COOPER: Hello, this is Doug  
44 Cooper. Hi, Doug Cooper with U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
45 Service.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Doug Cooper, thank  
48 you very much. Anybody else.

49

50

0059

1 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS : Hello this is  
2 Rebekah, hello can you hear me?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

5  
6 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS : We have a  
7 comment we'd like to say. We'd like to sign up for the  
8 list.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, and who is  
11 this?

12  
13 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS : Rebekah and  
14 Wanda from the Womens.....

15  
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Rebekah and  
17 Wanda, you wish to comment this morning?

18  
19 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS : Yes.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
22 Rebekah, I'll put you on the list. Anybody -- any  
23 other Staff people that have joined us.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Apparently not.  
28 Other than Rebekah and Wanda, any other members of the  
29 public who have called in and joined the meeting.

30  
31 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS : We have another  
32 one.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that Rebekah?

35  
36 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS: Another person  
37 to comment from the -- Penny St. Claire.

38  
39 MS. CULP: Julia.

40  
41 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS: Julia St.  
42 Claire, I mean.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Julia St. Claire,  
45 thanks. Thanks, Rebekah.

46  
47 MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning. My name's  
48 James Phillips, I'd like to comment. I'm from Pelican.

49  
50

0060

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Did you say James  
2 Phillips?

3  
4 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, sir.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: James Phillips.  
7 Okay, got you James, thank you.

8  
9 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else from  
12 the public.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Even if you've  
17 just joined in to listen, we'd appreciate hearing from  
18 you just to know who's participating.

19  
20 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein. I am  
21 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I am the Regional  
22 Subsistence Coordinator and InterAgency Staff Committee  
23 member.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
26 Jill.

27  
28 MR. CARSON: Yeah, this is Norm Carson  
29 from Pelican. I can't -- my phone died awhile ago so I  
30 don't think I got my message through. I'd like to  
31 comment later on on the wildlife proposal.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Norm, you want to  
34 comment during the time that we discuss the proposal,  
35 is that what you're saying?

36  
37 MR. CARSON: Yes, sir.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I can't  
40 tell you exactly when that will be but it'll be  
41 sometime tomorrow it sounds like.

42  
43 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is  
44 Robbin LaVine.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Robbin, was that?

47  
48 MS. LAVINE: Yes. This is Robbin  
49 LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator with the Office  
50

0061

1 of Subsistence Management. I'm just listening in this  
2 morning and I've really enjoyed learning so much about  
3 your region from the Council member reports.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
8 Robbin.

9

10 MR. MANNIX: Hello, Mr. Chair, I'm not  
11 sure if you can -- Mr. Chair, I don't know if you can  
12 hear me or not.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear you.

15

16 MR. MANNIX: Oh, great, okay. I wasn't  
17 sure if I was off mute or not. My name is Jacob  
18 Mannix, I work for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.  
19 I'm the Alaska Chapter coordinator. I'd just like to  
20 take a moment to today to get on the list to provide  
21 public comment and just introduce myself to the  
22 Subsistence RAC.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. What was  
25 your first name, again?

26

27 MR. MANNIX: Jacob Mannix. Sorry if  
28 I'm muffled, I'm stuffy and talking through a mask  
29 recovering from Covid. Happy to hear that a lot of the  
30 communities down there didn't get hit.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Do you want  
33 to testify now or are you going to wait until we  
34 discuss the proposals?

35

36 MR. MANNIX: I was just going to -- I'm  
37 not going to testify specifically on the proposals  
38 today. I just wanted to introduce myself, whenever is  
39 most convenient for the Council.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
42 And I'll say we will have this opportunity for  
43 testimony at a for sure time tomorrow at 9:00 o'clock,  
44 that's how we always start our meetings with public  
45 testimony and then during the course of deliberations  
46 we take comments on individual proposals at the time  
47 we're discussing those proposals and, of course, that  
48 time is to be determined so I can't give you an exact  
49 time there. So anybody else who has joined the  
50

0062

1 meeting.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, apparently  
6 not. So we're kind of getting a little short on time  
7 here. I think if everybody can just bear with us  
8 without taking a break we'll just move right into  
9 public testimony. One of the good things about being  
10 at a teleconference meeting is if people need to kind  
11 of go off and do something for a few minutes they  
12 usually can without disturbing the meeting and coming  
13 back so we can keep the breaks to a minimum.

14

15 REPORTER: But don't put us on hold.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So public  
18 testimony. I'll call out the names of people that I  
19 was able to for sure put on my list and I'll check back  
20 and make sure I get to everybody. Maybe one  
21 announcement, Katya, could you just inform people if  
22 they want to testify during the course of our  
23 deliberations I believe there's kind of an updated  
24 agenda online that kind of tells people where we are in  
25 the meeting. Maybe do you just want to inform people  
26 about that.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 Well, there is like -- we do not report online where  
30 we're at on the agenda, unfortunately. But, you know,  
31 as I said earlier the opportunity to testify on the  
32 proposals will be during the presentation -- after the  
33 presentation of the proposal analysis by the analyst.  
34 Your meeting materials contain the procedure for  
35 presenting proposals to the Council, it's located on  
36 Page 27 of your meeting materials. Additionally, if  
37 you would like to submit a written comment, like for  
38 example if you can't wait until the proposal comes up,  
39 you can submit a written comment and that needs to be  
40 emailed to the email subsistence@fws.gov. So these are  
41 the opportunities.

42

43 Right now we're having the opportunity  
44 for commenting on non-agenda items.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
49 Katya. Public testimony is an important part of this  
50

0063

1 process and we do try to offer enough opportunities for  
2 people to tell us what they want us to hear. So with  
3 that maybe I'll start going down the list of people  
4 that I have that said they wanted to testify this  
5 morning. And I.....

6

(Teleconference interference -  
participants not muted)

9

10 REPORTER: Okay, hold on a minute, Don.  
11 Okay, this is Tina the court reporter.....

12

13 MR. CASIPIT: Whoever's got the cough  
14 that needs to.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Tina.

17

18 REPORTER: Yeah, could everybody please  
19 take a minute, look at your device, telephone, iPad,  
20 whatever you're on, computer, make sure it's muted.  
21 It's star six to mute. Star six to unmute yourself.  
22 And since we're doing public testimony now only one  
23 person should be unmuted, which is that person  
24 testifying and Don. So, okay, back to you, Don.  
25 Sorry.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
28 for that Tina. Good reminder. Okay, first person I  
29 have on the list is Chris Carson.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is Chris Carson  
34 still with us.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If I call your  
39 name and you want to give your testimony remember to  
40 unmute and we'll hear from you.

41

42 MR. CARSON: Yeah, can you hear me,  
43 this is Chris Carson.

- 3

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes go ahead.

-15  
46

MR. CARSON: Hello. Oh, thank you.

17  
48

48  
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah go ahead.

-15

30

0064

1                   MR. CARSON: Yeah, I have a question as  
2 far as the process for this Council when they review  
3 these proposals. Are they going to -- there will be a  
4 vote by the Council on whether to forward these on for  
5 Federal consideration; is that correct?

6

7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That -- yes, that  
8 is correct. We are the.....

9

10                  MR. CARSON: Okay. So if a  
11 proposal.....

12                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....Regional  
13 Advisory.....

14

15                  MR. CARSON: .....was submitted by one  
16 of your Council members, will that member be required  
17 to recuse himself from that vote for that particular  
18 proposal?

19

20                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know the  
21 answer to that.

22

23                  MR. CARSON: Well, I think that's an  
24 answer that -- I think that's an answer that we need to  
25 get because, you know, if it's in their -- if the  
26 Committee or the, you know, local committee is not in  
27 favor of the proposal that's submitted by that member,  
28 that Council member that is also part of that  
29 committee, and they submitted the proposal themselves,  
30 and their vote becomes a yes that would be going  
31 against the committee and so I think there's definitely  
32 a conflict of interest at that point and I think that  
33 member should recuse themselves from a proposal that they  
34 submitted.

35

36                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

37

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

40

41                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Maybe Katya can  
42 answer that, she's our.....

43

44                  MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I have a question,  
45 are you saying that the Council member submitted a  
46 proposal as an individual? Is that what you're saying?

47

48                  MR. CARSON: That's correct. That's  
49

50

0065

1       correct.

2

3                   MS. WESSELS: Okay. And are you also  
4 saying that this member is a member of some other  
5 committee or council that voted against.....

6

7                   MR. CARSON: He's a member of.....

8

9                   MS. WESSELS: .....the proposal?

10

11                  MR. CARSON: No, no, he's a member of  
12 your Council, he's on there. I don't want to -- I  
13 don't want to say names just, you know, as respect.

14

15                  MS. WESSELS: Okay, that's fine. You  
16 know if a Council member submitted a proposal as  
17 private citizen they don't need to be recused from the  
18 vote because they're voting as a member of the Council.  
19 They're not, you know, I mean if the Council themselves  
20 decide that that's the right way to go we can go that  
21 way but as a standard procedure we don't ask the member  
22 of the Council to recuse themselves from the vote just  
23 because they submitted a proposal to the Federal  
24 Subsistence Board.

25

26                  MR. CARSON: Okay. So if you got a  
27 whole -- if you got a whole committee -- or a whole  
28 community that the advisory committee made the  
29 recommendation not to support his proposal for that  
30 community and then he goes ahead and votes yes on it  
31 don't you think that is -- don't you think that's an  
32 issue? I mean he's using his position on the Board to  
33 do whatever he wants to do regardless of what the  
34 community wants. That's -- that's not right. I've  
35 been in State procurement for many years with the State  
36 of Alaska and, you know, there's people who have a --  
37 you know if there's a direct interest in him -- you  
38 know and his personal views of what's going on in that  
39 community and he can override the whole community and  
40 still vote yes, I don't think that should be allowed,  
41 and I don't think it is allowed.

42

43                  MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, point of  
44 order.

45

46                  MS. WESSELS: I would like to.....

47

48                  MR. CARSON: And I.....

49

50

0066

1                   MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal Casipit  
2 and.....  
3

4                   REPORTER: Okay. Okay. Okay, wait a  
5 second, please, just one person at a time. Please.  
6

7                   Katya, you were talking.  
8

9                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cal, would you  
10 hold on for just a second.  
11

12                  MS. WESSELS: Yes.  
13

14                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'd like to  
15 clarify something here.  
16

17                  MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.  
18

19                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, and who is  
20 this?  
21

22                  MS. WESSELS: This is Katya.  
23

24                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Go ahead,  
25 Katya.  
26

27                  MS. WESSELS: Yes. I just want to add  
28 to what I said. Each Council member is appointed to  
29 the Council to represent a user group. Each Council  
30 member does not represent a certain community. Council  
31 members represent either subsistence user groups or  
32 sport/commercial user groups. So that's why when  
33 you're saying that he represents the community, is not  
34 a correct thing to say.  
35

36                  Thank you.  
37

38                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
39 for.....  
40

41                  MR. CARSON: Okay, well then.....  
42

43                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....that, Katya,  
44 and.....  
45

46                  MR. CARSON: .....the.....  
47

48                  REPORTER: Okay, wait a second. Wait,  
49 please. Chris. Chris, please. Don, would you go  
50

0067

1 ahead, just one person at a time, please. Wait for the  
2 Chair.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. I do want to  
5 clarify further. I think in the proposals that you're  
6 referencing, I think if you look in the book you'll see  
7 that the proposal is actually put forward by the  
8 Regional Advisory Council, which is the whole Council  
9 voting to make the proposal and that happened at our  
10 last meeting. The proposal may have been brought to  
11 the attention of the Council by an individual who is on  
12 the Council, which is what they are supposed to do,  
13 bring local issues to the attention of the Council, and  
14 then if the Council chooses to take that as, you know,  
15 a Council recommendation and put forward a proposal,  
16 the proposal actually comes from the entire Council and  
17 we voted on it in the meeting to do that. So to say  
18 that the proposal came from an individual is not  
19 correct, it may have been brought to the attention of  
20 the Council by an individual but that's kind of  
21 irrelevant to what's happening here today.

22

23 So I believe, you know, all of the  
24 proposals that are under discussion today came from the  
25 Council although there is one from an individual from  
26 Pelican as well who's not on the Council. So hopefully  
27 that clarifies what you're asking.

28

29 MR. CARSON: Well, actually there's  
30 another proposal that is from Pelican that is -- was  
31 authored by somebody on that Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't believe  
34 so. Which one are you referring to?

35

36 MR. CARSON: Well, I'll just go ahead  
37 and say it, Jim Slater authored it.

38

39 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
40 Albert. Point of order. It's public and tribal  
41 comment on non-agenda items and it appears the  
42 gentleman is talking about items that are on the  
43 agenda. Also a conflict defined by the State of Alaska  
44 is, you have to show financial gain by the person  
45 you're saying is in conflict of interest, a substantial  
46 financial gain. So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, that's good  
49 clarification about conflict of interest. But I do  
50

0068

1 allow, you know, public testimony on -- even if it's on  
2 the agenda as long as it's, you know, convenient to the  
3 person that's trying to make that comment so.

4

5 MR. CARSON: Yeah, and I was -- I was  
6 just -- I was just seeking clarification.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We don't have a  
9 proposal from Jim Slater. We have a proposal from the  
10 Council and from Patty Phillips in regards to  
11 Lisienski. So it's a proposal from the Council so, you  
12 know, the Council will have a vote, Jim doesn't have to  
13 recuse himself and our vote will be a recommendation,  
14 not a final action. It goes before the Board. So  
15 that's the process.

16

17 Do you have any other comment on the  
18 proposal?

19

20 MR. CARSON: No, I don't.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.  
23 I hope that clears that up for other folks as well.  
24 Let's see that was Chris Carson, how about if we go  
25 to.....

26

27 (Teleconference interference -  
28 participants not muted)

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that's  
31 background. How about if we go to George Phillips, I  
32 have George Phillips on the list.

33

34 MR. ALLARD: Hi, this is Mike Allard,  
35 Pelican. George Phillips had to leave.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Mike, we'll  
38 take you next, go ahead.

39

40 MR. ALLARD: All right. My name is  
41 Mike Allard, I live in Pelican, year-round resident.  
42 And I'm in favor of the deer proposal. There's lots of  
43 consideration to go on. We talk about the Alaska  
44 Marine Highway and how we're dependent on it, and a lot  
45 of times we forget on how easily it is to close it from  
46 strikes, to the pandemic, to lack of funding and food  
47 sustainability is a big issue out here because, you  
48 know, when stuff doesn't come out of Juneau to the  
49 stores we don't eat, and it's as simple as that. And  
50

0069

1 if the planes don't fly for weeks, it's the same thing.  
2 As you all well know everybody that cans food, that  
3 jars, lids and bends are at a premium and having them  
4 is like gold. You can't find them, you can't get them.  
5 So, you know, you have to put up lots of food to  
6 sustain yourself. And we have changed the proposal  
7 from, you know, closing down an area to opening it up  
8 to two legal bucks so we are trying to compromise. We  
9 do see, you know, both sides of the story.

10

11 We get that there's a lot of outside  
12 people that like to come out and participate in that,  
13 that don't qualify for subsistence use, it's really  
14 getting hairy, like tit-for-tat, social media, let's  
15 slam certain people, it's wrong, you know, you got to  
16 compromise and you got to be amicable about it. It's  
17 -- if we don't work together for this there's -- it's  
18 going to turn out to be a horrible situation. You look  
19 at the Sitka Sound sac roe, and you look on how  
20 depleted the herring stocks are and you got one entity  
21 saying that there's not a problem and then you got the  
22 people saying that there is a problem. We're just  
23 looking to curb the problem now before it happens so it  
24 doesn't turn out to be like that.

25

26 You know there's a lot of friends that  
27 have been turned against each other and with the  
28 pandemic a lot of the subsistence proposals were put on  
29 hold and a lot of people feel like that -- you know,  
30 like we're just trying to shove it down their throats,  
31 well, we're not. Because of the pandemic we -- we  
32 weren't able to. It's just -- it's like you got to  
33 work together, it's a give and take and it shows that  
34 the people of Pelican are trying to work together but  
35 it's not all about me, me, me, there's a problem going  
36 on. I live in the Inlet here, I look at charter  
37 fishing but when it gets rough you got the charter  
38 fleet coming into the Inlet, anchoring on certain  
39 pinnacles and fishing rock fish that stay in certain  
40 areas and -- and as a commercial fisherman, they shut  
41 down some rivers of concern, they shut down my spring  
42 king salmon openings, we're not allowed to do that  
43 anymore, it's for the betterment of the fish, yeah,  
44 it's a hard pill to swallow but we're doing it. We see  
45 a lot of Juneau people coming over and fishing, it's  
46 putting pressure on the resource, the resources are  
47 precious, they're valuable, you can't replace them and  
48 once they're gone they're gone. We're just hoping we  
49 could work together and work through this, otherwise

50

0070

1 there's going to be nothing for anybody.

2  
3 I could keep going on and on but, you  
4 know, you see the point. And I'm a city council member  
5 and I'm a member of the RAC, commercial fisherman and  
6 subsistence user just like a lot of you, so hopefully  
7 we could work together and get something going  
8 peacefully.

9

10 And that's all I got to say.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
13 Mike. I always ask people when they testify if they  
14 care to take questions from the Council we allow that,  
15 would you like to take any questions?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, maybe not so  
20 we'll move on. Is Richard Carson still with us.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Richard Carson.  
25 Unmute your phone if you want to testify. Okay, not  
26 hearing from -- is that Richard?

27

28 MR. CARSON: Can you hear me now?

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is this Richard  
31 Carson?

32

33 MR. CARSON: This is Richard Carson.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

36

37 MR. CARSON: Well, I just want to  
38 testify that I have ties in Pelican. I've been going  
39 to Pelican since 1970. My wife was born and raised out  
40 there and we have a place above Pelican and we have  
41 property in Pelican. And being a tax payer out there,  
42 but I live down South now since my wife passed away.  
43 Now, I can't go out there and hunt anymore under this  
44 new rule in October, November and December, and I don't  
45 think that's right. My children have been going to  
46 Pelican for years, my nephews go out there. I have a  
47 place above Pelican, a cabin that I put in my nephew's  
48 name and he's the owner and he won't be able to go out  
49 there because he's not living in Pelican and do hunting

50

0071

1 in the fall and he's a hunter and a fisherman. And I  
2 don't think this is right to exclude everybody from out  
3 of town who has ties out there. I pay taxes on  
4 property out there. And what's the sense of me keeping  
5 my property. That's all I have to say.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
8 Mr. Carson. Are you open for questions?

9

10 MR. CARSON: Sure.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any  
13 questions for Richard Carson from the Council.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, apparently  
18 not. Thank you, Mr. Carson. How about Patty Phillips,  
19 are you with us Patty.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm here Chairman  
22 Hernandez, can you hear me?

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, hear you  
25 fine, go ahead, Patty.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: I'll be doing comments.  
28 One if for the Pelican ADF&G Advisory Committee. They  
29 met on Tuesday September 7th, 2021. I want to make a  
30 correction, there were 26 members of the public who  
31 attended, nine were members of the Pelican Fish and  
32 Game Advisory Committee on teleconference with ADF&G  
33 wildlife biologist and the Southeast ADF&G Advisory  
34 Committee coordinator, and I later learned that the  
35 Subsistence Advisory Coordinator for Southeast was also  
36 on the phone.

37

38 The committee discussed the Federal  
39 Subsistence Management Program 2022 through 2024  
40 wildlife proposals, specifically WP22-09 deer, closure  
41 to non-Federally-qualified users, Lisianski Inlet  
42 Strait and WP22-10 deer, lower harvest limit for non-  
43 Federally-qualified user Lisianski Inlet Strait. Each  
44 person was given an opportunity to give voice to their  
45 views and opinions regarding to deer proposals WP22-09  
46 and WP22-10. When comments ended there was consensus  
47 to support a two deer bag limit for non-Federally-  
48 qualified users. Non-Federally-qualified hunters  
49 reduced bag limit to two deer, 19 yes, two no, one  
50

0072

1 abstained. There was a further request to limit the  
2 bag limit to bucks only, Federally-qualified hunters  
3 reduced bag limit to two deer, bucks only, 12 yes, five  
4 no, one abstain. This is submitted by Patricia  
5 Phillips, Chairman of the Pelican ADF&G Fish and Game  
6 Advisory Committee. I did submit it to  
7 subsistence@fws.gov.

8

9                   Thank you.

10

11                   Mr. Chair, can I proceed or should I  
12 take questions?

13

14                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,  
15 continue.

16

17                   MS. PHILLIPS: Okay, I have my own  
18 personal comment. And, thank you, Mr. Chairman for  
19 public comment on proposals that you'll be discussing  
20 tomorrow, I may not be available then.

21

22                   Good morning Chairman Hernandez and  
23 Regional Council members. WP22-09 states increased  
24 hunting pressure by non-Federally-qualified hunters is  
25 making it more challenging to meet the subsistence  
26 needs. WP22-10 reduces the bag limit to four deer in  
27 Lisianski Inlet, Lisianski Strait. Local residents of  
28 Lisianski Inlet and Lisianski Strait active hunters  
29 state that they are seeing less deer in Lisianski Inlet  
30 and Lisianski Strait area. Why are there less deer  
31 being seen and being harvested by local Federally-  
32 qualified users? Are we seeing less deer because of  
33 climate change effects, the recent winters have been  
34 less severe with less snow which can impact whether the  
35 deer are being driven to the beach fringe or not. I  
36 personally did observe slightly less deer than the  
37 average number of deer that I normally observed. This  
38 may have been because the snow level was well above the  
39 beach fringe and I have observed significant deer  
40 browse within the beach fringe areas. Anecdotally,  
41 healthy deer populations are observed in the Alpine and  
42 bear predation on deer kept deer out of the beach  
43 fringe. This spring when bears came out of hibernation  
44 they were emaciated and bears were eating bears. It  
45 does not concern me when locals -- it does concern me  
46 when local Federal-qualified hunters say their  
47 subsistence needs are not being met. The wildlife  
48 analysis does not support restrictions on Federally-  
49 qualified users in the Lisianski Inlet Strait area. A  
50

0073

1 complication to the Federal process is that it will be  
2 two years before another deer proposal can be submitted  
3 to readdress this issue. Emergency closures shut down  
4 the resource to all users causing subsistence needs to  
5 not be met. To err on the side of conservation a  
6 reduced bag limit is reasonable for a continued healthy  
7 resource.

8

9 I recommend approving WP22-10 deer  
10 harvest limit on non-Federally-qualified with an  
11 amendment of reducing harvest to three deer. The  
12 analysis depicts the efficiency of local Federally-  
13 qualified hunters of Lisianski Inlet Straits as having  
14 a greater success rate. I question this information.  
15 When I complete a deer hunter survey I only list actual  
16 deer harvested and it is always a one deer hunt, I  
17 never list the number of times I hunt without success  
18 which may be three, four, or five times before I shoot  
19 a deer. The analysis states very few non-Federally-  
20 qualified harvest of more than three deer, not all  
21 hunters report harvest. There is a presumption of  
22 under-reporting of harvest. Having long-term  
23 engagement at the local level, city council, and as  
24 Mayor, and current Mayor, I know the community of  
25 Pelican supports and continues to support Alaska  
26 Division of Subsistence conducting subsistence studies  
27 for the Pelican area.

28

29 We also recently supported a resolution  
30 by Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission  
31 and Salmon Beyond Borders asking for a permanent ban on  
32 tailings dams and a temporary halt on Canadian mines  
33 along the transboundary border.

34

35 On a closing note, women membership on  
36 the Federal Subsistence Southeast Regional Advisory RAC  
37 is significantly under-represented and to the detriment  
38 of the region.

39

40 I also added a little note here that  
41 this deer process has been fast-tracked and it's  
42 without its usual due diligence and I would remind you  
43 that the Prince of Wales deer process was a multiple  
44 year process.

45

46 Those are my remarks, thank you very  
47 much.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
50

0074

1     Patty. And I do just want to make sure that your  
2     Advisory Committee comments, they were submitted  
3     electronically, right, so we'll have those before us  
4     when we deliberate?

5

6                 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, Chairman Hernandez.  
7     I did submit both my comments separately to the  
8     subsistence@fws.gov.

9

10                Thank you.

11

12                CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

13

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

15

16                CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,  
17     Katya.

18

19                MS. WESSELS: Yes, we received the  
20     comments that Patty sent and I can read it into the  
21     record tomorrow if the Council wishes me to. And I can  
22     also email the comments to the Council members and we  
23     can probably post them online, too.

24

25                Thank you.

26

27                CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
28     We'll probably want those on record tomorrow. So very  
29     good. Any questions for Patty Phillips from the  
30     Council.

31

32                MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.

33

34                CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy, go ahead.

35

36                MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37     And thank you Ms. Phillips for providing comments. I  
38     know we normally do this for non-agenda items but I  
39     appreciate the fact that you might not be able to join  
40     us when we're discussing proposals tomorrow so it's  
41     always good to have your perspective.

42

43                I do have one question for you. It  
44     sounds like you did take a look at the analysis for the  
45     proposals. And one thing that I noted is the figure of  
46     how many deer non-Federally-qualified users harvest  
47     over, I think it was a 19 year period, and the graph  
48     that the analysis provided was really for the whole  
49     unit, Unit 4, rather than in Lisianski Inlet

50

0075

1 specifically. But with that being said the graph does  
2 show that there is a trend for less -- well, it looks  
3 like less success for non-Federally-qualified users  
4 that harvest more than two or three deer, and so I was  
5 wondering if you could elaborate. You mentioned that  
6 you recommended an amendment to the proposal that you  
7 submitted to reduce the bag limit for non-Federally-  
8 qualified users from two deer to three deer, I'm  
9 wondering why you made that recommendation and then if  
10 you feel like that actually will make a difference  
11 within Lisianski Inlet.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Hernandez.  
14 Thank you Council Person Needham. Yeah, so I actually  
15 thought that unit-wide, that the non-Federally-  
16 qualified should all be reduced to four, or three. My  
17 original proposal was for a four deer, reduced to a  
18 four deer bag limit for non-Federally-qualified. And,  
19 you know, I don't know if I'm reading these graphs  
20 right but on Page 254 it's showing non-Federally-  
21 qualified number of days hunted is significant for non-  
22 Federally-qualified and especially for the month of  
23 November and, you know, WP22-09 is wanting to restrict  
24 hunter access mid-October through the end of the season  
25 and according to this Figure 5, the heaviest hit month  
26 is November. So if we reduce actual bag limit rather  
27 than restrict non-Federally-qualified then there's the  
28 potential to reduce the harvest of deer by non-  
29 Federally-qualified which would also have an added  
30 benefit of conserving the resource.

31

32 Does that answer your question?

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MS. NEEDHAM: Through the Chair. Yeah,  
37 that -- thank you, Patty, for the clarification. I  
38 just wanted to -- since we might not have you during  
39 our discussion tomorrow I just wanted to hear more of  
40 your rationale of why you recommended that modification  
41 to the proposal you submitted so thank you for that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
44 Any other Council members have a question for Patty  
45 Phillips.

46

47 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
48 Albert.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

2  
3 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4 I guess my question would be is the proposed bag limit  
5 that you're proposing to change going to meet the  
6 subsistence users needs going forward. I remember, and  
7 I appreciate your testimony as far as snowfall and  
8 everything else that impacts what a deer does or  
9 doesn't do, we heard testimony from an elder, a  
10 gentleman saying -- what I took away, was he was too  
11 old to get up into the Alpine and a lot of his deer  
12 came off of the beach and so when it doesn't snow this  
13 does impact him and his ability to get deer now. I'm  
14 wondering -- there's two things there to consider.

15  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You have a  
19 response, Patty.

20  
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
22 Hernandez. I hear what he's saying, I really do. I  
23 take everybody's comments into consideration when I  
24 make my remarks.

25  
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
29 Patty. Anybody else on the Council with a question for  
30 Patty Phillips.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think we  
35 can move on. I have Celeste Weller wanting to testify.  
36 Are you there Ms. Weller?

37  
38 MS. WELLER: Yes, I'm here, can you  
39 hear me?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, I can hear  
42 you loud and clear.

43  
44 MS. WELLER: All right, thank you.  
45 I've also emailed my comments to subsistence@fws.gov. I  
46 am a full-time resident of Pelican, Alaska. I hunt  
47 black-tailed deer yearly. I work year-round in Pelican  
48 also. And I witness and experience first-hand the  
49 negative impact that unrestricted tourism is taking on  
50

0077

1       this town and community. I support WP22-09 and 10 as a  
2       starting point to slowing or stopping future resource  
3       exploitation in this area.

4

5                  Decreasing the bag limit and  
6       restricting allowable hunting times can help discourage  
7       those who would choose to hunt here for sport. Regular  
8       regional hunters who come here for food or subsistence  
9       should be capable of changing their schedule to  
10      accommodate the proposed hunting period change. WP22-  
11     09 does not close hunting, it just restricts the  
12     timeline. The Pelican community, we've been  
13     accommodating tourism and the part-time residents here  
14     for decades much to its slowed detriment. I think it's  
15     time for a change, that's just my opinion.

16

17               May opponents to these proposals will  
18       argue that there's no current interest in sport hunting  
19       for wintertime black-tail deer in Lisianski Inlet and  
20       Straits, however, as I previously mentioned the intense  
21       expansion on tourism centralized in Pelican definitely  
22       indicates otherwise. At the 9/7/21 meeting of the  
23       Pelican ADF&G Regional Advisory Committee, less than  
24       half of the attending Council and community members  
25       represented full-time residents of Pelican and its  
26       surrounding area. Most of them were full-time  
27       residents -- or excuse me -- most were part-time  
28       residents. Our tiny, year-round population is out  
29       numbered in voice for what regulations are discussed  
30       and/or determined in our area. I am not opposed to  
31       tourism as long as it can be regulated and the locals  
32       of the community that the tourism takes place in don't  
33       have to compete for resources. I am not a generational  
34       resident of Pelican, Lisianski Inlet or Alaska, but I  
35       have lived here for, year-round, for almost six years.  
36       I volunteer within the community in a myriad of ways  
37       and I participate in subsistence hunting and fishing.

38

39               I do appreciate that every voice is  
40       being heard for these proposal changes.

41

42               Thank you.

43

44               CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
45       Celeste. Are you open for taking questions from the  
46       Council?

47

48               MS. WELLER: Yes, that's fine.

49

50

0078

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any  
2 questions from Council members.

3                   (No comments)

4                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, perhaps not.  
5 Thank you for your testimony. And I still have Scott  
6 Carson on the list, are you there Scott.

7                   MR. CARSON: Yes, I am, can you hear  
8 me?

9                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, loud and  
10 clear, go ahead.

11                  MR. CARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
12 name is Scott Carson. I'm a lifelong Alaskan and  
13 currently live in Juneau. I grew up in Southeast  
14 Alaska, spending my summers with my grandparents and  
15 parents in Pelican where I commercial fished with them,  
16 and as I grew older I joined my father and my  
17 grandparents in the yearly deer hunt. After I  
18 graduated high school, I left Alaska and joined the  
19 United States Army where I served for six years. I  
20 returned to Alaska every year through my time in the  
21 Army and spent my vacation time in Pelican with my  
22 family. I returned to Alaska full-time in 1998 where I  
23 began my career as an Alaska State Trooper. I have  
24 been stationed in Anchorage, Petersburg, Sitka,  
25 Ketchikan and Juneau. And I return to Pelican twice a  
26 year to spend time with my family and it is my  
27 intention to carry on this tradition to my children and  
28 grandchildren. And I have spent over 40 years hunting  
29 and fishing in the Pelican area. And for these reasons  
30 I support ANILCA and it's goal to preserve Alaska  
31 resources for future generations. And I want future  
32 generations of Alaskans to enjoy what I have.

33                  I oppose WP22-09 for the following  
34 reasons.

35                  There is no depletion of deer in the  
36 Game Management Unit 4, including the areas surrounding  
37 Lisianski Inlet. The Alaska Department of Fish and  
38 Game actively manages the deer population in this area.  
39 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game released a  
40 report in 2021 that detailed the deer population,  
41 hunter efforts and success rates. The report concluded  
42 that there is no shortage of deer and a copy of this  
43

44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

0079

1 report has been made for this Council. This proposal  
2 violates ANILCA as written. The proposal was pushed by  
3 Pelican resident and Board member Jim Slater, who had a  
4 land dispute over deer hunting with a neighbor in 2020.  
5 Mr. Slater was appointed to the Southeast Alaska  
6 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council shortly before  
7 March 2020 meeting, and just prior to that meeting Mr.  
8 Slater recruited Pelican residents, via email, to  
9 testify in support of his proposal and even coached the  
10 residents on what to say in their testimony and a copy  
11 of this recruitment email is available to this Council,  
12 if needed. The residents testified by following Mr.  
13 Slater's script and their testimony is a direct  
14 conflict of the Alaska Fish and Game hunt reports for  
15 the Pelican area. And I believe that the State of  
16 Alaska and/or the Federal Subsistence Board were to  
17 closely to compare the testimonies given by Mr. Slater  
18 and the residents he recruited it would show that their  
19 testimony does not align with the hunt reports they  
20 gave to the State of Alaska. There is enough evidence  
21 that Mr. Slater used his newly appointed position on  
22 this Council to serve his own personal agenda and an  
23 attempt to manipulate ANILCA to serve his own personal  
24 needs and, therefore, I request that this proposal be  
25 voted down.

26

27 In other areas of the state where game  
28 population was in decline there was a thorough study of  
29 the resources before any action was taken. The current  
30 report from the local wildlife biologist reports a  
31 robust deer population and does not merit any  
32 restrictions on hunting.

33

34 In closing, the Wildlife Proposal 22-09  
35 violates ANILCA without a scarcity of deer this  
36 proposal lacks legal justification to restrict hunting  
37 rights of Alaskans.

38

39 Thank you for your time and I'd standby  
40 for any questions if you have them.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
43 Scott. Does anybody on the Council have a question for  
44 Mr. Carson.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Scott, I'm  
49 not hearing any questions. So thank you very much for  
50

0080

1 your testimony, appreciate it.

2

3 MR. CARSON: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, you're  
6 welcome. Looking at my list, I know we have Rebekah  
7 Sawyer and Wanda Culp still waiting to testify. I do  
8 just want to check, we've kind of been focused on this  
9 one deer hunting issue, I just wanted to check and make  
10 sure I called everybody's name that I had written down.  
11 If there's anybody else on this issue that wants to  
12 testify, please speak up, if not, we'll move on to  
13 Rebekah Sawyer and Wanda Culp.

14

15 MR. PHILLIPS: James Phillips from  
16 Pelican I think.....

17

18 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
19 Albert.

20

21 MR. CORBIN: Denny Corbin.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I heard two  
24 people.

25

26 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
27 Albert.

28

29 MR. CORBIN: Denny Corbin.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Albert, and  
32 somebody else.

33

34 MR. PHILLIPS: James Phillips.....

35

36 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 I.....

38

39 MR. PHILLIPS: .....from Pelican.

40

41 MR. HOWARD: I.....

42

43 MR. CORBIN: Denny Corbin.

44

45 REPORTER: Okay, just one at a time.

46

47 MR. CORBIN: Go ahead.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I have a couple

50

0081

1 people talking at once. I know Albert you're on the  
2 Council, I'll.....  
3

4 MR. HOWARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, you're  
5 correct, this does appear to be a conversation over an  
6 agenda item and this was -- this is going to happen  
7 later on in the meeting and I appreciate Patty Phillips  
8 giving her testimony because she won't be available  
9 when we're talking about the agenda item, but it  
10 appears as though everyone else will be. It's just  
11 something to think about, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, I'm trying to  
14 keep that in mind, Albert, but, yes, thank you.  
15

16 MR. CORBIN: Yeah, could I.....  
17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I did hear.....  
19

20 MR. CORBIN: .....get a comment in,  
21 this is Denny Corbin and I have to work.  
22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, what was your  
24 name?  
25

26 MR. CORBIN: Yeah, Denny Corbin from  
27 Pelican.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Denny Corbin,  
30 okay.  
31

32 MR. CORBIN: Okay, Denny Corbin, yeah.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, we'll  
35 hear your testimony or comment.  
36

37 MR. CORBIN: Okay. Yeah, I have to  
38 work today so I'd like to just get this out of the way.  
39 In my view I'm against the deer hunting proposal. And  
40 what I see happening is that economy in Pelican has  
41 been pretty bad over the years. I left several years  
42 ago, the Pelican Seafoods shutdown and half the town  
43 got on the ferry and left. And salmon trolling isn't  
44 as good as it used to be and opportunities to longline  
45 for halibut and black cod has been limited. So, you  
46 know, young people move away and then what this law  
47 will do is make it so they can't come home and hunt  
48 with their parents or grandparents or get their parents  
49 or grandparents a deer. And so it kind of breaks a  
50

0082

1 longstanding tradition of culture, where, you know,  
2 people have children, they take care of them and they  
3 teach them to hunt, and then when those children get to  
4 be adults they take care of their parents and  
5 grandparents by harvesting deer for them. But it seems  
6 like a really good way to destroy a community.

7

8                   And the other thing about it is that  
9 according to the best data from Alaska game management  
10 biologists there's not a problem with the deer in  
11 Lisianski Inlet. And, you know, I grew up hunting here  
12 and, you know, we were really subsistence. I remember  
13 my mother telling me, don't come home unless you have  
14 deer, you know, and it's a lot of hard work. And some  
15 years the deer hunting's not so great. If it's a warm  
16 winter they're up real high, or the feed, you know,  
17 they go where the feed is, and you have to work real  
18 hard at it and sometimes you don't always have success  
19 and that's just the way hunting and fishing is.

20

21                   So I think the -- you know, given --  
22 this is a generational theft of hunting rights for  
23 people, you know, that live in this area, you know,  
24 especially young people that might move away to find  
25 job opportunities, if you have family support, it's a  
26 pretty serious proposal if you look at it in that way.  
27 So I think the burden of proof should be on the people  
28 promoting it and we should have, you know, a real good  
29 look to make sure that there actually is a problem  
30 because right now all the data says, no, there is no  
31 problem, they're saying there's plenty of deer.

32

33                   And I agree also with Scott, that this  
34 was done as a sneak attack. A small group of people  
35 were cultivated, that's what it looked like to me, and  
36 then testified at the March meeting and I was  
37 messaging, one of the individuals who testified, they  
38 never mentioned it to me, and we've been friends our  
39 whole lives basically. And, yeah, another member that  
40 testified, I left several phone messages, they never  
41 called me back. And, so, you know, it's not hard to  
42 just type in a few letters and enter someone's name in  
43 on the email list, so I just have a bad taste in my  
44 mouth. I feel like this was done in a bad way, and the  
45 rest of the community wasn't allowed to comment on it  
46 initially and then it was adopted by the Subsistence  
47 Board, so I think it should be thrown out just on that  
48 basis alone but at the very least people should realize  
49 that even though you're hurting your family unit in a  
50

0083

1 big way doing this and the burden of proof about deer  
2 should be well established and we should really check  
3 this out because, you know, deer hunting pressure has  
4 gone way down in this area, there used to be a lot more  
5 people living out in Pelican, and a lot more good  
6 hunters and, you know, I tend to believe the game  
7 biologists.

8

9 So, thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, thank you,  
12 Mr. Corbin. Any questions for Mr. Corbin.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think now  
17 I will call on Rebekah Sawyer and.....

18

19 MR. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....Wanda Culp --  
22 oh, wait a minute, who was that?

23

24 MR. PHILLIPS: This is James Phillips  
25 in Pelican. I asked to testify because I, personally,  
26 would like to go out deer hunting. Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, sorry,  
29 James, I didn't have you on my list here. Do you have  
30 more to say?

31

32 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, I do. I was just  
33 waiting for your confirmation, sir.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah, go  
36 ahead.

37

38 MR. PHILLIPS: Yeah, I apologize. My  
39 name is James Phillips. I reside here in Pelican.  
40 Have since 1961. Pelican Advisory Committee provided a  
41 forum for the expression and views and opinions by  
42 persons with connections to Pelican and Lisianski Inlet  
43 and Strait, and, yet, there was how many of us. And I  
44 was the member that -- Council member that abstained.  
45 Because I think we go back and forth, Terry Warder, and  
46 I, we've lived here longer than a majority of them  
47 because our parents moved out, and I own property  
48 outside of town and inside of town and I've been on the  
49 school board, the Mayor, graduated from Pelican in '78.

50

1                   And, anyway, we have a six month deer  
2 season. And the way I feel we have six months and if  
3 you can't get your deer limit in them six months, we do  
4 not need a January season, but that's my opinion.  
5 Anyway I'm -- what my wife had said earlier, I don't  
6 know all the numbers. We have to compromise, I agree  
7 with Mike. I abstained because they're my friends,  
8 both sides of this. And I'm a have. I have a big boat,  
9 I'm able to travel out and go to the outer coast and go  
10 down to where we grew up always hunting because my  
11 family, we rarely hunted in the Inlet, we left that for  
12 the have nots, the people with just a skiff, you know.  
13 I've had a 50 foot boat my entire life, my parents. We  
14 always traveled out and hunted in the Sitka area,  
15 between us and Sitka. And when they made all these  
16 rules and regulations and they still continue to do it,  
17 it just pits one against the other and right or wrong,  
18 we all need to eat. I understand that and respect  
19 that. I'm a little over 60 years old and I don't climb  
20 to the top of the mountains either. That's why I asked  
21 if I could -- because today is the best day I've seen  
22 in a couple years to go deer hunting and they're out  
23 and around and they're moving. They're walking on the  
24 beaches. They're not always at the top of the  
25 mountain, you have to be out and ready for them. And  
26 it's election day too which complicates it in a small  
27 town.

28

29                   So I thank you for this, and I will  
30 take comments, thank you, questions.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
33 James. Any questions for Mr. Phillips from the  
34 Council.

35

36                   (No comments)

37

38                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm not  
39 hearing any. Thank you, Mr. Phillips.

40

41                   MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. One  
44 last call, anybody I missed that wants to testify on  
45 Lisianski proposals.

46

47                   (No comments)

48

49                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Rebekah and  
50

0085

1 Wanda, are you still there.

2

3 MR. KITKA: Don, this is Harvey Kitka.

4

5 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS: This is Rebekah  
6 -- okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I hear  
9 Rebekah, but Harvey what did you want to add?

10

11 MR. KITKA: Well, it has nothing to do  
12 with Lisianski but I had definitely some non-agenda  
13 items I wanted to talk about. I know when you were  
14 asking for non-agenda items, I'm speaking on behalf of  
15 the Kaagwaantaan in Sitka.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

18

19 MR. KITKA: I don't know if you still  
20 wanted to talk to whoever else was trying to call in, I  
21 can wait.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, if you don't  
24 mind waiting, Harvey. I know you're on the Council so  
25 you won't be going anywhere. So if we could hear from  
Rebekah and Wanda. I heard Rebekah, I believe, in the  
background.

26

27 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS: Yes.

28

29 MS. CULP: Hi, Don, we're here. This  
30  
31 is Wanda.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Tell us who  
34 you are and go ahead.

35

36 MS. CULP: Yes, Wanda Culp. I'm the  
37 Coordinator for the Tongass Women for Forest, an arm of  
38 the Womens Earth and Action Climate Network,  
39 International. We represent the Tongass Forest for  
40 indigenous management. I'll be brief. I sent a  
41 message earlier about the continuing destruction of  
42 Hoonah because of the clear-cut so I won't go into  
43 that. But I will say that Hoonah and Angoon are  
44 suffering an epidemic of cancer that's been pretty  
45 silent and now we're being attacked by Covid and it's  
46 time that all Federal agencies recognize that this is  
47 the endness of the Earth and, yes, we need to have  
48 local harvesting of our natural resources but that each  
49

50

0086

1 local community should also have the right to say, yes,  
2 this is one of ours, they can come in and hunt and  
3 gather with us. So we don't want to eliminate anybody  
4 but we sure don't want to invite all the fish, you  
5 know, the sportshunters to have your little free for  
6 all. So that's all I wanted to say.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Wanda.

11

12 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS: And I wanted to  
13 say.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,  
16 Rebekah.

17

18 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS: I wanted to say  
19 guyana to Patty Phillips. I thought that what she said  
20 was really important and I want to uplift her message  
21 along with Wanda's. We all have something in common  
22 that we want to make a change. And we're looking out  
23 for the food chain, the population and we're  
24 recognizing changes in the land and when there are two  
25 -- it's a balance and things become scarce and it's the  
26 same way for plants. And when there's a pollution in  
27 an area that also contributes, we are recognizing  
28 locally and globally that westward expansion is the  
29 goal and this is based on the choices continuing to be  
30 made and the choices that you should be making should  
31 be based on public input, not what industry and  
32 businesses can offer. And also there's a common theme  
33 across Alaska of shutting down subsistence king fishing  
34 to make way for business also. They were mentioning in  
35 Angoon earlier, it's also happening in Hooper Bay. So  
36 just wanted to let you know that it's happening all  
37 across Alaska, these sorts of issues across all the  
38 coast and tribal issues.

39

40 So thank you for listening to me and  
41 thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
44 And are you open for questions from the Council.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Questions?

49

50

1 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS: Yes.  
2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody on  
4 the Council have a question for Rebekah or Wanda.  
5

6 (No comments)  
7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, apparently  
9 not. And, Rebekah, I understand that you and Wanda  
10 have a presentation that you'll be presenting to the  
11 Council later on in the meeting.  
12

13 MS. SAWERS-CONTRERAS: Yes, we will.  
14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll look forward  
16 to that as well. Okay.  
17

18 MS. CULP: All right, thank you for  
19 listening.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you.  
22

23 MS. ORR: Hey, real quick. This is Nick  
24 or Nicolas Orr out of Juneau, I had a quick question.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Nick Orr with a  
27 question, do you have comment or just a question?  
28

29 MR. ORR: It's just a question.  
30 Because it sounded like there was a lot of comments on  
31 WP22-09 and I thought that was for tomorrow. This  
32 sounds like a lot of agenda items that are being  
33 discussed in a non-agenda forum.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, you're  
36 correct. We asked that people hold their comments on  
37 agenda items until it's on the agenda but we're  
38 flexible. I recognize that people have busy schedules  
39 and can't always be available.  
40

41 MR. ORR: Well, that's fine, I just  
42 wanted to clarify. I will hold my comments and  
43 questions until we are discussing this tomorrow.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you for  
46 that, that's very helpful. We'll look forward to  
47 hearing from you. Harvey Kitka, you have non-agenda  
48 comments from the Sitka Kaagwaantaan. Go ahead,  
49 Harvey.  
50

0088

1 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 This is Harvey Kitka and I'm speaking on behalf of the  
3 Sitka Kaagwaantaan. My topic is herring.

As you know our clan submitted a proposal that would affect Sitka Sound. There's some things that I needed to kind of add to that. We, at Kaagwaantaan had hoped that some other clans from other communities would add to it because there's been long talks between our community and Craig and Klawock about the size of their herring spawn. Most people don't really realize that between the time of first contact, the ocean were teaming with herring and salmon and whales and dolphins, you know, just everything was plentiful. The spawn in Sitka Sound was not only in Sitka Sound, all the bays, it went all the way down and around Baranof Island. There was also Craig and Klawock, their spawn started there and then went around the Decision, went up Chatham Straits all the way to Kake, and then Angoon had their own spawn, Hoonah had their spawn, Juneau had their spawn, Yakutat had their spawn. So the amount of herring that they used for their base, it's so small as compared to what it used to be. This is one of our major concerns.

2

The other concern is that they're still taking the older herring, which is so important. Last year in the process of trying to get their old herring, they fished for days and an awful lot of the small herring died and ended up on the beaches. No telling how many sank to the bottom. But on another note it was kind of nice that they tried to stay away from some of the area because they are closed subsistence areas. It was nice to see herring back in some of those spawning grounds. It wasn't very many but to see them coming back it goes to show what we've been telling them that they've been forcing them away from us.

3

39 So some of these things are of big  
40 concern to us and that was all I wanted to add.

4

42 Thank you.

4

44 And if there was any questions I'll  
45 answer them

-  
4

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
48 Harvey. If there's anybody on the Council that has a  
49 question for Harvey.

5

0089

1                   MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, this is  
2 Frank.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,  
5 Frank.  
6

7                   MR. WRIGHT: I just have a comment.  
8 You know quite a few years back when I first started  
9 black codding I used to have a throw net and I used to  
10 go down to a float down here in front of my house and  
11 throw my net and get herring, now you can't even hardly  
12 catch one, you hardly see them anymore. So this  
13 herring issue has to be really, really looked at  
14 because it's just too many signs showing that it's --  
15 that, you know, the Department of Fish and Game is not  
16 looking at the signs that are happening, you know. I  
17 know there used to be a herring spawn over in Auke Bay  
18 and used to have a herring spawn here in Hoonah, and we  
19 don't anymore, and all of a sudden Department of Fish  
20 and Game knows exactly everything that's going on  
21 except us, you know, the people that have seen it, seen  
22 the changes that are going on. And, you know, when the  
23 herring spawn that used to be here, it's not here  
24 anymore. I know -- so I wish they would look at the  
25 signs and decide on what's going on because this  
26 doesn't make sense that they still put this big boat  
27 out there and I just wonder who are they listening to,  
28 certainly not the people that have lived it.

29  
30                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31

32                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
33 Frank. Anybody else on the Council questions for  
34 Harvey or a comment.

35  
36                   MR. HOWARD: Just a comment, Mr. Chair,  
37 this is Albert.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

40  
41                   MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
42 Just real quick, when I got to Sitka with a group of  
43 guys and, you know, it seems like, you know, we're  
44 getting regulated on how much we can bring home or  
45 they're trying to and my thought to that is we go and  
46 bring the eggs home and the herring there live to see  
47 another day the way we do it. I'd have to agree with  
48 Mr. Wright, you know, our elders are asking about our  
49 herring, what can we do about -- we used to have spawn  
50

0090

1 in Hood Bay, they'd talk about it, we talk about Salt  
2 Bay used to have one in May so a lot of the resources  
3 are disappearing and nothing's being done. It's just  
4 an unintended consequence of bait fishing back in the  
5 '80s and they came in and fished it out. Fader\* Bay  
6 used to have a lot of herring and that got fished out.  
7 So I guess I think a lot of this needs to be looked at  
8 and looked at seriously because Sitka's almost the last  
9 people where the herring spawn.

10

11                   Thanks, Mr. Chair.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
14 Anybody else on the Council with a question for Harvey  
15 or a comment.

16

17                   (No comments)

18

19                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, apparently  
20 not. Thank you for your testimony on herring Harvey.  
21 It's a very important issue and we definitely expect to  
22 stay engaged on that which I'm sure we will in the  
23 future. So now.....

24

25                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We will take a  
28 lunch break now. When we return we will be starting  
29 old business, there's a couple of major items we have  
30 under old business. We have to finalize our comments  
31 on proposals to the Alaska Board of Fish. And then we  
32 also have an update from Department of Fish and Game on  
33 wolves in Unit 2. I should ask the folks from the  
34 Department of Fish and Game about their time  
35 availability. I will schedule where we start on the  
36 old business depending on ADF&G's availability. So do  
37 we still have -- I think Tom Schumacher was going to do  
38 the presentation, I don't know if he's on board. We  
39 also have -- I guess we'll have a report from the Fish  
40 and Wildlife Service, Doug Cooper and Sara Markegard.  
41 So if those folks could tell me about their  
42 availability. We're going to break about an hour for  
43 lunch.

44

45                   MR. SCHUMACHER: Chairman Hernandez,  
46 this is Tom Schumacher.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, Tom, go  
49 ahead.

50

0091

1                   MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm available this  
2 afternoon, I'm listening in so, yeah, whenever you're  
3 ready I'll be ready.

4

5                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
6 Tom.

7

8                   MR. COOPER: Mr. Chair.

9

10                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

11

12                  MR. COOPER: Hi, this is Doug Cooper  
13 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I am also  
14 available any time this afternoon so no time crunch for  
15 me.

16

17                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
18 very much for that. I think I'm going to recommend  
19 that we.....

20

21                  MR. MANNIX: Mr. Chair.

22

23                  MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair.

24

25                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Somebody else, go  
26 ahead.

27

28                  MR. MANNIX: Mr. Chair, this is Jacob  
29 Mannix. I was on the list to comment and I'm not going  
30 to do that now because I know you guys are trying to  
31 break for lunch but, again, Jacob Mannix, Backcountry  
32 Hunters and Anglers. I'll save my comment for another  
33 time. I just did want to relay, you know, that if  
34 Council members have questions for me or my  
35 organization at some point regarding the comments that  
36 we did make on some of the proposals, I forwarded my  
37 contact information to your Coordinator and that's  
38 available to you. So, again, anyway, sorry for  
39 interrupting there. I'll save my comments for a later  
40 time.

41

42                  Thank you.

43

44                  MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is.....

45

46                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So I.....

47

48                  MR. CASIPIT: .....Cal, I have a quick  
49 request to make.

50

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Who is this now?

2  
3 MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal. Member Cal  
4 from Gustavus.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All right, go  
7 ahead, Cal.

8  
9 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. I have a quick  
10 request to make of the Coordinator or whoever, before  
11 we get to the deer proposals. There was quite a few  
12 comments made today over the phone about a report from  
13 Fish and Game. Also in the written public comments  
14 there was quite a bit of referrals on all those three  
15 -- four proposals, quite a bit of referrals to, I  
16 assume is the same, ADF&G report. It is not in our  
17 materials, as far as I can find and I've looked through  
18 everything. I would request that we get a copy of that  
19 before we start on those proposals so we can at least  
20 look at the information that was presented. Because I  
21 am flying a little blind on those. Because people keep  
22 referring to them and I don't have it.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
27 Cal. I guess I'll -- well, first of all, Cal, let me  
28 just respond to Jacob from Backcountry Hunters. I just  
29 want to make sure you know that at 9:00 o'clock  
30 tomorrow morning when we open the meeting there is  
31 public testimony, that's a sure thing, we do that every  
32 morning. So if you want to hold off until then that  
33 would be greatly appreciated, appreciate your time.

34  
35 And, so now Katya I don't know if you  
36 could track any reports that Fish and Game may have put  
37 out on Lisianski, although Cal I'm not sure if people  
38 aren't referring to just what we have before us in our  
39 analysis. I don't know if there's anything in addition  
40 to that.

41  
42 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, that's  
43 what I was thinking, that perhaps they were referring  
44 to what's in the analysis in the proposal. I will try  
45 to figure it out.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, appreciate  
48 that.

49  
50

0093

1                   MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair, this is Frank.

2

3                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,  
4 Frank.

5

6                   MR. WRIGHT: I have a commitment at  
7 2:00 o'clock so I won't be around for about an hour.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Frank.  
10 Let's see we'll be coming back at about 1:45, is there  
11 an item on the agenda that you were most interested in  
12 or want to be here for?

13

14                   MR. WRIGHT: Not at this time, no,  
15 thank you.

16

17                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
18 Frank.

19

20                   MR. WRIGHT: All right.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So I'm thinking  
23 when we come back we'll maybe start out with the wolf  
24 update and report if that's okay with everybody. And I  
25 have asked Vice Chair Cathy Needham to maybe run the  
26 meeting through that old business portion to go through  
27 the Fish and Game proposals and the wolf updates. So  
28 I'll check with you, Cathy, does that sound good to  
29 you, to start with the wolf update, unless you'd like  
30 to do it differently?

31

32                   MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, yep, I'll  
33 standby. That sounds great to me.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, we  
36 will recess until 1:45. And just a quick maybe  
37 reminder from the folks monitoring the phones, should  
38 people hang up and dial back in or should they stay  
39 connected and on mute.

40

41                   REPORTER: So, Don, this is Tina.  
42 People can stay online, stay muted, or they can hang up  
43 and call back, it's really their choice.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, thank  
46 you very much. Okay, recess until 1:45.

47

48                   (Off record)

49

50



0095

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. WESSELS: James Slater.

4

5 MR. SLATER: I'm here.

6

7 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, James.

8

9 Robert Schroeder.

10

11 MR. SCHROEDER: Bob Schroeder's here.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

14

15 Albert Howard.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Don Hernandez.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Here.

22

23 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Don.

24

25 Harold Robbins.

26

27 MR. ROBBINS: I'm here.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Harold.

30

31 Harvey Kitka.

32

33 MR. KITKA: I'm here.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Harvey.

36

37 Larry Bemis.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. WESSELS: Cathy Needham.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm here.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. So we have  
46 seven members present out of 13 so we have a quorum.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1                             ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
2 you, Katya. Again, welcome back everyone. For Council  
3 members, if you are here and didn't call out when your  
4 name was called, that's fine, we have a quorum to get  
5 started. But just as a reminder, when we entered back  
6 in on the meeting we were in silent mode so you need to  
7 press star six to unmute your phones and then  
8 potentially place your device back on mute when you're  
9 not talking, please.

10

11                             Again, welcome back everyone to the  
12 Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
13 meeting. I was asked, as Vice Chair, to take over  
14 chairing the meeting through our old business. So I'd  
15 first like to call on Katya Wessels, I believe we had  
16 an announcement that she wanted to make at the  
17 beginning of old business that was not part of our  
18 agenda but it's regarding the application season.

19

20                             Katya.

21

22                             MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Madame  
23 Chair. Members of the Council. Yes, we have this  
24 agenda item about the open season for the Council  
25 application and nominations. First of all I would like  
26 to thank all of you Council members for your service on  
27 the Council and on behalf of the user groups that you  
28 represent. Your knowledge and experience is of great  
29 value to the Federal Subsistence Management Program.  
30 We currently are going through some difficult times  
31 during the pandemic, but at the same time we're  
32 constantly working to have robust Councils with full  
33 memberships. And we're looking to you, Council  
34 members, for help, because you're our connection to the  
35 communities that you represent.

36

37                             (Teleconference interference -  
38 participants not muted)

39

40                             MS. WESSELS: The 2020 [sic] Council  
41 application period was open on September 17th. We're  
42 encouraging you to help us to spread the word about it  
43 in the region's communities and recruit new applicants  
44 throughout your region. You know the people in your  
45 region. And you can also share the firsthand  
46 experience of what it means to serve on the Council.  
47 What is involved in this serving, and how much time it  
48 takes. You can also nominate the candidates if someone  
49 is interested in applying but is having a hard time

50

0097

1 filling in an application, or is not sure, just ask if  
2 they're okay with you nominating them. The nomination  
3 packets are available on our website, it's  
4 [www.doi.gov/subsistence/region](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/region) and a fillable copy of  
5 the application will be posted soon as well. We also  
6 plan on mailing a number of application packets to the  
7 current Council members when we receive them from the  
8 printer so you can hand them out to interested persons,  
9 organizations, and tribes. Additionally, we're mailing  
10 around 2,000 copies of the application packet to  
11 various addresses across the state. If someone needs a  
12 copy to be faxed to them we can do that as well. We're  
13 hoping to have a good number of qualified applicants  
14 apply this year so we're able to fill all vacant seats  
15 and have alternates available for the situations when  
16 Council members resign, move out of the region, or pass  
17 away. And we would really appreciate your help with  
18 recruiting this year.

19

20 (Teleconference interference -  
21 participants not muted)

22

23 MS. WESSELS: The Southeast region, you  
24 know, you always have a lot of applicants and we had a  
25 good turn out of applications in your region but we  
26 still are asking you to help us this year.

27

28 So thank you very much for your  
29 attention and if you have any questions please ask.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
34 you, Katya. Are there any questions regarding the  
35 application period for Regional Advisory Council seats  
36 from Council members.

37

38 (Teleconference interference -  
39 participants not muted)

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
44 hearing none. Before we move on with the next agenda  
45 item I just want to remind everyone that we are still  
46 getting some feedback from phones that are not  
47 currently muted. So if you don't have your device on  
48 mute, please do so, it's distracting to try to hear the  
49 speaker when there's a lot of background noise going

50

0098

1       on.

2

3                   Before I move to the next agenda item,  
4 I wanted to ask you whether or not you had any  
5 announcements or housekeeping items that you wanted to  
6 share with us?

7

8                   MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Cathy. I  
9 just want to remind everyone who participates in this  
10 meeting that there's an opportunity to submit your  
11 written public comments on the proposals by emailing it  
12 to subsistence@fws.gov. That's the email address that  
13 you need to use; subsistence@fws.gov. And these  
14 comments can be emailed now and until the proposal is  
15 taken by the Council. So please indicate in the title  
16 of the email the number of the proposal that you're  
17 commenting on.

18

19                   Also I just wanted to clarify the  
20 situation in regards, there was a question about the  
21 ADF&G report before we took a lunch break. And what it  
22 turns out, it was not ADF&G reports, it turns out that  
23 people were referring to ADF&G comments on the  
24 proposals, and the ADF&G is going to present their  
25 comments when the Council takes each proposal in their  
26 allotted time according to the proposal presentation  
27 procedure. And that is why it is so important for the  
28 public, also, to provide your oral testimony to the  
29 Council during the same time. This way we can avoid  
30 the confusion, because when people testify on the  
31 proposals during the period for testimony on non-agenda  
32 items there can be some confusion because the Council  
33 members are not sure what you are referring to.

34

35                   So these are just the two items that I  
36 wanted to mention at this point.

37

38                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

39

40                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
41 Katya. Next on the agenda we have the .805(c)(3)  
42 report. I'll remind Council members that there were  
43 supplemental materials regarding this report and I  
44 believe Katya Wessels was going to be an information  
45 update regarding that.

46

47                   MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you, Madame  
48 Chair. Members of the Council. For the record, Katya  
49 Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor with  
50

0099

1 OSM. You were, Council members, with the meeting books  
2 you were sent a copy of the letter dated August 26th,  
3 2021, the letter is from the Federal Subsistence Board  
4 to the Council and it is known as the .805(c) (3)  
5 report. This has also been posted on our website in  
6 the Southeast meeting materials section and it's part  
7 of the supplemental materials. The document is called  
8 Federal Subsistence Board 2021 .805(c) report to the  
9 Council.

10

11                 The .805(c) report provides the actions  
12 that were taken by the Board on the fisheries proposals  
13 from the last cycle affecting subsistence users in the  
14 Southeast region. The Council already received a quick  
15 update at your March meeting but to recap, this Council  
16 only had one closure to consider, FCR21-22, was the  
17 closure on Makhnati Island Federal public waters in  
18 Sitka Sound to the harvest of herring and herring spawn  
19 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users. The  
20 Board took action consistent with this Council's  
21 recommendation and supported maintaining the closure.

22

23                 So this is just a formal opportunity to  
24 bring to your attention the Board's action in the  
25 documented form, and this is just for your information  
26 only, this is not an action item for the Council.

27

28                 Thank you for your attention.

29

30                 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
31 you, Katya. Are there any questions from Council  
32 members regarding the .805(c) report.

33

34                 (No comments)

35

36                 (Teleconference interference -  
37 participants not muted)

38

39                 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
40 hearing none, we'll move on to our next agenda item  
41 under old business. The next agenda item is the Alaska  
42 Board of Fish proposals. As you are all aware we have  
43 spent quite a bit of time as a Council providing  
44 comments to proposals that are part of the Alaska Board  
45 of Fish process. That material can be found starting  
46 on Page -- oops, it's going to be a supplemental, there  
47 was a supplemental document that is a draft letter that  
48 we have prepared on comments that our Council has  
49 provided thus far on Board of Fish proposals. The  
50

0100

1 supplemental is a letter on our letterhead, the date is  
2 October 2021. We don't have a date yet because we have  
3 not finalized this letter. It also states in bold  
4 letters Comments on the 2020-2021 Alaska Board of Fish  
5 Proposals for Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and  
6 Shellfish.

7

(Teleconference interference -  
participants not muted)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I would like to  
12 just take a few moments to go over what this Council  
13 has worked on thus far, and then I will give an  
14 opportunity for us to decide if we want to make  
15 comments on proposals that we have not yet deliberated  
16 on in our past two meetings. To refresh the Council  
17 members we have provided support for Proposal 93, which  
18 has to do with king salmon. We have provided support  
19 for 125, which is under personal use, sport and  
20 subsistence proposals. Also under the same topic we  
21 have provided support for Proposals 127, 128. We  
22 provided support with modification for Proposal 129.  
23 We opposed Proposal 130. We provided support for  
24 Proposal 131. Opposed Proposal 134. Supported 142,  
25 143, 144 and 145. We opposed Proposal 161. We  
26 provided support for 177 and 210. And then under the  
27 topic miscellaneous statewide sportfish, shellfish  
28 proposals, we supported Proposal 234 and then 235 and  
29 236.

30

So that's a quick summary of what we have done thus far on all of the Board of Fish proposals.

34

Proposals that we did not get to that  
we did express that we might want to provide comments  
on may be found also in our supplemental materials in  
association with that letter. There were Proposals  
132, 133, and 170. I would like to go through each of  
these to decide whether or not we'd like to provide  
comments on them and then after we go through those  
previously identified proposals, the Council members, I  
would like to open it up to find out if there are any  
other Board of Fish proposals that we wanted to provide  
comments on.

46

47 So I think what we'll do is we'll start  
48 with Proposal 132. I believe at our past meeting we  
49 just reviewed what the proposal was and if we decided

50

0101

1 to provide comment, we do need a motion for such.  
2 Proposal 132 is in regards to Redoubt Bay and Lake  
3 sockeye salmon fisheries management plan. So at this  
4 time I would ask whether or not the Council is  
5 interested in providing comment on that proposal to the  
6 Board of Fish.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: And if you are  
11 trying to talk and aren't able to, when we came back  
12 from lunch, we came back in silent mode, so you will  
13 need to push star six to come off of mute.

14

15 MR. KITKA: Are you there Cathy?

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I am here  
18 Harvey.

19

20 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. Comments on  
21 132.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, please.

24

25 MR. KITKA: Okay. The comment is, what  
26 Mr. Tompkins wrote in this, it's pretty much accurate.  
27 I'm not too sure whether the scuba divers is a good  
28 thing right next to the stream, they tend to force the  
29 fish bank out and sometimes our fish don't come back  
30 until late at night when there's nobody there so it  
31 makes it really hard for the dipnetters. Maybe they  
32 ought to be moved back out to the snagging line and  
33 leave it there. That's my comment.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,  
36 Harvey. I would ask if Council members, perhaps if we  
37 would like to include formal comments to the Board of  
38 Fish regarding Proposal 132, that we make a motion to  
39 provide comment and then we can discuss what comments  
40 we'd like to provide. But I would need a motion for us  
41 to do so.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, I am  
46 not hearing -- other than Harvey's comment, I'm not  
47 hearing much interest from Council members about  
48 providing comments to the Board of Fish regarding to  
49 Proposal 132 so I would suggest that we move to

50

0102

1   Proposal 133. Proposal 133 to the Alaska Board of Fish  
2   was also in regards to Redoubt Bay and Lake sockeye  
3   salmon fisheries management plan.

4

(Teleconference interference -  
participants not muted)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: If we can ask  
9 folks that aren't currently talking to mute their phone  
10 that would be much appreciated. We're getting some  
11 feedback.

12

21

22 MR. SLATER: I Cathy, it's -- Madame  
23 Chair, this is Jim Slater. Who's the sponsor of the  
24 proposals, can we get background information as we try  
25 to evaluate these?

26

38

39                           MR. SLATER: I understand. I have the  
40 letter in front of me, I was just wondering what the  
41 origin of the proposal was and where it came from and  
42 so on. That's all. Just a bit of background. It  
43 doesn't mention the source of it and other things, and  
44 I guess maybe I didn't read it close enough but I just  
45 was wondering.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: On the sheet if  
48 you look -- I don't know if you have access to Teams  
49 but on the sheet it does say that this proposal was

50

0103

1 proposed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
2

3 MR. SLATER: I'm sorry, I just have the  
4 letter in front of me. Okay.  
5

6 MR. KITKA: Cathy, this is Harvey  
7 Kitka.  
8

9 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, please, Mr.  
10 Kitka.  
11

12 MR. KITKA: Proposal 133 looks like  
13 it's a basically Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
14 housekeeping.  
15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Kitka. Are there any Council members that would like  
18 to see our Council to provide comments to the Board of  
19 Fish regarding Proposal 133 or should we move to the  
20 next proposal?  
21

22 MR. SLATER: This is affecting  
23 subsistence users, it allows subsistence users to use a  
24 seine or gillnet, correct, if I'm understanding it  
25 correctly. So this is something that would be of  
26 interest to us because it's helping subsistence users  
27 is my -- would be my understanding of it. So in that  
28 case I would say it would be worthwhile for us to look  
29 at supporting it. If anyone has any other thoughts or  
30 comments, maybe I am looking at it incorrectly, but I  
31 think it would be a good thing.  
32

33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
34 you for that. I would entertain a motion to provide  
35 comments on Proposal 133 if you would like for it to go  
36 into the letter that we'll submit to the Board of Fish.  
37

38 MR. SLATER: Sure. I move that we  
39 evaluate or submit comments -- evaluate submitting  
40 comments to Proposal 133.  
41

42 MR. JOHNSON: This is Ian, I'll second.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'll second that,  
45 Cathy. This is Don.  
46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Don.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I said I'll  
50

0104

1 second that.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. I think I  
4 heard Ian with a second before I heard you. There's a  
5 bit of a delay.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that's fine.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: So I'll take  
10 Ian's second for the record. And then I think if we  
11 are going to put in comments to the Board of Fish  
12 regarding Proposal 133 we need to provide -- it sounds  
13 like it's been suggested thus far that we should  
14 support it but we probably should include some  
15 rationale associated with that. So other than just  
16 that it would be a benefit to subsistence users, does  
17 anyone else have any other comments that they would  
18 like for us to consider in our support for this  
19 proposal.

20

21 MR. SLATER: Cathy this is -- Madame  
22 Chair, this is Jim Slater again. The fact that it only  
23 would support the use of seine or gillnets in areas  
24 that already allow for commercial salmon fishing, I  
25 would say that this puts the -- the rationale would be  
26 that this puts subsistence users at no disadvantage to  
27 commercial fishing in the same region, or the same  
28 area.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
33 Slater.

34

35 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

38

39 MR. KITKA: A little bit of history on  
40 that. Even though it was unlawful to use gillnet gear,  
41 the Department of Fish and Game allowed them to try to  
42 gillnet outside the closed area. At the most after two  
43 days of fishing they got one fish. This would just --  
44 if I'm reading it right, it allows the use of a seine  
45 or a gillnet outside the closed area. It has nothing  
46 to do with inside the bay. The one inside the bay is  
47 going to be part of what Sitka Tribe is proposing.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
50

0105

1 you, Harvey.

2

3 MR. CASIPIT: Madame Chair, this is  
4 Cal.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Cal.

7

8 MR. CASIPIT: Also it seems to me what  
9 this does is clarify something in the Redoubt Lake  
10 sockeye management plan that was worked on so hard  
11 years ago, so if that helps clarify that plan I think  
12 that needs to be in there, too, as part of our  
13 justification.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
16 you for that Cal. Any other comments from Council  
17 members regarding supporting Proposal 133 in our  
18 comments to the Board of Fish.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: If there are no  
23 other comments from the Council I'd entertain the  
24 question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'll call for the  
27 question.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, the  
30 question's been called. We'll have a vote regarding  
31 providing comments from the Council in support of  
32 Proposal 133 to the Alaska Board of Fish. And I'll go  
33 ahead and try a just regular vote, without having to go  
34 through the roll call unless it becomes split. So all  
35 in favor signify by saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Opposed, signify  
40 by saying nay.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, we  
45 will add supporting comments for Proposal 133 to our  
46 letter to the Alaska Board of Fish. One other proposal  
47 that was previously identified at our Council meetings  
48 as potentially discussing and providing comments on for  
49 our letter to the Board of Fish was Proposal 170.

50

0106

1       Proposal 170 was proposed by Ketchikan Indian Community  
2 and it's regarding shrimp. I did hear this morning  
3 that there were two KIC folks on the line that  
4 introduced themselves, and I guess I'd first like to  
5 check and see if either Tony Gallegos or Keenan  
6 Sanderson are still with us, and if the Council members  
7 have questions about this proposal that KIC submitted,  
8 if you'd be willing to take some questions.

9

10                   MR. SANDERSON: Keenan Sanderson's on  
11 the line.

12

13                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,  
14 Keenan.

15

16                   MR. GALLEGOS: Thank you. This is.....

17

18                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Oh, go ahead. I  
19 apologize for cutting someone off if somebody had  
20 something.

21

22                   MR. GALLEGOS: Oh, Cathy, this is Tony  
23 Gallegos also checking in but Keenan can take the lead  
24 on this, he did most of the preparation.

25

26                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
27 you, Tony. So maybe I'll just go ahead and ask Keenan  
28 if you want to give us -- I believe probably at least  
29 two meetings ago we talked about this proposal,  
30 potentially supporting this proposal that you submitted  
31 but if you could refresh our memories about the  
32 proposal that KIC submitted, I think that might help us  
33 formulate any comments that we might want to provide  
34 regarding the proposal. So, Keenan, would you take a  
35 few minutes to do that please.

36

37                   MR. SANDERSON: Yeah, sure. Before --  
38 before I start, though, I was actually -- I heard my  
39 name and I'm actually not sure which proposal you're  
40 referring to. Can you state which one that is, please?

41

42                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, we're  
43 talking about, or hope to be talking about Proposal 170  
44 which is.....

45

46                   MR. HOWARD: This is Albert.

47

48                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Albert.

49

50

0107

1                   MR. HOWARD: Just so we can go into  
2 discussion I'll move that we support Proposal 170.  
3

4                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.  
5

6                   MR. CASIPIT: Second, this is Cal.  
7

8                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Cal.  
9 Thank you for that you guys. Keenan, yeah, if you  
10 could give us a quick overview of the proposal that KIC  
11 submitted, I think that would help us in formulating  
12 comments to provide the Alaska Department of Fish and  
13 Game.

14                  MR. SANDERSON: Right. Can you tell me  
15 which that one was referring to, though, I'm in my  
16 truck right now moving from one place to another, and I  
17 don't have -- we have eight proposals that we submitted  
18 and I just don't remember which one that was.  
19

20                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Understood. It  
21 is under shrimp, so it's 5 AAC 02.108, customary and  
22 traditional subsistence uses of shellfish stocks. It's  
23 to establish a positive customary and traditional use  
24 finding for shellfish and plants for all intertidal  
25 areas of Southeast Alaska and Yakutat.  
26

27                  MR. SANDERSON: Okay. If you're ready  
28 for me I can give some overview of what the reason  
29 behind this proposal was.  
30

31                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,  
32 please do.  
33

34                  MR. SANDERSON: Okay. Thank you,  
35 Madame Chair. So this was a proposal that was passed  
36 unanimously through the Ketchikan Indian Community  
37 tribal government. And we wrote this proposal in hopes  
38 that the Alaska Board of Fish will designate all beach  
39 seafood as customary and traditional use resources  
40 throughout the entirety of Southeast Alaska. As you  
41 may know the indigenous tribes all around Southeast  
42 Alaska have basically been using all beach resources as  
43 a way of providing sustenance for themselves and their  
44 families. And there's a saying that a lot of  
45 indigenous people use around Southeast Alaska,  
46 basically saying, that when the tide goes out, the  
47 table is set. And I'd be hardpressed to find any  
48 resources on our coastlines that haven't been utilized  
49  
50

0108

1       in one way or another for whether it's food purposes or  
2       medicinal uses or whatever it may be. And we don't  
3       really see this as a huge stretch for this proposal  
4       going through. I firmly believe there's nothing  
5       controversial about it. It doesn't really impact  
6       anything that relates to sustainability of these  
7       resources and it's something that'll help protect the  
8       rights of the indigenous people around Alaska, or in  
9       Southeast Alaska anyways for these beach food  
10      resources.

11

12                  That's kind of like the mild view of  
13       it. I could probably go into a little more but that's  
14       kind of the gist of our reasons behind this proposal.  
15

16                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great, thank  
17       you, Keenan. Council members is there any discussion  
18       regarding comments that we want to provide regarding  
19       this proposal to the Board of Fish.  
20

21                  MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, this is  
22       Harvey Kitka.  
23

24                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Harvey.  
25

26                  MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, I just wanted  
27       to make sure that, you know, seaweed is one thing but  
28       you've got kelp and sea ribbons and macrosystic kelp  
29       and some of the other kelps that are out there. I don't  
30       know if that's designated different than seaweed. Also  
31       I'd like to make sure that abalone's written in there  
32       so there's no overlook of that part.  
33

34                  Thank you.  
35

36                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
37       you, Harvey. Any other discussion from Council members  
38       regarding our support for this proposal.  
39

40                  MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is  
41       Albert.  
42

43                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Albert.  
44

45                  MR. HOWARD: Thanks, Madame Chair. I  
46       think the language that Mr. Sanderson stated would  
47       cover everything and it is from Ketchikan to Angoon and  
48       further north that when the tide is out, the table is  
49       set, that implies everything below when the tide is out  
50

0109

1 is fair -- has always been fair game to us when it  
2 comes to feeding our family. So I think putting that  
3 in there, that language in there somewhere, would cover  
4 everything that we've always used to take care of our  
5 families and help us to be independent.

6

7                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
10 you, Albert. Are there other comments from Council  
11 members regarding comments for Proposal 170 for our  
12 letter to the Board of Fish.

13

14                   MR. CASIPIT: Madame Chair, this is  
15 Cal.

16

17                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Cal.

18

19                   MR. CASIPIT: I support this like 100  
20 percent. And I want to thank Mr. Sanderson and KIC for  
21 putting this in the system. And, you know, folks --  
22 most folks, I probably don't have to say this for most  
23 folks, but getting a positive customary and traditional  
24 use determination is the first step to getting  
25 protection from other competing uses under the State  
26 system. So the fact that this is being submitted and,  
27 like I said, Mr. Sanderson and KIC deserve a bunch of  
28 credit for putting this in and I support it 110  
29 percent. And like I said part of the justification,  
30 this is the first step in getting protection for  
31 subsistence of these beach resources. I know lots of  
32 people harvest, you know, the sea aspar -- the beach  
33 asparagus and goose tongue and all that other stuff  
34 and, you know, you hear people talk about people want  
35 to commercialize that kind of stuff and everything and,  
36 you know, this gives that positive protection under  
37 State regulation for subsistence uses. So I'm all for  
38 it. And, thanks, Mr. Sanderson, for putting this  
39 through.

40

41                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Cal.  
42 Are there any other comments from Council members.

43

44                   MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is  
45 Albert.

46

47                   MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is  
48 Ian.

49

50

0110

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'll go Albert  
2 and Ian, I believe, is after that.  
3

4                   MR. HOWARD: I wonder, it's just a  
5 thought, can we add an impact statement before they  
6 create another fishery to this, just something I think  
7 needs to for them going forward -- every time they  
8 create a new commercial industry off the resource they  
9 need to come and talk with subsistence users on how  
10 that impacts them and that'll help demonstrate what Cal  
11 has stated that we demonstrated that it's a resource  
12 that we've used forever. It's something to think about  
13 and consider.

14

15                   Thank you, Madame Chair.  
16

17                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,  
18 Albert. So my understanding is our discussion on these  
19 proposals that we've chosen to include in our letter  
20 will get summarized from the meeting transcript prior  
21 to this letter being submitted to the Board of Fish.  
22 So in regards to your question, we add the impact  
23 statement, we can add -- or we can summarize what has  
24 been discussed in that, and then if there is something  
25 in addition and beyond, we can talk about potentially  
26 writing a letter on it if need be. So Ian, did you  
27 have comments that you'd like to provide?

28

29                   MR. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Madame  
30 Chair. I was thinking in line with what Cal  
31 represented and not just thinking about commercial  
32 interests, but also the ability to protect climate  
33 drivers and just, yeah, there's a lot of factors that  
34 could pose a threat to these resources and so I think  
35 that's important.

36

37                   And then I also want to ask a question,  
38 so, this is probably just my lack of familiarity as a  
39 relatively new Council member here. But I just want to  
40 make sure that if we go down this route of supporting  
41 this, that we're not ultimately -- that like regulation  
42 around quantities and other things, for instance, may  
43 come out of this, around, like black seaweed or  
44 ribbons, or other things, all of these resources are of  
45 tremendous importance to the community, but are  
46 essentially like one of the -- like as a good -- is a  
47 really good example of like community managed  
48 resources, there's just common -- people have harvest  
49 areas that they manage themselves, et cetera, and I  
50

0111

1 just want to make sure that this -- like this path  
2 wouldn't result in a harvest limit, say, or something  
3 of these resources. So if anyone has any thoughts on  
4 that.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ian.  
7 I'm not sure if there is anyone that can speak towards  
8 that piece of the process. One thing I would make note  
9 is that if these resources do have -- what this  
10 proposal is to provide a positive customary and  
11 traditional use finding for these resources, and once  
12 -- if that finding goes through, if there were times of  
13 limitation on these resources and regulations would be  
14 put in place to limit harvest, this C&T would be in  
15 place, which would provide a rural subsistence priority  
16 for them. And I'm not sure if there's anyone else that  
17 can provide any additional information that is on the  
18 line but I'll allow for that if there is.

19

20 MR. SANDERSON: Madame Chair, this is  
21 Keenan Sanderson.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, go ahead,  
24 Keenan.

25

26 MR. SANDERSON: So from my  
27 understanding and this is referring to the question of  
28 setting harvest limits. The Alaska Department of Fish  
29 and Game does not have the authority to set specific  
30 harvest limits for sport or subsistence users -- sport,  
31 personal or subsistence users in the state of Alaska.  
32 The harvest limits have to come from the Alaska Board  
33 of Fish and that has to go through the Board meeting  
34 cycle, so unless there's already something in  
35 regulation, the harvest limits is either just  
36 determined whether -- and this is specifically towards  
37 beach seafoods, it's either open or it's closed and  
38 there's no set regulatory limits unless there's already  
39 something within the Board of Fish regulation book. So  
40 I'm not entirely sure if there is a region -- I don't  
41 think there's a region-wide set limit on the harvesting  
42 of stuff like black seaweed or ribbon kelp or other  
43 things like that, but that does have to come through a  
44 separate proposal through the Alaska Board of Fish,  
45 Fish and Game does not get to -- they are not legally  
46 allowed to set those kind of limits. They can either  
47 open it or close it, but that's the only jurisdiction  
48 that they have.

49

50

0112

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
2 you. Are there any other Council comments with respect  
3 to Proposal 170.

4

5                   (No comments)

6

7                   MR. CASIPIT: I'd call for the  
8 question, I'm ready to support this. This is Cal.

9

10                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
11 you. The question's been called so we are voting on  
12 providing -- we're voting to provide support for  
13 Proposal 170 in our letter to the Board of Fish,  
14 comments on their proposal. So all in favor signify by  
15 saying aye.

16

17                  IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, is  
20 anyone opposed, please signify by saying nay.

21

22                  (No opposing votes)

23

24                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, we  
25 will include supporting comments from this discussion  
26 on Proposal 170 in our letter to the Alaska Board of  
27 Fish. Before we move to the next duty that we have  
28 regarding our letter I want to circle back and make  
29 sure that there are no -- and I'll remind our Council  
30 again that we've worked on this for -- this is our  
31 third meeting, maybe even our fourth meeting that we've  
32 been working on comments to the Board of Fish 2021  
33 cycle proposals, and we've covered all of the proposals  
34 that have been previously identified by a Council  
35 member as potentially providing comments for, so I want  
36 to open it up and find out if anybody has a chance to  
37 find additional comments that they would like to put  
38 into this letter at this time. I will remind you that  
39 these comments are due by December 22nd to the Board of  
40 Fish so we have to take action at this meeting about  
41 submitting comments so this will be our last  
42 opportunity to provide comments. So if there are any  
43 other proposals that we should take a look at, please  
44 let me know at this point.

45

46                  (No comments)

47

48                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
49 hearing none, the next task that we need to do is

50

0113

1 approve this draft letter that was provided to us in  
2 our meeting materials with the understanding that  
3 Proposals 133 and 170 will be added to the letter,  
4 support for both of those will be added to the letter.  
5 So I will need a motion from someone on the Council for  
6 us to finalize and submit this letter to the Alaska  
7 Board of Fish which are our comments regarding fish  
8 proposals for the Southeast and Yakutat finfish and  
9 shellfish regulatory cycle.

10

11 MR. CASIPIT: Madame Chair, this is  
12 Cal, I so move.

13

14 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert, I second.

15

16 MR. SLATER: I second.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, I  
19 heard Albert second. We have a motion and a second to  
20 finalize and submit our comments, which is the  
21 cummulation of a lot of work that we've done over the  
22 past Council meetings. Is there any discussion  
23 regarding the motion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Hearing no  
28 discussion I'd entertain someone to call the question.

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: This is Ian, I call for  
31 the question.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ian.  
34 The question's been called. So the motion is to  
35 finalize and submit a letter from the Council to the  
36 Alaska Board of Fish on proposals for the Southeast and  
37 Yakutat finfish and shellfish regulatory cycle. All in  
38 favor signify by saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: If anyone is  
43 opposed, please say nay.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
48 motion passed. Well, congratulations Council. We've  
49 spent a lot of time working on comments to provide the  
50

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1 Board of Fish, even though the pandemic has slowed  
2 their process down it has given us a chance to  
3 thoroughly go through all of the proposals and provide  
4 some pretty meaningful positions on proposals that  
5 affect subsistence users in our region. So I'd just  
6 like to congratulate you all on accomplishing what  
7 we've turned into a really big task.

8

9                 On the same note, in past meetings we  
10 have talked about sending a Regional Advisory Council  
11 member to the Board of Fish meeting. Those meetings  
12 are currently scheduled to be in-person January 4th  
13 through 15th of 2022 and those meetings will be in  
14 Ketchikan and if we intend to send Council members to  
15 that meeting, it's been recommended that we identify  
16 two Council members. It's possible that we may have  
17 the funding to actually send two, however, by also  
18 identifying two, if the primary person cannot make it  
19 we'll have a backup in place already. So we would need  
20 to -- our next agenda item -- or our next thing is to  
21 decide if we want to send Council members to the Board  
22 of Fish meeting, which I believe we do, and then  
23 identify individuals and then we will need to take  
24 action by having a vote of who we send as our  
25 representative to the Board of Fish meetings.

26

27                 And maybe I should open that up by  
28 asking first if there are any potential volunteers? We  
29 do not have a current Regional Advisory Council member  
30 in Ketchikan. So we would need to send someone, so if  
31 this is something that you are interested in doing and  
32 have the time to be able to attend, and I can tell you  
33 from my past knowledge that you wouldn't be asked to  
34 attend the whole entire meeting, we would schedule time  
35 with the Board of Fish to carry our comments forward to  
36 them and then potentially be involved with other  
37 aspects of it but that would be figured out at a later  
38 date. So are there any Council members that might be  
39 interested in doing this?

40

41                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this  
42 is Don.

43

44                 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Don.

45

46                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, well, I would  
47 just like to point out that it is fairly advantageous  
48 to have a Council member present there at the Board of  
49 Fish meetings. The Council is allotted a fair amount  
50

0115

1 of time to present their actions to the Board. The  
2 Council does have some significant proposals that we  
3 put forward and I think it would be really good that we  
4 would be there in person to support, answer questions  
5 on, interact with other people. There's a number of  
6 other proposals put forward that are similar to our  
7 Council's proposals and some of them are, you know,  
8 slightly different, it's good if different proponents  
9 can get together and, you know, discuss possible  
10 alternatives to our proposals.

11

12 That being said, quite often it's the  
13 Chair person that attends those meetings but I'd just  
14 like to say that I've kind of made it known in the past  
15 that traveling in January is just not a good option for  
16 me. It's really difficult to come and go from Point  
17 Baker in the wintertime, very unreliable travel, a good  
18 chance I won't make it to the meeting. Also a good  
19 chance if I do get there I might not get home for quite  
20 some time so I won't be volunteering, but hopefully if  
21 some other Council members with some good expertise on  
22 fishery matters will be available to do that.

23

24 So, thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Don.

27

28 (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted)

30

31 REPORTER: So somebody's not muted. If  
32 you could please mute your lines, star six, unless  
33 you're talking right now, and I think just Cathy's  
34 talking right now.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Tina.  
37 So, Don, I had some background noise myself with  
38 traffic outside because I opened my window and I just  
39 wanted to clarify with you, are you saying you would be  
40 available to potentially attend but would like a backup  
41 person or that you would not want to be a person that  
42 would attend?

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
45 No, I was just saying that I will not be available to  
46 attend. My travel is just too unreliable in January so  
47 I'm asking that another Council member come forward and  
48 volunteer.

49

50

1                   Thank you.

2  
3                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
4 you for that clarification, Don. All right, Council, I  
5 do believe that it is important to have one of our  
6 members at least present at the Board of Fish meeting  
7 to deliver the comments that we've worked so hard on  
8 over the past three meeting cycles on these proposals.  
9 So if nobody else is going to up and volunteer I would  
10 state that I could likely attend these meetings. It is  
11 a slow time of year for me, I live in Juneau, it's  
12 pretty easy to travel to Ketchikan. I also have family  
13 in Ketchikan so I would be able to be available. But I  
14 also think that we have this opportunity to at least  
15 identify two folks so that if something does come up  
16 and I cannot attend we have a backup. And, of course,  
17 my volunteerism would be only if I have your support to  
18 represent you at this meeting. So are there any other  
19 Council members that are interested in attending the  
20 Board of Fish meeting on behalf of the Southeast  
21 Regional Advisory Council.

22

23                   MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is  
24 Ian. I just want to let you know I'm being silent  
25 because I am not available those dates. I also don't  
26 think I'm the right person to go. But, anyways, that  
27 does not work for me to consider.

28

29                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
30 you, Ian. Yes, it's not the best time of year to  
31 travel.....

32

33                   MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, it's Jim  
34 Slater.

35

36                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, go ahead.

37

38                   MR. SLATER: Yeah, hi, Madame Chair,  
39 it's Jim Slater. I was just going to mention as well.  
40 I'd love to volunteer but travel for me out of Pelican  
41 in January is extremely difficult as well.

42

43                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Right. I'd ask  
44 Mr. Douville, he's pretty close to Ketchikan and he has  
45 been chosen to represent the Council at some Board of  
46 Game meetings in the past so he has a good handle on  
47 that. Would you be interested, Mr. Douville,  
48 potentially being as a backup or a person to attend the  
49 Board of Fish meeting?

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: You're being  
4 silent so maybe I should just volunteer you, or you  
5 might need to press star six to come off of mute.

6

7 (No comments)

8

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this  
13 is Don.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Don.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you.  
18 You know I might suggest that it be a good idea that we  
19 make a motion to request funding and support to send  
20 two people to the meeting. If we haven't identified  
21 anybody at this meeting, I think that could probably be  
22 done, you know, after this meeting, you know, arm's  
23 could be twisted, people can decide whether or not they  
24 are available in January if they can stop and have a  
25 chance to check on what they're doing. So I think it's  
26 important that we get authorized to send two people  
27 even if we don't have two volunteers at this time.

28

29 That's all, thank you.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
32 you, Don. On my meeting cheatsheet I had specifically  
33 said that -- I have my notes that say that we do have  
34 to identify two people but I think you're also right  
35 that we have to assure that we request funding. So  
36 maybe I'll ask Katya if that is true, if we need to do  
37 both actions, or if we could just ask for the funding  
38 to send two people to the Board of Fish and figure out  
39 who those two people will be not at this time.

40

41 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
42 This is Katya Wessels. Of course it would be great if  
43 you can identify the two representatives from the  
44 Council but, you know, if you can't identify them at  
45 this point that, you know, perhaps you can just vote  
46 that you will have a representative and a backup from  
47 the Council representing you at the meeting. And at  
48 the same time, you know, like have another motion and  
49 ask for funding because the funding will only come in

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1 play if the meeting is held in person. And even if  
2 they're held in person on the side of the Board of  
3 Fish, you need to remember that since you will be  
4 traveling on the State Federal funding there might be  
5 some additional regulations applied to that funding,  
6 depending on what's happening with the pandemic at that  
7 time. So just letting you know. I think you should  
8 have two motions and, you know, if you can't decide  
9 right now who is going to be representing you at that  
10 meeting that is okay.

11

12                   Thank you.

13

14                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,  
15 Katya.

16

17                   MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is  
18 Albert.

19

20                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Albert.

21

22                   MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
23 I'd like to make a motion that the Regional Advisory  
24 Council send two representatives to the Board of Fish  
25 meeting in January 2022 and under discussion we can  
26 decide who those two will be.

27

28                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Is  
31 there a second.

32

33                   MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal, I second.

34

35                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Cal.

36

37                   MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, under  
38 discussion.

39

40                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for  
41 helping speed this along -- yes.

42

43                   MR. HOWARD: If Cal's available I'd  
44 like to see him in there if that's possible.

45

46                   MR. CASIPIT: Cathy this is -- or,  
47 Madame Chair, this is Cal. I am available for those  
48 times and I -- you know I would be honored to go and  
49 represent the Council but, again, I have that concern

50

0119

1 like other folks said about trying to fly out of here  
2 in January, granted we do have an airport so it makes  
3 it easier. You know maybe I'll tentatively volunteer  
4 myself just for now to go but I've been to so many  
5 Board of Fish meetings, it -- and I know I could  
6 probably represent the wishes of the Council fairly  
7 well, but if it's any way possible to get folks who  
8 haven't been to a Board of Fish meeting before to go, I  
9 think would be valuable just for the development of  
10 that Council member, just to see how it works. But  
11 anyway that's just my thoughts.

12

13 I really support this motion. I think,  
14 Cathy, you make sense to lead the delegation, if you  
15 will, and maybe I'll pencil myself in as a definite  
16 maybe or something. We can talk about that more later  
17 similar to what Don has suggested. And I appreciate  
18 Howard's vote of confidence -- or Mr. Howard's vote of  
19 confidence too. Anyway, thanks.

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is  
22 Katya Wessels.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Katya.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I'm sorry, I got  
27 dropped off the call so I hope you got to hear  
28 everything about what I said and I don't know if there  
29 were any questions.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. We  
32 did hear all that you said and now we have a motion  
33 right now on the floor to send two Regional Advisory  
34 Council members to the Board of Fish meeting and we're  
35 in discussion regarding that.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: The motion was  
40 made by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Casipit, for  
41 your notes Katya. Is there any other discussion  
42 regarding the motion.

43

44 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, under  
45 discussion.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Albert.

48

49 MR. HOWARD: I think it's important to  
50

0120

1 send someone that has been there before so they --  
2 because they probably know how to get our message  
3 across to the Board of Fish so I think it's important  
4 that the experience is there but it's also important  
5 that the message from the Regional Advisory Council is  
6 shared loud and clear. And on that note, maybe we want  
7 to draft a statement to be read by the representative  
8 that way there's no room for interpretation on the  
9 intent of what we are trying to accomplish supporting  
10 the proposals we're supporting.

11

12 So, thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,  
15 Albert. The representatives that would attend the  
16 Board of Fish meeting on the Regional Advisory  
17 Council's behalf would have the letter that we just  
18 voted to finalize and submit. And then I do know from  
19 past experience at Board of Game meetings that the  
20 representatives do meet with the Council Coordinator  
21 before the meetings and they also have support from  
22 other Federal Staff at Board of Fish and Board of Game  
23 meetings to assure that they have resources at their  
24 disposal during the meeting. So I appreciate that you  
25 bring that up, because I don't think we want to  
26 necessarily send anyone in blind and it is -- the Board  
27 of Fish meetings can be kind of a lot all at once. So  
28 it is -- I appreciate that you brought that up.

29

30 Are there other comments regarding the  
31 motion.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: If there are no  
36 other comments, does someone want to call for the  
37 question.

38

39 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, we're  
40 supposed to identify two and an alternate?

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, we -- the  
43 motion on the floor was to send two Regional Advisory  
44 Council members to the Board of Fish meeting.

45

46 MR. HOWARD: Okay. I thought we were  
47 identifying them as well. Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I believe if  
50

0121

1 you'd like to amend that motion and identify two people  
2 from the discussion that's an option, or we can do as  
3 Katya advised and just have a second proposal if we've  
4 identified two people that would represent the Council.

5

6 MR. HOWARD: Okay, Madame Chair, maybe  
7 we could have the motion read back to us.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I know -- it  
10 sounded like Katya was dropped off when we put the  
11 motion on the floor. I'm not sure if that's something  
12 that the Council Coordinator can -- or I'm sorry, the  
13 court reporter could do for us, if not, the person who  
14 -- I believe you were the one that made the motion.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, this  
17 is Katya, I was not on the phone when the motion was  
18 made so I cannot read it back to you. Sorry.

19

20 REPORTER: Okay. So the motion was to  
21 send two people to the Board meeting, you didn't really  
22 say about specifying the names.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
25 you, Tina. The motion on the floor is to send two  
26 Regional Advisory Council members to the Board of Fish  
27 meeting.

28

29 REPORTER: Yes.

30

31 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, if it's in  
32 order I'd like to make an amendment to the main motion  
33 to identify two Board members and one alternate, just  
34 so we're not back revisiting this.

35

36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Before -- so I'm  
39 understanding you want to amend the motion, but do you  
40 want to name the people in the amendment or is that  
41 what you're suggesting, I mean I think we need to name  
42 them so they either.....

43

44 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, we could  
45 name them under the conversation. It looks like we  
46 have one volunteer and one penciled in so we're getting  
47 there.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: So Mr. Howard

50

0122

1 has offered a motion to amend the motion. Do we want  
2 to go that route or do we want to close out our  
3 original motion and then do a second motion. I can't  
4 go forward unless there's a second on Mr. Howard's  
5 motion. If I don't hear anything then we'll just  
6 continue on with the motion on the floor.

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: This is Ian, I second.  
9

10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. All  
11 right, there's an amendment to the motion to identify  
12 two Regional Advisory Council members to attend the  
13 Board of Fish, to actually identify those two. Is  
14 there any discussion on the amendment.  
15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this  
17 is Don.  
18

19 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Don.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, I think that  
22 the motion needs to include that we have approved Vice  
23 Chair Cathy Needham to attend the meeting, Cal Casipit  
24 to attend the meeting and another alternate to be  
25 determined later; how does that sound?  
26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Right. So we  
28 need the third person if we're going to identify an  
29 alternate.  
30

31 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is  
32 discussion under the amendment to the main motion so I  
33 don't think we need names right now, we're just  
34 deciding whether or not we want to amend the main  
35 motion. Thank you, Madame Chair.  
36

37 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya Wessels.  
38 This is correct, Madame Chair.  
39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
41 you. Is there any discussion on the amendment to the  
42 motion.  
43

44 (No comments)  
45

46 MR. HOWARD: Call for the question for  
47 the amendment to the motion, Madame Chair.  
48

49 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
50

0123

1 Howard. The amendment to the motion is to identify two  
2 individuals plus an alternate for the Regional Advisory  
3 Council members to attend the Board of Fish meeting.  
4 All in favor say aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.  
9 Anyone opposed, signify by saying nay.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. The  
14 motion to amend the main motion has been approved. And  
15 now we're back to the main motion to identify two  
16 individuals plus an alternate Regional Advisory Council  
17 member to attend the Board of Fish meeting.

18 Discussion.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are we ready  
23 to.....

24

25 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is  
26 Albert.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Albert.

29

30 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
31 I think with all the conversation surrounding global  
32 warming and everything it could be 70 degrees where the  
33 Chairman is at and sunny so he may make it to  
34 Ketchikan. So unless anyone else has any ideas I think  
35 the Chairman of the Council should be there, the Vice  
36 Chair and then Cal could be the alternate.

37

38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,  
41 Albert. Are there any other Council members that would  
42 like to provide comment.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez,  
47 does that sound acceptable to you?

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Madame

50

0124

1 Chair. Sure I can I could be designated but I guess I  
2 could always defer to the alternate, that would be  
3 fine.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. So  
6 we're currently discussing identifying Chairman Don  
7 Hernandez, Vice Chairman Cathy Needham to attend the  
8 Board of Fish meeting with Member Cal Casipit as an  
9 alternate. Are there any other comments from the  
10 Council.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are we ready to  
15 vote on the motion.

16

17 MR. JOHNSON: This is Ian, I call for  
18 the question.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ian.  
21 The question has been called. So we are voting to send  
22 two Regional Advisory Council members who have been  
23 identified as Chairman Don Hernandez, Vice Chairman  
24 Cathy Needham with an alternate of Member Cal Casipit  
25 to the Board of Fish meetings in January 2022 in  
26 Ketchikan. All in favor signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: And if anyone is  
31 opposed, please signify by saying nay.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
36 motion carries. All right, our next agenda item that  
37 we have is Unit 2 wolf update. And I'm going to ask if  
38 Mr. Doug Cooper or Sara Markegard with the U.S. Fish  
39 and Wildlife Service are on the line.

40

41 MR. COOPER: Hi, Madame Chair.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Sorry, you were  
44 breaking up, was that Mr. Cooper?

45

46 MR. COOPER: Yes, this is Doug Cooper.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hi,  
49 and then.....

50

0125

1 MS. MARKEGARD: Hi, Madame Chair.  
2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, is that  
4 Sara?  
5

6 MS. MARKEGARD: Sorry, yes, Sara  
7 Markegard is on as well, thanks.  
8

9 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
10 you. So under old business we have the Unit 2 wolf  
11 update. For members of the Council we are going to  
12 have the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service give us a  
13 presentation regarding the ESA review. And then also  
14 to let you know what's coming up after we have a  
15 discussion about that is that Mr. Tom Schumacher will  
16 be here to give us a presentation, which is an Alaska  
17 Department of Fish and Game update. But we'll have  
18 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service go first so please take  
19 it away Mr. Cooper or Ms. Markegard.  
20

21 MR. COOPER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
22 Good afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the  
23 Council. Thanks for the opportunity to present to the  
24 Council today. My name is Doug Cooper. I supervise  
25 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological  
26 Services Program in the Anchorage Fish and Wildlife  
27 Service Conservation Office, which is part of the  
28 Southern Alaska Fish and Wildlife's office complex.  
29 Ecological Services is our regulatory program and our  
30 Anchorage office oversees the services regulatory work  
31 load for the southern half of Alaska, including  
32 Southeast Alaska. So as you mentioned Sara Markegard  
33 is with me on the call today. Sara is a Fish and  
34 Wildlife biologist in our office and is the Staff lead  
35 for Alexander Archipelago wolves. And we're here today  
36 to update the Council on the Service's response to the  
37 petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf or AA  
38 wolf as threatened or endangered under the Endangered  
39 Species Act. So my presentation will focus on the  
40 petition and listing process, specifically in regards  
41 to our recent publication of a 90 day finding. The  
42 presentation is being shared through the Teams  
43 platform. For those who do not have access to Teams,  
44 my understanding is the presentation was also provided  
45 to the Council and is available in the meeting  
46 materials package. For those who don't have access to  
47 Teams and can't see the screen I'll do my best to  
48 describe the content on each slide as well.  
49  
50

0126

1                   So if you could advance to Slide 2  
2 please.  
3

4                   MS. WESSELS: May I interrupt you for a  
5 second, this is Katya Wessels. Actually your  
6 presentation is available on our website in the  
7 supplemental materials.....  
8

9                   MR. COOPER: Great.  
10

11                  MS. WESSELS: .....at  
12 doi.gov/subsistence/regions/southeast materials.  
13 Sorry.  
14

15                  MR. COOPER: Thanks, Katya. So on July  
16 15th of 2020 we were petitioned by the Center for  
17 Biological Diversity, Alaska Rainforest Defenders, and  
18 the Defenders of Wildlife to list the AA wolf in  
19 Southeast Alaska as threatened or endangered under the  
20 Endangered Species Act. The full petition actually  
21 asked us to list the Southeast Alaska AA wolf as a  
22 distinct population section, or alternatively to list  
23 the entire AA wolf subspecies with Southeast Alaska  
24 wolves representing a significant portion of the range.  
25 And the distinct population segment and significant  
26 portion of the range are sort of complex nuances under  
27 the Endangered Species Act that require sort of policy  
28 level decisions at our higher management levels. So  
29 we'll just be talking really in general terms about  
30 whether or not to list the AA wolf for today's  
31 presentation.  
32

33                  Slide 3 please.  
34

35                  So the petition cited the effects of  
36 logging and road development, trapping and hunting,  
37 climate change, loss of genetic diversity and  
38 inbreeding depression as primary factors that warranted  
39 listing. The petition also claimed the existing  
40 regulatory mechanisms may be inadequate to provide the  
41 necessary protections to prevent habitat destruction  
42 and modification from logging and road construction,  
43 over exploitation from trapping and hunting and  
44 anthropogenic climate change to the AA wolves.  
45

46                  Slide 4 please.  
47

48                  So our petition response process as  
49 many steps. As you may be able to see in the flow  
50

0127

1 chart there's sort of a number of decisions that are  
2 made. And we have three main steps the Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service takes in the petition review and  
4 listing process. Those are the three in the blue  
5 bubbles and I'll go into each of those stages in the  
6 following slides.

7

8 So if you could go to Slide 5 please.

9

10 So we are in the early stages of the  
11 petition response. And the first step after we receive  
12 a petition, highlighted in the first blue bubble of the  
13 chart, is to evaluate the merit of the petition. So  
14 the Endangered Species Act requires that we conduct  
15 this initial review within 90 days of receiving the  
16 petition, therefore it's often referred to as a 90 day  
17 review, or a 90 day finding. And the 90 day finding  
18 assesses the merits of the petition so that is we  
19 evaluate whether or not the petition makes a reasonable  
20 argument to consider listing a species. So the 90 day  
21 finding is simply a determination on whether the  
22 petition presents a reasonable case that the listing  
23 may be warranted, it isn't whether or not a listing is  
24 warranted. So it's an important distinction. And  
25 during this 90 day finding stage we just consider  
26 information included in the petition and files that are  
27 already in our records. So any information -- and also  
28 any information submitted by the State. So we don't  
29 gather any additional information, we're basically  
30 evaluating just what is in the petition, what the  
31 petition presents.

32

33 So Slide 6 please.

34

35 So on July 27th of this year we did  
36 publish our 90 day finding in response to the petition.  
37 In this case we determined that the petition contained  
38 substantial information that supported a reasonable  
39 argument that a listing may be warranted. And for some  
40 context, in a number of court cases the court has  
41 basically informed that it is a relatively low bar to  
42 reach a 90 day finding so it's pretty typical that most  
43 petitions reach a positive 90 day finding.

44

45 So Slide 7 please.

46

47 So when a petition is found to contain  
48 substantial information that basically means that we  
49 initiate a more detailed analysis of the species

50

0128

1 status. So at this 90 finding -- positive 90 day  
2 finding stage there is no ESA protection conveyed to  
3 the species, so this isn't any sort of regulatory  
4 change at this point, it just means that we trigger our  
5 next stage in the status assessment. And that next  
6 stage, the second blue box is where we will seek  
7 additional information and conduct a detailed analysis.  
8 So in this case the Endangered Species Act provides  
9 that the Service will complete the assessment within 12  
10 months of receiving the petition, therefore this stage  
11 is often called the 12 month status assessment, or 12  
12 month finding.

13

14 Next slide, Slide 8 please.

15

16 So this is the stage we are preparing  
17 to move into now. The 12 month status assessment  
18 includes what's called a species status assessment  
19 report, or an SSA. This is a science based analysis of  
20 the status of the species and then that is followed  
21 later by the sort of policy level decision that our  
22 higher management levels as to whether or not to list  
23 the species as threatened or endangered. So when we do  
24 initiate the 12 month status assessment, we notify the  
25 public via Federal Register notice and at that time we  
26 also request information from the public, from other  
27 agencies for information that could inform our decision  
28 on whether or not to list the species. Right now we  
29 are in the process of sort of preparing this 12 month  
30 status assessment stage and one of the things we are  
31 trying to develop currently is a plan for how to engage  
32 the public and seek local information including  
33 traditional ecological knowledge. So information from  
34 the public and other agencies is definitely an  
35 important part of our evaluation and we do make a point  
36 of requesting that and notifying the public of that  
37 opportunity. The 12 month finding concludes with our  
38 determination on whether or not a species is warranted  
39 for listing as threatened or endangered. And once we  
40 reach that stage there are a number of additional steps  
41 that we would follow if we determine the wolf is  
42 warranted for listing, however, right now it's really  
43 too early to consider those possibilities. We're  
44 really only focused on the scientific analysis at this  
45 time and it's premature to really talk about sort of  
46 the long-term policy implications should the wolf be  
47 listed.

48

49 Slide 9 please.

50

0129

1                   So this is our current projected  
2 timeline for the completion of this petition response  
3 and status assessment. Our 12 month finding process is  
4 part of our entire national level work load plan and so  
5 schedules for these 12 month findings are really  
6 developed based on a national petition and listing work  
7 load. And so while the Endangered Species Act sets out  
8 these 90 day and 12 month timelines based on when we  
9 receive a petition, the reality is that our work load  
10 and staffing often preclude us from meeting those  
11 statutory deadlines and the court often ends up  
12 mediating between us and the petitioner a final  
13 publication date. So at this time, as I said, we're  
14 preparing to kick off our 12 month status assessment  
15 process. We anticipate officially initiating that late  
16 fall or early winter this year, so in the next couple  
17 few months. And at that time it will be published and  
18 noticed in the Federal Register. Sort of the end date,  
19 national work plan has scheduled our publication for  
20 our findings in fiscal year 2023. So our Federal  
21 fiscal year runs from October 1st to September 30th of  
22 every year. So fiscal year 2023 starts on October 1st  
23 of 2022, and therefore we anticipate publishing our  
24 listing determination no later than September of 2023.  
25

26                   Next slide, please, Slide 10.  
27

28                   So just want to give you some context  
29 for how this timeline and how this petition process  
30 compares to recent similar events that you may be  
31 familiar with. So for context we were previously  
32 petitioned to list the AA wolves in August of 2011. We  
33 did not publish our 90 day finding until March of 2014  
34 and that was a positive 90 day finding. So, again, we  
35 said the petition contained substantial information  
36 that suggested the listing of the wolf may be  
37 warranted. We did enter into a court settlement to set  
38 a timeline for the 12 month status assessment, so that  
39 was September 14th when we settled with the petitioners  
40 on the timeline. And on January 5th of 2016 is when we  
41 published our 12 month finding and listing decision,  
42 and at that time we determined that the AA wolf was not  
43 warranted for listing. So for your context here, just  
44 because we have a positive 90 day finding, it doesn't  
45 really give any indication on what our final listing  
46 decision is. It just means we're going to go to a more  
47 detailed analysis process.

48  
49                   And Slide 11 please.  
50

0130

1                   So we do provide this website links for  
2 additional information on the petition process and it  
3 will contain the figures I've shown today. It provides  
4 a little more detailed description of some of the more  
5 kind of legal aspects of each step of the process. For  
6 additional questions specific to the AA wolf or this  
7 specific petition response, you should feel free to  
8 contact me or Sara Markegard, we're happy to answer any  
9 questions. As I said, Sara will be our Staff lead as  
10 we go through this process so she may be your best  
11 point of contact for anything specific to the AA wolf  
12 but I'm happy to help answer questions on the process  
13 or procedures as appropriate.

14

15                   That concludes my presentation. Thank  
16 you, Madame Chair and members of the Council for the  
17 opportunity to provide this update. If there are any  
18 questions I'd be happy to address them now.

19

20                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
21 you, Mr. Cooper. I would also remind Council members  
22 that in our meeting supplemental materials we were also  
23 provided with a copy of the 90 day finding that Mr.  
24 Cooper referred to in his presentation along with the  
25 slides that he went through. At this point I'll open  
26 it up to Council for any questions that they may have  
27 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Mr. Cooper  
28 regarding the ESA review for Unit 2 wolves, or sorry,  
29 just wolves, Alexander Archipelago Wolves. Any  
30 questions from Council members.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this  
33 is Don.

34

35                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Don.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you,  
38 through the Chair. Mr. Cooper, you said that your  
39 investigation will include traditional ecological  
40 knowledge, and local knowledge. How do you go about  
41 collecting that information?

42

43                   MR. COOPER: Through the Chair. Thank  
44 you very much for that question. That's exactly what  
45 we're working on developing on, our best outreach plan  
46 to achieve that. In other circumstances we've done  
47 things like hold public meetings locally, tried to --  
48 like we sometimes will hold public calls, we can hold  
49 calls specific for villages or tribes, individual  
50

0131

1       villages or tribes. We actually are open to suggestion  
2       from the Council and public on what avenues would be  
3       most useful to provide that information. Right now,  
4       given Covid concerns, it's unlikely that we will host  
5       any in-person public meetings but we will certainly try  
6       to have a series of call-in opportunities to provide  
7       information. And then, as I said, when we officially  
8       initiate our 12 month status review process we do  
9       notice that in the Federal Register, we can ensure that  
10      the Council is notified of that initiation and we do  
11      provide information on how members of the public and  
12      members of other agencies can submit information to the  
13      Fish and Wildlife Service. So there isn't -- it's sort  
14      of case by case specific as we go through each scenario  
15      but we definitely -- recognizing the importance of this  
16      issue to the region, to the Southeast region, and  
17      Prince of Wales region area, we do want to provide  
18      ample opportunity for the public to provide  
19      information.

20

21                  Thank you.

22

23                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
24      Chair. One follow-up.

25

26                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, please, Mr.  
27      Hernandez.

28

29                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, I was just  
30      wondering, do you have any formalized procedures for  
31      working with tribal entities? I know on Prince of  
32      Wales Island the tribes have been pretty engaged in  
33      this, is there any kind of required or formalized  
34      process you have to engage with them, like a  
35      consultation process or government to government  
36      relations, or anything along those lines?

37

38                  MR. COOPER: Through Madame Chair to  
39      Mr. Chair. Yes, thank you for that question. We do  
40      have formal government to government consultation  
41      process. Fish and Wildlife Service has a Native  
42      Alaskan Liaison -- relations liaison, Crystal Leonetti,  
43      and we are currently working with her to best engage  
44      with tribal interests in the Southeast region. So we  
45      do our normal procedures, as I mentioned, as we do set  
46      at least more than one teleconference call opportunity.  
47      We provide -- we send out notification specifically to  
48      each of the tribal entities in the region, so we do  
49      specifically try to engage directly with each tribe.

50

0132

1 And in this case, recognizing the sensitivity of the  
2 issue, we're trying to provide a robust mechanism and  
3 opportunity for tribes to provide information to the  
4 Fish and Wildlife Service.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Cooper. Madame Chair, that's all I have for now.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
10 you. Are there other Council members that have  
11 questions for Mr. Cooper.

12

13 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert, Madame  
14 Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Albert.

17

18 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
19 As we all know we've become experts on Prince of Wales  
20 wolves so we kind of have an idea the impact either  
21 way. My question would be, the impact of putting these  
22 wolves on endangered species, what is that impact going  
23 to be on subsistence users? I reached out to  
24 organizations yesterday and the day before asking what  
25 their concerns were going forward on the resources and  
26 one of the responses I got back was the fact that they  
27 were trying to put the wolves on the Endangered Species  
28 list. On Prince of Wales where the local knowledge  
29 says there is no reason to do that and we've heard in  
30 the past that this is -- the wolves have made a  
31 comeback from substantially low numbers, even more than  
32 the baseline the State of Alaska wants to put on them,  
33 so by putting these animals on the Endangered Species  
34 list there's no checks and balances. Nature has a way  
35 of having their own checks and balances and I think  
36 that that needs to happen more than this needs to  
37 happen.

38

39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40

41 MR. COOPER: Through the Chair. Thank  
42 you, Mr. Howard for your question. As I mentioned, we  
43 feel like it's a little premature to sort of go into  
44 supposition and try to anticipate what might happen  
45 should the wolf be listed but I think it's a reasonable  
46 question recognizing that it could have a significant  
47 effect on subsistence use in the area and life in  
48 general on Prince of Wales. It's a difficult question  
49 to address probably in a satisfactory manner. But I

50

0133

1 can say that the Endangered Species Act does  
2 contemplate subsistence use under the Endangered  
3 Species Act. So Section 10 of the Endangered Species  
4 Act deals with exemptions to the take of prohibitions,  
5 so Section 10(e) of the Endangered Species Act  
6 specifically talks about subsistence use in Alaska and  
7 it does allow for exemptions from the listing  
8 protections in cases of Native Alaskans and rural  
9 Alaskans and their subsistence use. So as examples,  
10 the Southwest stock of the Northern Sea Otter is listed  
11 as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and  
12 there are still opportunities for subsistence harvest  
13 of those otters for Native Alaskans and rural Alaskans.  
14 So I think we would sort of outline how that process  
15 could still work should the wolf be listed.

16

17 I think it's also important to note  
18 that, as I mentioned, we've been petitioned to list the  
19 wolf as a threat or endangered species on multiple  
20 occasions in the past and on each of those occasions we  
21 have found that it is not warranted for listing so I do  
22 want to stress that just because we have a positive 90  
23 day finding right now, it does not necessarily mean we  
24 are moving towards listing the species, it just means  
25 we're trying to do a more detailed analysis of the  
26 science and biology of the current status of the  
27 species. I think that's why, Mr. Howard, you  
28 mentioned, that local knowledge suggests that the wolf  
29 does not need to be listed under the Endangered Species  
30 Act. That's the sort of information, if you or others  
31 are able to provide specific information to help inform  
32 our decision, that is something that we do take into  
33 consideration through this analysis process. That's  
34 why we do want to provide a robust mechanism for  
35 individuals to provide us that local information and  
36 traditional ecological knowledge. So we are trying to  
37 take that into account in our analysis and  
38 decisionmaking process.

39

40 I think it would be disingenuous of me  
41 to say there would be no effect if the species were  
42 listed. Obviously if we determine that it does need to  
43 be protected under the Endangered Species Act, that  
44 suggests that our scientific analysis, which will be  
45 conducted in partnership with the State and with local  
46 entities, but that that analysis might suggest that  
47 there is a conservation concern, should the species be  
48 listed we do also set goals to get the species removed  
49 from the Endangered Species Act. And there have been  
50

0134

1 instances of very short turnarounds of a species being  
2 listed to when it is later considered to be recovered.  
3 A recent example, in California, the California Channel  
4 Island stocks was listed as endangered 15 or 20 years  
5 ago and within five years it was already headed towards  
6 recovery and I think -- I believe within 10 years of  
7 listing it was already removed from the Endangered  
8 Species list. So there are instances where we can  
9 achieve rapid recovery. Our goal would be to work with  
10 the State, with the Council, with other management  
11 entities like the U.S. Forest Service. Should the wolf  
12 be listed, our goal would be to get it recovered and  
13 removed from the Endangered Species list as quickly as  
14 possible. Ultimately our goal is to preserve these  
15 species for future benefit of the American people.

16

17 As another similar parallel, the wood  
18 bison, we're working with the State of Alaska to  
19 recover that species. We've had some other  
20 opportunities to work with the State under different  
21 designations under the Endangered Species Act, but  
22 similarly our goal is to recover the wood bison for the  
23 purpose of being able to be harvested through  
24 subsistence use. So we do work with those long-term  
25 sustainable use goals in mind.

26

27 I think that's about all I can say for  
28 right now. It's hard to anticipate what conditions and  
29 the situation might look like approximately two years  
30 from now but our goal, I think, is similar to yours, is  
31 where we would like to be at a point where we do not  
32 need to protect the species under the Endangered  
33 Species Act, and that's certainly our long-term goal.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
36 you. Are there any other Council....

37

38 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: ....members  
41 that have -- yes, follow-up, Albert.

42

43 MR. HOWARD: I guess my concern as far  
44 as subsistence users go is the fact that the wolves are  
45 a predator and they have an impact on deer which  
46 subsistence users rely on more so than they do the pelt  
47 of a wolf. There are instances and people already know  
48 that you keep the wolves in checks and balances on  
49 their own so there's mechanisms in place if you allow  
50

0135

1 subsistence users to maintain their own resource, I  
2 guess. My concern is when you put this thing on the  
3 Endangered Species list the wolves will just flourish  
4 and the deer will go on a decline. There's a  
5 difference between a wood bison and a wolf, and a wolf  
6 is a predator and I'm not sure what a wood bison eats  
7 because that's the first time hearing of them. But I  
8 guess my concern is with the deer population and  
9 putting this on the Endangered Species list.

10

11                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
14 you, Albert.

15

16                   MR. COOPER: Thank you.

17

18                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there other  
19 Council -- oh, Mr. Cooper, did you have a response?

20

21                   MR. COOPER: Yes, thank you, Madame  
22 Chair. Through the Chair, Mr. Howard. I think that's  
23 a really important point, you're right, that there is a  
24 significant difference between a wolf and a wood bison  
25 and that is a potential significant additional impact  
26 to subsistence use in the area. I think that's  
27 information we're sensitive to and aware of.  
28 Unfortunately there are challenges under the Endangered  
29 Species listing process that sort of impact is not  
30 something that is easy to factor into our listing  
31 decision. I'll say that it is at least a year before  
32 any decision is made on the listing process, likely  
33 more than a year, a year and a half, plus, and there's  
34 sort of ample time for us to work still collaboratively  
35 with local entities, with the Forest Service, with the  
36 State to try to provide enough conservation for the  
37 wolf to make it not necessary to list the species and  
38 to allow for natural processes and a natural system to  
39 continue to function. So we don't want to throw an  
40 ecosystem out of balance either. And I think you have  
41 an excellent point, the impact to deer is something we  
42 should be thinking very carefully about in terms of  
43 making our management decisions on how we manage the  
44 wolves, conserve the wolf but at the same time ensure  
45 that we're not disrupting a natural balance of predator  
46 and prey and that deer are also conserved.

47

48                   So I'll thank you for your comment.  
49 It's something that we will try to carefully take into  
50

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1 consideration but it is hard to factor that into the  
2 Endangered Species listing process all the same.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
5 you. Are there other Council members that have  
6 questions or comments for Mr. Cooper.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. I  
11 have one question, Mr. Cooper. I'm sure you're  
12 familiar with this Regional Advisory Council and our  
13 role and I was just wondering when you start to compile  
14 information, as you move forward, would you consider  
15 going back or do you go back through transcripts that  
16 Regional Advisory Councils may have? This Council has  
17 spent a lot of time working on the wolf issue,  
18 specifically in Unit 2. But I was just wondering if  
19 any of that information is utilized in your analysis or  
20 are you only just collecting past scientific  
21 information and then using more traditional knowledge  
22 going forward rather than some of the work or testimony  
23 and stuff that has happened at meeting such as this?

24

25 MR. COOPER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 That's an excellent question. To be honest it's  
27 something I hadn't thought about myself. Sara or Kevin  
28 Foley, who's another Fish and Wildlife Service  
29 biologist of ours that's on this call may have already  
30 considered that but now that you've brought it up it's  
31 something we definitely will take under consideration.  
32 We do have all the transcripts available to us and I  
33 think that is important information that we should take  
34 under consideration so I will say that, yes, we will  
35 definitely make a point of reviewing previous  
36 transcripts for information. If the Council has  
37 specific meetings where they know important debate or  
38 information was shared, it would benefit our process to  
39 have those highlighted to us but we will also endeavor  
40 to go through past meeting transcripts and try to  
41 identify all the appropriate information that has  
42 previously been shared during Council meetings.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
47 awesome. I appreciate your open-mindness about that.  
48 And since you did ask to highlight other things, I do  
49 know that we have -- this past year we had an ANILCA  
50

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1 subsistence meeting where there was an evaluation  
2 regarding closure of wolves and when we've been doing  
3 some of the management plans so aside from our  
4 transcripts there are also those ANILCA subsistence  
5 meetings that the U.S. Forest Service normally hosts on  
6 Prince of Wales Island for Unit 2 wolves that I found,  
7 personally, were extremely useful to even our Council  
8 when we're deliberating proposals, the information that  
9 is shared in there by local trapper folks that have a  
10 beat on the ground. So that information would also be  
11 really good to look at.

12

13 MR. COOPER: Great, thank you for the  
14 recommendation.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Uh-huh. Are  
17 there other Council members that have any questions or  
18 comments for Mr. Cooper before we move on to our next  
19 speaker.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
24 you, Mr. Cooper, for your presentation and providing  
25 answers to questions that the Council may have. Next  
26 up on our agenda we have Tom.....

27

28 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, is that an  
31 unmuted phone or was somebody trying to get my  
32 attention.

33

34 MR. DOUVILLE: I was trying to get this  
35 thing unmuted so I can talk.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Oh, okay, Mr.  
38 Douville.

39

40 MR. DOUVILLE: Can you hear me?

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, please, Mr.  
43 Douville.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes, Mr. Cooper. It's  
46 encouraging to hear that you may be using some TEK,  
47 that's -- it hasn't been used seriously in any of these  
48 wolf decisions in the past as far as I know. Mr.  
49 Chairman Hernandez asked a couple of questions that I  
50

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1 would have asked myself. I would like to say that the  
2 tribe would certainly be willing to engage you in  
3 conversation concerning TEK on wolf down the road.

4

5 Having said that, you will be making  
6 your reviews in the next year or two, or year and half  
7 or whatever it will be, it appears to me that if you  
8 don't have a researcher on the ground, a Forest Service  
9 one or Fish and Wildlife Service, you will have to use  
10 State information. I would encourage the Feds to do  
11 some research of their own. We haven't had a biologist  
12 on the island for while that's capable of doing this  
13 type of work. But in any case, the wolf population is  
14 fine, it looks like old growth logging will be curbed  
15 in the near future and I'm sure things will be fine.

16

17 Thank you for your time.

18

19 MR. COOPER: Madame Chair.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mike.  
22 Yeah, Mr. Cooper, did you have a response?

23

24 MR. COOPER: Yeah, this is Doug Cooper,  
25 thank you. Through the Chair. Just want to say, yes,  
26 we definitely look forward to working with Native  
27 entities in Southeast to gain TEK. We have, actually  
28 been working fairly closely with the State of Alaska  
29 and with the U.S. Forest Service to gather the most  
30 current information possible. We actually provided  
31 funding to the State of Alaska and Forest Service to do  
32 some additional wolf monitoring this year. We're also  
33 trying to work to better understand genetics of the  
34 wolf populations in Prince of Wales area. We don't  
35 have, as you mentioned, we don't have the capabilities  
36 to directly do work on Prince of Wales ourselves so we  
37 are relying on other agencies. We are also partnering  
38 with the U.S. Geological Service to conduct additional  
39 research. So we have multiple State and Federal  
40 partners that we're working with to understand the  
41 current status of the wolf. And look forward to, not  
42 only working with our other agency partners, but also  
43 with local individuals and tribes to better understand  
44 the current biology of the species.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
49 Cooper. Next on the agenda we have Tom Schumacher with  
50

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1 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game who has a  
2 presentation for us. For those of you that are on  
3 Teams, I think the presentation will be aired on that  
4 and then also this is still part of our supplemental  
5 materials provided to the Council. So, Mr. Schumacher,  
6 if you're there I'd like to hand the floor over to you.  
7

8 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you,  
9 Cathy. Can you hear me?

10  
11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, we can hear  
12 you.  
13

14 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And I know that  
15 the teleconference environment can be a little  
16 challenging depending on where you are. Some people  
17 seem to come out louder or softer, just wondering if  
18 all the RAC members can hear me. Maybe if you can't  
19 hear me, please let me know and I'll try to speak more  
20 loudly.

21  
22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.  
23

24 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, hearing none,  
25 I'm going to assume everyone can hear me. So  
26 appreciate the opportunity being invited here to speak  
27 about this topic. Probably about a year ago at a  
28 similar meeting was asked to provide an explanation on  
29 how we estimate abundance of wolves in Unit 2. So I've  
30 been thinking how to do that because it is somewhat  
31 complex and I've developed a presentation on it. I  
32 think in addition to discussing population estimation,  
33 I also want to touch on -- briefly on the Endangered  
34 Species Act. Mr. Cooper covered that pretty thoroughly  
35 so I don't really want to repeat anything he said. And  
36 I also want to talk about the wolf sealing proposal a  
37 little bit. Because all three of these things are  
38 bound up into really the same issue.  
39

40 So with that we can move on to Slide 2.  
41

42 So I'm going to talk a little bit about  
43 estimating abundance using mark/recapture. And I think  
44 most everyone who's been on the RAC for a little while  
45 has heard us talk about mark/recapture estimates. You  
46 know, we've tried explaining what those are in the  
47 past, and I don't think those explanations have been  
48 effective so I'm going to try again in a little bit  
49 different way. First I'm going to go through just a  
50

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1 broad concept, then I'm going to go through an example,  
2 and then we're going to look at a video which has two  
3 parts, where an English guy estimates the number of  
4 ping pong balls in a tank, and then the number of taxis  
5 in London. I think you'll find those interesting. And  
6 then we'll move on to some other parts of estimating  
7 abundance.

8

9                 But just to get started with what is  
10 mark/recapture. And mark/recapture is the way that  
11 biologists estimate things they cannot count. And if  
12 you can't see wolves you can't count them, so you have  
13 to figure out a different way. Mark/recapture was  
14 first developed 120, 130 years ago in the 1890s and it  
15 was first used to estimate the abundance of fish in a  
16 pond in England. You think, well, that's an old tool.  
17 It's an old concept but over the years, as with any  
18 kind of technology or other human concept, it's  
19 developed, you know, somebody has a better idea about  
20 how to -- a way to improve it, a way to apply it in a  
21 different situation. So over the years, the 120 years,  
22 you know, mark/recapture has gone through a number of  
23 iterations and it has become a more powerful tool. And  
24 as things become more powerful they tend to also become  
25 more complex. And the spatially exclusive  
26 capture/recapture method that we use to estimate  
27 abundance of Unit 2 wolves is the most complex and most  
28 advanced but it's also the most appropriate version for  
29 estimating abundance of wolves in Unit 2. There is  
30 another method called close kin capture/recapture that  
31 evaluated familial relationships among animals but it  
32 requires very large sample sizes, thousands of animals,  
33 so that's not an option for us. Spacial explicit  
34 capture/recapture or seeker is the best way there is  
35 right now to do this. This technique was developed  
36 about 15 years ago, it couldn't be done before that  
37 because computers weren't powerful enough to run the  
38 calculations. Since then it's been evaluated and  
39 reevaluated and applied in the field all over the world  
40 and found to be accurate and reliable and we do our  
41 best to apply it well in Unit 2. And I'll talk more  
42 about that a little bit later.

43

44                 Next slide please.

45

46                 Okay, this is an example I made up,  
47 it's not based on anything, it's just example numbers.  
48 And I wanted to go through this because this is the  
49 kind of stuff that the video is going to show. The  
50

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1 video goes through it a little bit quickly and  
2 sometimes it's difficult to understand what's being  
3 said. So I wanted to just give you a heads up on what  
4 to look for. So it's going to go through a simple  
5 capture/recapture experiment. And in this experiment  
6 where we use wolves, just because that's what everybody  
7 cares about right now, when a wolf is detected or  
8 captured or marked, it's all the same thing, the first  
9 time at one of our hair boards, you know, it hasn't  
10 been caught before. The hair board, we get hair, we  
11 extract DNA, we can identify that individual wolf.  
12 That individual wolf will never lose its mark, and  
13 its mark will never change; that's important. So you  
14 put the hair boards out again, we'll get some new  
15 wolves from a lot of them, but we'll get some wolves  
16 that get recaptured, wolves that are already detected,  
17 that's a recapture. But, you know, the marked wolf  
18 that's caught a second time, that's a recapture. And  
19 that's kind of what we'll go through in the video. But  
20 the experiment, we're talking -- and this is important  
21 to pay attention to because, you know, there's a little  
22 bit of math involved and if you want to understand this  
23 you have to understand this math. So in this  
24 experiment, initially putting out our hair boards and  
25 detecting 50 wolves, and then putting out the hair  
26 boards again, or second the hair boards again, and  
27 detecting another 50 wolves, 20 of which were  
28 previously marked. So if you look towards the bullet  
29 that says, math, the way it calculates the total  
30 estimate for the population is, on the left side of the  
31 equal sign on the top you have the number of wolves you  
32 caught in your second effort so we captured 50 wolves  
33 in our second effort. Of those 50 wolves, 20 were  
34 marked on the first effort so we put 20 on the bottom  
35 of that fraction. On the right side of the equal sign  
36 we have the unknown total population of wolves,  $X$ ,  
37 that's what we want to figure out. And then under that  
38 we have the number of wolves caught in the first  
39 sample, the number of wolves originally captured and  
40 marked. So to find out what the estimate is for the  
41 total population using simple capture/recapture you  
42 cross multiply to solve for  $X$ . So when fractions are  
43 equal, and this assumes that the proportion of wolves  
44 that were captured in the second effort is the same  
45 proportion of wolves in the total population.

46

47 So on the left side, 20 wolves out of  
48 50 is the proportion and we assume that 50 wolves out  
49 of the total is the same proportion so we'll just solve  
50

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1 for the total. We do that by cross multiplying. Take  
2 the 20 recaptured individuals from the bottom on the  
3 left side and we multiply it by X, and then we take the  
4 50 wolves captured in the recapture effort multiply it  
5 by the 50 wolves captured in the original marking  
6 effort and you have  $20X$  equals 2,500. To solve for X  
7 you divide each side by 20 and your population estimate  
8 is 125 wolves. So that's just an example of how this  
9 works.

10

11 And at this point, I guess, are there  
12 any questions about the math or how that -- how you  
13 collect your samples or how that works?

14

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, hearing nothing,  
19 let's move on to the next slide. Okay. This slide has  
20 a link to a YouTube video. This is something you can  
21 look up at any time and watch it as many times as you  
22 want. And if you want to look for other explanations  
23 of capture/recapture, YouTube is full of them. I used  
24 this because I think it does a pretty good job of  
25 explaining the basic concept. As I told you it's a  
26 two-part video, there'll be a first part where  
27 estimates the number of ping pong balls in a tank and  
28 the second part of is about estimating the number of  
29 taxis in London. And we're going to stop halfway  
30 through which, for whoever is controlling the video,  
31 that's at about two minutes and 15 seconds, so if we  
32 could pause there and just go over that first example  
33 I'd appreciate it. And now if you can start the video  
34 please. I think you're about halfway through there.

35

36 (Video playing)

37

38 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you for  
39 muting, can everyone still hear me?

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, we can hear  
42 you.

43

44 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I didn't know  
45 if I was back on. I hope that everyone was able to  
46 follow along. I know the sound on mine was a little  
47 scratchy. But he did the same thing that I just talked  
48 about in the previous example. He got a sample of ping  
49 pong balls and marked them. He put them back in the  
50

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1 population. And took another sample blindfolded so he  
2 wasn't biased and he calculated the proportion of  
3 marked animals in the second sample equal to the  
4 proportion of marked animals total and the unknown  
5 population and multiplied it out just like we did and  
6 came up with 588 when the real number was 600. That's  
7 pretty accurate for a simple capture/recapture  
8 experiment.

9

10 So now I'd like to just move on to the  
11 second one. And the second one involves estimating the  
12 number of taxis in London, which is a bit more complex  
13 but he does exactly the same thing and comes up with  
14 another pretty good estimate. So please start it up  
15 again, thank you.

16

17 (Video playing)

18

19 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, are we back on.  
20 Anyway that's something I really wanted to cover  
21 because it does relate directly to our proposal for the  
22 new sealing regulation. Geographic closure is somewhat  
23 related, animals don't permanently move in or out.....

24

25 (Teleconference interference -  
26 participants not muted)

27

28 REPORTER: Hey Bob. Bob, I think your  
29 phone's not muted, could you please mute it.

30

31 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Moving right  
32 along. After closure, means animals don't permanently  
33 move in or out of the study area, we don't really know  
34 about that, it's hard to say, the study area is not all  
35 Game Management Unit 2. So there is probably some  
36 violation of that assumption. The good news is that  
37 lots and lots and lots of analysis of capture/recapture  
38 estimates have shown that it's robust to minor  
39 violations of that assumption. That means that if  
40 there are minor violations it doesn't really affect the  
41 outcome. And then the way we buffer our study area,  
42 which I will talk about in a minute, also helps to  
43 eliminate the chances that wolves from outside the  
44 study area are detected in the study area.

45

46 So let's go on to the next slide.

47

48 Another assumption that we talk about  
49 is the opportunity to encounter hair boards. The goal  
50

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1 of our sampling design is to have at least two hair  
2 board nodes within the range of each wolf in the study  
3 area. We operate about 83 hair board nodes distributed  
4 throughout North Central Prince of Wales all along the  
5 road system and then since 2016 the Hydaburg  
6 Cooperative Association has operated about 60  
7 additional hair board nodes south of the Department of  
8 Fish and Game study -- adjacent to it, so they  
9 essentially form one large study area. The hair board  
10 node, in case you don't know, is a place where we place  
11 five hair boards. Hair boards are pieces of plywood  
12 with a length of barbed wire stapled to them, we stake  
13 them into the ground in an array of five boards that's  
14 spaced anywhere from 10 to 30 yards apart and that  
15 collection of five hair boards is called a node. Nodes  
16 are at least two miles apart. And as I said are  
17 distributed throughout Northern and now Central Prince  
18 of Wales Island with the Hydaburg folks helping out.  
19 We scent those hair boards with a lure and the lure  
20 attracts wolves and they roll on it. Rolling on the  
21 hair boards we have hair on the barbed wire, and we're  
22 not after hair, we're after DNA, and the DNA is in the  
23 hair follicles. So we're really collecting DNA, not  
24 hair. So that's an important thing to keep in mind.  
25 When we talked about balancing the number of hair board  
26 nodes that we can and the time it takes to check them.  
27 If you want to have a lot of detections of wolves you  
28 have lots and lots of hair boards distributed all over  
29 the place, that way, you know, wolves can't hardly step  
30 without rolling on one. However, we also need to  
31 balance that with the time it takes to check those  
32 nodes. We used to check hair boards about once every  
33 10 days but what we found out was the DNA in the hair  
34 follicles caught on those nodes decomposes over time  
35 and this was known, but it decomposes faster in the wet  
36 environment of Southeast Alaska. So we need to balance  
37 the number of nodes that we have with our ability to  
38 check those nodes within about a week. That seems to  
39 be about the best balance between having lots of nodes  
40 but also being able to check them and get useable DNA  
41 out of the hair follicles.

42

43 And another assumption is that at least  
44 all wolves from all age and sex groups roll on hair  
45 boards. So how do we deal with that assumption. From  
46 DNA we know that wolves of both sexes roll on hair  
47 boards, some years it's more females, some years it's  
48 more males. And age groups, you know, it's hard to  
49 tell a yearling from an adult wolves, but you can tell  
50

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1 a pup from the other age groups and it seems that pups  
2 would be the most unlikely to roll if there was going  
3 to be a group of wolves that don't roll. However, from  
4 photos at hair board nodes it's apparent that pups also  
5 roll on hair boards, so we think we're doing pretty  
6 well with that assumption.

7

8 Next slide please.

9

10 Now, this is a map of the hair boards  
11 node distribution throughout Unit 2. The red dots are  
12 sites operated by Department of Fish and Game, the  
13 yellow dots are sites operated by the Hydaburg  
14 Cooperative Association. They're distributed pretty  
15 densely and we believe that wolves around there, if  
16 they're living there, they have a good chance of  
17 encountering at least two hair boards. Now, the blue  
18 area is what we call the study area. And really it's  
19 the area where we estimate the density of wolves, so  
20 number of wolves per thousand square kilometers of  
21 land. Now the size of that study area varies because  
22 it's based on the movements of wolves as detected at  
23 hair boards stations, and by trappers and hunters that  
24 year. It tends to be pretty similar from one year to  
25 the next. But the idea of that buffer is that wolves  
26 living outside of it, so wolves living in the green  
27 area have virtually no chance of encountering a hair  
28 board. Not none, but a very low chance. As we all  
29 know there are going to be some transient wolves that  
30 will move through but it's a low proportion of animals  
31 and over the few months that we're doing the field work  
32 we are pretty sure that there are very few animals that  
33 enter from outside the blue area.

34

35 You know this -- first I want to talk  
36 about this little table I have here. This shows a  
37 number of things about samples collected over the last  
38 three years. So the first row shows the number of  
39 unique wolves detected at hair boards. And you can see  
40 that ranges anywhere from 64 in 2017 and 92 animals in  
41 2019, so 64 to 92 different wolves were detected here.  
42 The next row shows unique animals, including harvest.  
43 So this is where contributions by hunters and trappers  
44 come in. The DNA samples we collect at sealing really  
45 help. You can see it really bulks up the numbers. And  
46 in addition to just identifying unique individuals,  
47 some of those individuals that were harvested were also  
48 marked at hair board stations so the harvest locations  
49 can be recaptures which are really valuable. So then  
50

0146

1 the next row, total catches at hair boards and that's  
2 the number of samples that produced useable DNA. So  
3 it's usually two to three times the number of unique  
4 animals. So animals are being marked multiple times at  
5 hair boards. They're rolling on hair boards multiple  
6 times. Some only roll once, some roll two, three, four  
7 times. And then the bottom row is simply total  
8 detections including harvested animals. So the total  
9 detections are really what we're after, you collect a  
10 lot more hair samples but not all hair samples produce  
11 useable DNA. You may get a hair sample, you know,  
12 first we do a visual screening for is it wolf hair,  
13 because we also get, you know, black bears are pretty  
14 common to roll on hair boards, that's why we do our  
15 sampling in the fall because black bears are such a  
16 problem, but other animals that we've had roll are  
17 martins, river otters, we've even had deer. So a  
18 visual screening. Dogs are also rolling on them in  
19 some places. So I mean you can't tell for sure it's  
20 not wolf hair, so that wolf hair gets sent to the lab.  
21 The lab's first step is to try to extract DNA. If they  
22 can't extract DNA the sample's thrown away or  
23 discarded. If they can extract DNA then their next  
24 step is is it a wolf or is it not a wolf, so some  
25 things will be not wolf, other things will be. Those  
26 that are wolves then move on to the next step which is  
27 where they do an individual identification, and that's  
28 what we use in population estimates. So we get a lot  
29 of samples but they're thinned out a little bit as we  
30 go through that screening process. So it's very  
31 important that we, you know, try to collect as much  
32 useable DNA as possible.

33

34                   Next slide please.

35

36                   Now I'm going to talk about  
37 interpreting estimates and I think some of you may have  
38 seen this graphic before. This is a graph showing the  
39 point estimate , the confidence interval around that  
40 point estimate and what's called a violin plot, which  
41 is the grey shaded area. So if we just take the 2019  
42 estimate, and if you look across the bottom you'll see  
43 years, if you look on the vertical axis on the left  
44 it's numbers of wolves. So if you go to 2019 and you  
45 see a white dot in the middle that is the point  
46 estimate and that's the number of wolves that we use  
47 for management purposes. The grey area, called a  
48 violin plot, shows the probability of a value being  
49 correct given the data collected that year. So that's

50

0147

1 an important concept, given the data collected that  
2 year. We do the best we can to collect data. Some  
3 years weather and things conspire against us and it's  
4 not as much as we'd like, but we do the best we can  
5 every single year. The widest area of the violin plot  
6 is the area that's most likely to be correct which  
7 aligns with the point estimate, that's -- those two  
8 always align. The violin plot you may notice is  
9 squared off at the bottom for all of them and pointer  
10 at the top. The reason it's squared off at the bottom  
11 is because we know we detected a certain number of  
12 wolves so there is a minimum number that it can't go  
13 below. In 2019, you know, that minimum number was  
14 something over 200. The tops are pointy because  
15 there's less certainty about how high the population  
16 could be. If you look at 2019 they could have  
17 approached 500 even there was a very, very low chance  
18 of that. So then the black bar is the confidence  
19 interval. And the confidence interval is really best  
20 viewed as a measure of certainty in the estimate. The  
21 first year that we did this in 2013 we didn't -- we  
22 were new at it, we didn't collect as much useable data,  
23 therefore, we had a very large confidence interval and  
24 really very little certaint -- not much certainty about  
25 the estimate. However, as years have progressed we've  
26 gotten much better at it with very small confidence  
27 intervals in succeeding years. 2019 was a little  
28 larger confidence interval but that's because there was  
29 a big population, and when you have a big population  
30 you have -- you end up with more uncertainty over the  
31 exact number of wolves, or the point estimate anyway.  
32 The exact number of wolves is never known by anyone.  
33 So that's, you know, when we look at it at an estimate,  
34 that's how we interpret it and that's how we apply it  
35 to management.

36

37 Now I'd like to move on to more current  
38 events. I know people are wondering about this fall's  
39 trapping season and looking to provide an estimate and  
40 the length of the season.

41

42 Ultimately there's been some Covid  
43 related delays at the lab that does down in Montana and  
44 the latest word from them is that they hope to have our  
45 DNA data back to us by the middle of October, so not  
46 for another week or so. If that holds, calculating an  
47 estimate, rechecking it, thinking about it, rechecking  
48 it again, takes about two weeks. Then once you have an  
49 estimate we'll have a discussion with the Federal  
50

1 subsistence in-season manager, who is the Ranger in  
2 Craig, and we'll talk about trapping season lengths,  
3 and after that, you know, we'll come out with a season  
4 length publicly announced. So look for that in late  
5 October at the earliest, and probably not -- probably  
6 the first week in November. But we'll get that out as  
7 soon as we can to give trappers as much lead time to  
8 plan their activities as possible.  
9

10 I have a couple of slides on the ESA  
11 stuff but Mr. Cooper covered that pretty thoroughly.  
12 This one, however, might be worth mentioning. You know  
13 if the population is listed, the Department and the  
14 Federal Subsistence Program lose authority. That means  
15 we no longer can have hunting or trapping seasons. As  
16 Mr. Cooper noted a recovery plan will be developed, it  
17 could resulting establishing critical habitat, it could  
18 result in a population objective, a new population  
19 objective. You know currently we have a population  
20 objective -- excuse me, yes, please move one more, two  
21 more slides, I skipped through -- there we go, thank  
22 you. Currently have a fall population objective of 150  
23 to 200 wolves. I think if you go through the listing  
24 process you'll probably end up with a higher population  
25 objective. It's possible that a portion of the harvest  
26 -- or harvestable portion of deer population will be  
27 designated for wolves, you know, and these are things,  
28 as Mr. Cooper said, we're still a long way out from  
29 this but these are potential consequences. And I think  
30 you also heard him say 10 years was a quick turnaround  
31 for delisting an animal. And something he didn't talk  
32 about was there are really far greater consequences for  
33 taking a listed animal, according to the Fish and  
34 Wildlife Service's website, if you take a listed  
35 species you're potentially going to be charged with a  
36 Federal felony and that civil penalties are also  
37 possible. The felony -- a felony conviction can be up  
38 to a year in prison with a \$50,000 fine per wolf.  
39 Additional civil penalties are six months in prison and  
40 up to a \$25,000 fine per animal. And then something  
41 else to keep in mind is convicted felons are prohibited  
42 from possessing firearms.  
43

44 So what can you do if you want to  
45 reduce the likelihood of a decision to list wolves.  
46 You can encourage unlawful take, or trap ethically  
47 within the season. You can encourage trappers to  
48 continue providing tissue at sealing so we can  
49 incorporate that into the population estimates and to  
50

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1 provide a foreleg bone at sealing. The foreleg bone  
2 helps us distinguish between pups, yearlings and adult  
3 wolves and understanding the age structures within the  
4 population, provides extra information for management  
5 and can ensure that we have reproduction going on and  
6 those animals are surviving to be adults and  
7 reproducing themselves. So Rob Storendorf, our  
8 management biologist in Ketchikan contact all Unit 2  
9 trappers and he sent out a letter that talks about  
10 providing tissue and foreleg bones and how to do it.  
11 So we encourage trappers to please provide them at  
12 sealing. And the third thing that this Council can do  
13 is adopt our proposal 22-03. The goal of this proposal  
14 is to provide better data for a population estimate.  
15 You know, we've heard constantly that the Council and  
16 the Unit 2 residents want better population estimates,  
17 well, this is one way to do that. Now, we'll go over  
18 the specifics of that proposals in a minute, but  
19 adopting that proposal also shows that the RAC and the  
20 Federally-qualified users are doing all they can to  
21 promote sustainable management.

22

23                   Next slide please.

24

25                   So in our proposal would mirror -- to  
26 the Federal Subsistence Program mirrors measures  
27 adopted by the Alaska Board of Game last March. It's  
28 important -- you know the three elements of that new  
29 sealing regulation, in State regulations, it  
30 establishes a 15 day sealing period, currently it's 30  
31 days after the season, from 2018 and earlier it was a  
32 14 day sealing period so that's doable and not  
33 burdensome on trappers. It also asks, well, requires  
34 that trappers attach a tag to each hide with a unique  
35 number, and that's just a control number so that  
36 trappers can keep track of individual hides and they  
37 can keep track of both the date and location it was  
38 recovered from the field. And those are very important  
39 as recaptured and information for the population  
40 estimate. You know we talked about that earlier. We  
41 just need trappers to write down the date and the  
42 location and the location doesn't have to be absolutely  
43 precise but within half mile of a landmark, maybe the  
44 head of such and such bay near the mouth of such and  
45 such a creek, something like that is good enough as  
46 long as we can identify about where it is on the  
47 landscape. That's important information. And final  
48 provision is to report harvest within seven days. The  
49 Alaska Board of Game evaluated the situation that we're  
50

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1 in and the consequences, you know, they weighed their  
2 options and these are the measures they came up with.  
3 The proposal to the Board of Game that the Department  
4 submitted just had a 14 day sealing period, that was  
5 it. But the Board, themselves, looked at the situation  
6 and they added these additional requirements. So I  
7 think at this point I strongly encourage the Council to  
8 take the situation seriously and, you know, in the  
9 hopes of driving both good information for population  
10 estimates and for providing assurance that both the  
11 Council and the users are doing everything they can for  
12 sustainable -- to maintain sustainable harvest. I  
13 strongly encourage you to adopt this proposal.

14

15 And that's the end of my presentation  
16 and at this point I'd be happy to take any questions.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
19 you, Tom, for your presentation. Are there any Council  
20 members that have questions for Tom regarding the  
21 update of Unit 2 wolf.

22

23 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, this is Jim  
24 Slater. Can I ask a question to Tom, please.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Slater.

27

28 MR. SLATER: Hi, Tom. We talked last  
29 spring after the spring meeting I think about using  
30 special cameras to identify individual wolves, and I  
31 was looking at the recapture method you use, and I --  
32 maybe I missed it in your presentation but if you look  
33 at the aquarium with the ping pong balls and you  
34 essentially showed the example where he takes 100 balls  
35 out, marks them, and then pours them back into the  
36 aquarium and then does the important step of stirring  
37 up the aquarium to -- to essentially distribute the  
38 marked balls in uniformly amongst the rest of the  
39 ball population. What is the equivalent that you use  
40 to remix the wolves up after recapture? It was my  
41 understanding that they would stay in their own regions  
42 and within their own pack structure and not mix up  
43 uniformly. Do you try to do that for each pack in  
44 each area or how do you ensure that?

45

46 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, you're correct  
47 that wolves are social carnivores and they're  
48 territorial. Time allows wol -- you know, wolves are  
49 highly mobile, they move a long distance in a short

50

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1 period so time is part of it and having multiple  
2 detectors in the field is part of it. The sampling is  
3 also robust to minor violations to things like that.

4

5 (Teleconference interference -  
6 participants not muted)

7

8 MR. SLATER: Okay. You feel they  
9 redistribute well enough to approximate the uniform  
10 distribution of the recaptured wolves within the  
11 general population?

12

13 MR. SCHUMACHER: The seeker estimates  
14 don't work exactly like the ping pong ball, you know,  
15 that was a simple capture/recapture. A seeker estimate  
16 doesn't just determine a location for an animal, it  
17 determines an activity surface. An activity surface  
18 can be thought of kind of like a mountain on a  
19 topographical map with the peak being the hair board  
20 where the animal was located and then the probability  
21 of a wolf being anywhere else declines, like going down  
22 a mountain slope as you go away from that point, where  
23 you know it was for certain.

24

25 MR. SLATER: Right.

26

27 MR. SCHUMACHER: So the seeker estimate  
28 doesn't work quite like the ping pong ball because it  
29 looks at the probability of a wolf being somewhere  
30 based on its activities.

31

32 MR. SLATER: Okay, I think I started to  
33 see how you modeled. Okay, well, thank you, I was just  
34 curious about that.

35

36 MR. SCHUMACHER: You're welcome.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this  
39 is Don.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Don.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just to kind  
44 of follow-up on what Jim brought out there. Something  
45 that I had a question on, in the demonstration, you  
46 know, it does assume a random sampling, and, you know,  
47 something I'm not sure about is in an active moving  
48 population of, you know, how random that sampling could  
49 be, given the fact that ping pong balls don't have a  
50

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1 behavior associated with them whereas, you know, the  
2 wolf would do. I don't know, do you have any kind of  
3 factor for trying to tease out some wolves just don't  
4 have the behavior for wanting to, you know, rub on a  
5 hair board, or learned activity or factors such as  
6 that?

7

8 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, Member  
9 Hernandez. Let's see, the assumption that goes with  
10 our estimate is that all classes of animals roll to  
11 some degree. Now they don't have to all roll, as long  
12 as one animal is doing it the class is being sampled,  
13 so it doesn't have to be an equal proportion of those,  
14 each age and sex groups, as long as one animal in the  
15 age and sex group is rolling it's detected, and that is  
16 suitable for the estimate. I can't give you an  
17 explanation that's really finer than that, our  
18 statistician would have to do that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, okay, I know  
21 it's kind of been brought up before. You know wolf  
22 behaviors change and individuals and different packs  
23 and whatever, so I just wanted to know if you had a  
24 determining factor for that. So I guess we'll just  
25 kind of leave that as an open question. So thank you  
26 very much.

27

28 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, our work, we do  
29 what's called a probability detection function.  
30 Factors in that function are used to explain wolf  
31 behavior relative to our sampling success that year.  
32 Developing that function is a complicated process and  
33 that's one of the reasons the estimates take two weeks  
34 to produce. If you'd like a more detailed answer I  
35 will ask the statistician and get it to you.

36

37 MR. SCHROEDER: Madame Chair, can I  
38 enter.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,  
41 I'll yield for now, thanks.

42

43 MR. SCHROEDER: Oh, thanks very much  
44 Tom for your presentation, yet, once again. It does  
45 sound good that we may have an estimate of how many  
46 wolves were present last year in time for this season.  
47 We, obviously, have -- as we've mentioned numerous  
48 times because wolves have great fecundity, knowing how  
49 many wolves were there a year ago is definitely

50

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1 important but there could be a lot more wolves at this  
2 time than last year, or I suppose there could be fewer  
3 if many wolves were taken out of the population after  
4 the sampling took place. So perhaps you could comment  
5 on that.

6

7 And then I'm a little unclear, are we  
8 still -- once you have the population estimate that you  
9 go on, does the previous management strategy follow in  
10 terms of not using a quota but having the other  
11 seasonal requirements in there?

12

13 And the third thing is that it is a  
14 little distressing after all these years, definitely  
15 decades of issues with Prince of Wales wolves that  
16 basically local information still continues to be kind  
17 of an add-on that isn't really incorporated in a  
18 theoretically robust way, and as I've said at other  
19 times there definitely are robust ways of gathering  
20 information from the people who actually are out there  
21 hunting and trapping wolves.

22

23 But thank you, again, for your  
24 presentation.

25

26 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, sorry, Bob, but  
27 I'll have to ask you to repeat your questions, they  
28 slipped my mind.

29

30 MR. SCHROEDER: Okay. Then I won't be  
31 so wordy. One, it's great that we may have an estimate  
32 for how many wolves were present one year ago when you  
33 get numbers back, if you get numbers back and are able  
34 to analyze them. The point on that is that however  
35 many wolves were around last year doesn't really  
36 indicate how many wolves are on Prince of Wales at this  
37 time at the beginning of the trapping season.

38

39 Point two. I still continue to be  
40 frustrated that the incorporation of local knowledge  
41 is, frankly it seems like an afterthought, there's no  
42 methodology for doing things -- doing that other than,  
43 well, maybe we'll have some meetings here or people can  
44 write in. And, you know, so that's a little concerning  
45 for me.

46

47 So if you deal with those two that  
48 would be great.

49

50

1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, you  
2 certainly have a valid point that it's not ideal to use  
3 last year's estimate for this year's management.  
4 However, at this point we don't have a better way of  
5 doing this, it takes a year to do this sort of estimate  
6 and it's really the only sort of estimate that -- it's  
7 the best estimate that can be done. Now with that  
8 said, we're always looking into new ways of estimating  
9 abundance that might work better, might provide more  
10 timely results. Beginning this fall, right now, we've  
11 entered into an arrangement with the University of  
12 Alaska-Fairbanks Cooperative Wildlife Research Center  
13 where we're supporting a ph.D student who is going to  
14 work on Prince of Wales Island to evaluate camera based  
15 estimation techniques. Now, camera based estimation  
16 techniques are new, it's a developing field. There's  
17 no guarantee that it's going to produce a good  
18 estimate. But if it does, it produces a very timely  
19 estimate and it's also likely it could be used to  
20 monitor things like black bear and deer. So, you know,  
21 there's some promise there but there are some hurdles  
22 to get over. That student will be working in the field  
23 for three years and then will be spending two more  
24 years in Fairbanks writing up results. So it'll be  
25 some time before we learn about that but, you know,  
26 that is the next thing, hot thing that everybody's  
27 trying out now is the camera based estimate. So we  
28 recognize what we do now is imperfect, we don't have  
29 something better, however we are investigating new  
30 ways.

31

32 You asked about how the season will be  
33 managed this year, no different than last year or the  
34 year before. We'll establish a season length, it'll  
35 open on one day, it'll close on one day, an emergency  
36 order will be issued before the season even opens.

37

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
49 you, Tom. Mr. Schroeder, did that answer your

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1 question?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Are  
6 there other Council members that have comments or  
7 questions for Tom regarding Unit 2 wolves.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this  
10 is Don again.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Don.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, one more  
15 question in regards to gathering information. I read  
16 somewhere, I don't know if it was a news story or some  
17 other release -- I think it's the Department has  
18 initiated a public reporting system where just general  
19 public -- they're encouraging the general public to  
20 report wolf sighting information. Is that a Department  
21 project or is that a different research project, do you  
22 know anything more about that and how it might be used?

23

24 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I do. Actually  
25 it's a place on our website, it's been there for five  
26 or more years it's just that sometimes people forget  
27 about it. It's a place where you can report wildlife  
28 sightings and I think it's available for everywhere in  
29 the state. We don't know how we would incorporate, you  
30 know, sightings reported by the public, into specific  
31 season management decisions, but I think reported  
32 sightings do give some idea of distribution of wolves.  
33 You know, if you're seeing pups, you know, that's  
34 indication of reproduction. If you take pictures and  
35 post them and locations and dates, you know, that,  
36 again, supports wolves are well distributed throughout  
37 the area and that they're reproducing and those are  
38 important things.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
41 And it sounds like it is on your website somewhere.

42

43 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, it is. I'm  
44 afraid I don't have the link handy but if you'd like I  
45 can provide it to you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think that might  
48 be of interest so thank you.

49

50

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
2 you for that Don. Are there other questions from  
3 Council members to Tom Schumacher with the Alaska  
4 Department of Fish and Game regarding Unit 2 wolves.

5  
6                   MR. WRIGHT: Hi, this is Frank.  
7

8                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Frank.  
9

10                  MR. WRIGHT: Did I hear him -- Mr.  
11 Schumacher say something about traditional culture will  
12 be looked at in a year or so?

13  
14                  MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes.  
15

16                  MR. WRIGHT: Traditional knowledge.  
17

18                  MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, the question was  
19 from.....  
20

21                  MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Wright.  
22

23                  MR. SCHUMACHER: .....Member Schroeder,  
24 he asked about incorporating traditional ecological  
25 knowledge into population estimates. My answer to him  
26 is that we do not currently have a way of doing that,  
27 however, as we heard Mr. Cooper from the Fish and  
28 Wildlife Service say, they're going to be incorporating  
29 traditional ecological knowledge, investigating ways of  
30 using that in the next year for the species status  
31 assessment for the Endangered Species process. So, you  
32 know, maybe that will produce something that we can  
33 use.

34  
35                  MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Madame Chair, I'm  
36 just curious why that's going to be in a year or so  
37 because we've been talking about this knowledge stuff  
38 for years. I mean I've been on here for quite awhile  
39 and so it's been there a long time and all of a sudden  
40 we're talking about it. Anyway, thank you, Madame  
41 Chair.

42  
43                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
44 Wright. Are there other questions from the Council to  
45 Mr. Schumacher.

46  
47                  MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, Mike  
48 Douville.  
49

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1 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr.  
2 Douville.

4 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, I have a  
5 real straightforward question but, those of us, on  
6 Prince of Wales, Unit 2 have been on this roller  
7 coaster of regulations that the Department comes up  
8 with since the late '80s, I guess. And the ride is  
9 getting steeper up and down, You know just a year ago,  
10 oh, you got 30 days to seal your wolves, you know, two  
11 month season, I mean this is -- you know we may --  
12 whether we support or don't support this proposal is  
13 really not the important part, it's whether you can get  
14 the participants in the game to support what you're  
15 doing and that's why I mentioned the roller coaster  
16 ride. I mean we've been going -- in the book there are  
17 three pages of regulation changes and justifications  
18 but I guess if we pass it and you don't get complete  
19 cooperation from the participants that's another thing,  
20 enforcing it, and what you're going to if they don't.  
21 I guess you'll need to get a bigger super computer to  
22 deal with any discrepancies. But, you know, these  
23 people here, particularly the trappers have been on  
24 quite a ride, and then you have -- anyway, I'll save  
25 the rest for when we do deliberations I guess.

26

Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mike.  
30 That was a comment, not necessarily a question but I  
31 would give Mr. Schumacher an opportunity to respond if  
32 he would like.

33

49

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1                             ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
2 you, Tom. Any other questions from Council members for  
3 Tom.

4

5                             (No comments)

6

7                             ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
8 hearing none, thank you Tom for your time this  
9 afternoon. And I'm sure we'll be hearing from you or  
10 somebody from the State regarding the wolf proposal  
11 when we move into new business. So we appreciate the  
12 time you took to give us the presentation materials  
13 today.

14

15                             MR. SCHUMACHER: You're very welcome.

16

17                             ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: And with that --  
18 yes, thanks. With that, I think that concludes all of  
19 the old business on our agenda and I would like to turn  
20 the Chair back over to Don Hernandez and he can decide  
21 if he would like to keep going through and start into  
22 new business or if we should recess for the day.

23

24                             Mr. Hernandez, the Chair is yours.

25

26                             CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
27 Cathy. Appreciate you taking over for that segment.  
28 It was a big help and allowed me to engage a little  
29 more in the conversation so I appreciate it. So, yes,  
30 we are up to new business which is proposals and we do  
31 have quite a few proposals to get there. I anticipate  
32 them taking a fair amount of time. I don't think I  
33 want to start into that this evening so we will leave  
34 that until tomorrow. I would like to kind of ask a few  
35 questions in preparation for tomorrow, some issues came  
36 up.

37

38                             First of all, if Alaska Department of  
39 Fish and Game Staff are still with us, will you have  
40 Staff people that will be participating in the  
41 deliberation process tomorrow and making presentations?

42

43                             MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, this is Tom  
44 Schumacher. I plan to be here for the duration.

45

46                             CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
47 Another question that came up that I'd like to get  
48 clarified, on some of these proposals I believe the  
49 Department of Fish and Game has come up with some draft

50

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1 comments. I believe, unless I'm mistaken, that the  
2 Council has not seen these comments yet. It's my  
3 understanding that the comments will be presented in  
4 person tomorrow at the time of deliberations. Is that  
5 correct procedure, that your comments are not  
6 distributed ahead of time? I guess that's a question  
7 for our Council Coordinator.

8

9

10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted)

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 This is Katya Wessels. Yes, ADF&G is going to present  
15 their comments in their allotted time for each  
16 proposal, through the proposal procedure. So they will  
17 be able to present their comments then.

18

19 (Teleconference interference -  
20 participants not muted)

21

22 MS. WESSELS: We cannot distribute them  
23 to you and the public at this time. Thank you.

24

25 REPORTER: Okay, whoever's not muted,  
26 could you please mute.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So I guess my  
29 other question is, some of the folks who testified this  
30 morning were talking about, you know, Fish and Game  
31 reports they had read with information on these  
32 proposals. Were the Fish and Game's draft comments  
33 distributed publicly prior to the meeting or were folks  
34 who were testifying talking about other information  
35 that they had read?

36

37 MR. SCHUMACHER: This is Tom  
38 Schumacher. I'll answer Chair Hernandez' question. I  
39 think you're aware probably that the Unit 4 deer  
40 proposals raised a lot of interest. I mean you heard  
41 quite a few comments about it this morning. Many of  
42 the people who's interest was raised by those comments  
43 [sic] contacted the Department of Fish and Game --  
44 who's interest was raised by those proposals contacted  
45 the Department of Fish and Game with requests for data  
46 and all sorts of things. So we thought about, you  
47 know, you have a lot of people who've made a lot of  
48 different data requests, it's going to take a long time  
49 to respond to all of them, what's the most efficient  
50

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1 use of State time and what's the best way to respond to  
2 these requests. We determined that the best way to do  
3 that would be to put together draft comments so that  
4 everybody got the same information, maybe often more  
5 than they asked for, with context and interpretation.  
6 So people who asked us, made requests for data, were  
7 sent those comments. I'm sure they've been distributed  
8 far and wide. They were made available months ago, I  
9 think back in June so.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, that  
12 just clarifies in my mind what kind of -- the  
13 timeliness of the information that we're going to be  
14 seeing so, okay, maybe some of our Council members have  
15 seen this draft comments before. So I don't know, but  
16 I know I'm going to be seeing them for the first time.  
17 So I will just keep in mind that, yes, these comments  
18 have been out to the public and people have been using  
19 them to formulate their comments to us. That's helpful  
20 to know so.

21

22 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'd also like to  
23 add.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

26

27 MR. SCHUMACHER: .....Chairman  
28 Hernandez, I'm sorry for breaking in.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry for breaking  
33 in but I'd also like to add that those comments were  
34 provided to the Federal Subsistence Program two weeks  
35 ago.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. And I  
38 guess I understood from our Council Coordinator that  
39 just the procedure is that they withhold those comments  
40 from us until the time of our deliberations, so that's  
41 what I gathered from Ms. Wessels' response earlier.

42

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

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we are not  
49 withholding specifically the comments from the Alaska

50

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1 Department of Fish and Game, however, if we're  
2 distributing any supplemental materials to the Council  
3 we are supposed to be able to provide it to the public.  
4 So unfortunately the information that was provided to  
5 us by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is not  
6 compliant with Section .508 of Americans with  
7 Disabilities Act, so we are not able to provide this  
8 information to the public by posting it on our website.  
9 That's the issue for us.

10

11                   Thank you.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So  
14 therefore seeings how you couldn't provide it to the  
15 public, you also couldn't provide it to the Council  
16 ahead of time; is that correct?

17

18                   MS. WESSELS: That's correct. And we  
19 can actually avoid this if Alaska Department of Fish  
20 and Game can possibly post it on their website and we  
21 can just link to these comments on their website, that  
22 will resolve the situation.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well,  
25 that's all very interesting. Yeah, I'd just like to  
26 keep that in mind that we may not a lot of time to, you  
27 know, thoroughly look at the Fish and Game comments  
28 since we're hearing them for the first time but we do  
29 have a printed analysis from our own Staff, hopefully  
30 -- hopefully the two, the comments in the analysis will  
31 be in-synch. If there's any discrepancies, well, I  
32 guess we'll just have to try and resolve that at the  
33 time.

34

35                   So anybody else on the Council have any  
36 questions or comments regarding this.

37

38                   MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Cal in  
39 Gustavus.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cal.

42

43                   MR. CASIPIT: I -- I -- apparently  
44 these -- they were available in early June, these draft  
45 comments, and I'm a little concerned that for some  
46 reason our partners in managing these resources for the  
47 benefit of everybody but, you know, we are supposed to  
48 have that -- I mean we are supposed to be providing  
49 that meaningful priority, but why this wasn't -- why we  
50

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1 didn't have copies of this, you know, before, I mean  
2 this is back in June and now we're in October. I don't  
3 know it just -- I remember stuff like this coming up  
4 years ago on the Council. I remember Chairman  
5 Littlefield and Chairman Thomas talking about the  
6 importance of sharing information early and helping,  
7 you know, bring people along. But I don't know, I  
8 guess I'm -- I'm -- and especially when I get -- when I  
9 read comments from the public saying we agree with  
10 ADF&G's position on these proposals, and we agree with  
11 the, you know, the data that that they've provided,  
12 shows this and, you know, I'm sitting here reading this  
13 stuff and I -- I read every page in this book and I'm  
14 going through here and I'm reading through all these  
15 comments and it's a common theme; according to the Fish  
16 and Game's report, according to the -- and I know there  
17 was -- I know there was probably no ill-intent here for  
18 any of this but it -- I don't know, it just bugs me,  
19 and it probably bugs you, Mr. Chair.  
20

21                 Anyway we'll get through it but it just  
22 made it so much harder because I was, you know, I was  
23 reading what Staff wrote in here and I'm reading  
24 comments about what Fish and Game says and I don't see  
25 it in the book, what I'm trying to read, and, you know,  
26 I get a phone call from somebody that talks about their  
27 comment, it -- that's enough, I'm done.  
28

29                 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
30 Cal. I hear your frustration. I know this issue does  
31 go back some time. I will say that, you know, in the  
32 past the issues were that sometimes that we would not  
33 even hear the Fish and Game's position until it was  
34 brought up before the Board, at the Board meeting, so I  
35 always appreciate the fact that we're now getting it at  
36 our Council meetings instead of hearing it for the  
37 first time at the Board, so that's better. And also I  
38 don't think in my time here I've ever heard of us  
39 running up against the Americans Disability Act so I  
40 don't know where that plays into it but that's  
41 something new. I guess it's just all part of the  
42 system. So like I say, I think we'll deal with it  
43 tomorrow. It's just good to know how some of these  
44 things come about, I guess.  
45

46                 Anybody else.  
47  
48                 (No comments)  
49  
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1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We can  
2 recess until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning at which  
3 time we will take public comment on non-agenda items.  
4 That would be any issue that anybody has regarding  
5 subsistence activities and wants to bring it to our  
6 agenda, so that will be the first item on the agenda  
7 tomorrow.

8

9                   Any more housekeeping issues we need to  
10 talk about before we recess, Katya.

11

12                  MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 No, I do not. I just remind everyone on the call if you  
14 have a written public comment on any proposal that the  
15 Council is going to be discussing tomorrow you can  
16 email it to subsistence@fws.gov. Please indicate the  
17 proposal number that you're commenting on and we are,  
18 you know, going to collect this information from that  
19 email. And if we receive 10 or less comments we're  
20 going to summarize them and present them to the Council  
21 and if there's more than 10 they're going to be  
22 tallied, but the results of the tally will be presented  
23 to the Council. And also, of course, the public has an  
24 opportunity to testify on any of these proposals orally  
25 during the public testimony period of the presentation  
26 procedure for each proposal.

27

28                  Thank you.

29

30                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
31 Katya. So we'll recess until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow  
32 morning, at which time we'll have public testimony and  
33 take up the proposals and we'll go through the  
34 proposals in the order in which they're listed in the  
35 Council book. So thank you very much we'll see  
36 everybody tomorrow.

37

38                  (Off record)

39

40                  (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E  
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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
4 )ss.  
5 STATE OF ALASKA )  
6

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

10 THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_\_ through  
11 \_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
12 SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
13 MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 5th day  
14 of October;

15 THAT the transcript is a true and  
16 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and  
17 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and  
18 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and  
19 ability;

20 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or  
21 party interested in any way in this action.

22 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 17th  
23 day of October 2021.

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31 Salena A. Hile  
32 Notary Public, State of Alaska  
33 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22  
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