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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE
March 17, 2021
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Donald Hernandez, Chair
- Larry Bemis
- Calvin Caspit
- Michael Douville
- Albert Howard
- Ian Johnson
- Harvey Kitka
- Cathy Needham
- Harold Robbins
- James Slater
- Frank Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 3/17/2021)

(On record)

MS. PERRY: This is DeAnna, I'm the Council Coordinator for the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Before we get our meeting started this morning I'd like to take a moment to do a few housekeeping items and to also take roll call and make sure that we have a good record of who is on with us today.

If you're just joining us, again, I would like to remind you that all of our meeting materials can be found.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted - echo - screeching)

MS. PERRY: So I know that most people, if you work in the Teams environment you've noticed that there are some issues with Teams lately so it's going to be really important for us to make sure that all of our electronic devices are muted, so that's your computer speakers, if you're listening on the computer, be mindful that your cell phone is muted or your regular phone is muted, that creates a lot of feedback like what we just heard. So just be mindful that you're on mute when you're not speaking. Again, if you don't have the mute button press star six and that'll mute your phone, when you're ready to speak you can star six to unmute your phone. Again, please, also do not place us on hold. If you're on the phone and something comes up, you need to step away, please feel free to disconnect and then dial back in. That's also a big disruption if we're on hold and there's music or something playing over folks that are trying to speak. We will be disabling the audio on Teams here in just a second so I'll remind you again of the phone number to call. Again, we have to use a dedicated phone line for court reporting purposes so the audio can be heard on 1-866-560-5984, they'll ask for a passcode, and that's 12960066, and then you'll hit the pound button. Again, all audio will go through that channel. As soon as I get through these housekeeping items I will be disabling the audio on Teams, that's the part of trying to mitigate any distractions.

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1 If you would like a link to the
2 Microsoft Teams meeting, please call 1-800-478-1456, we
3 can send you a link to that Teams meeting.

4
5 And lastly, I would just ask folks that
6 if.....

7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted - coughing)

9
10 MS. PERRY: Again, please press star
11 six, I know it's really easy for us to forget but
12 yesterday there was quite a bit of crosstalk and I'm
13 sure that most of those conversations weren't maybe
14 meant for the general public. So just please be
15 mindful of star six to mute your phones.

16
17 Okay. I'm going to take a quick roll
18 call with Staff first. And, again, I have a partial
19 list from folks yesterday and then I'll also ask, who,
20 from the public is joining us today as well. So when I
21 call your name if you can let me know that you're on, I
22 would appreciate it.

23
24 Dave Schmid. Were you allowed to join
25 us again this morning.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MS. PERRY: Wayne Owen.

30
31 MR. OWEN: Here. Present.

32
33 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Wayne. I know
34 you've got to step out here shortly.

35
36 Brie Darr, did you join us today?

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MS. PERRY: Greg Risdahl.

41
42 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, DeAnna, I'm
43 here.

44
45 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Greg.

46
47 Scott Shuler, not sure if you were back
48 with us today.

49
50

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1

MR. SHULER: Yes, I am.

2

3

MS. PERRY: Oh, great, Scott, thank

4

you.

5

6

Delilah Brigham.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

MS. PERRY: Terry Suminski.

11

12

MR. SUMINSKI: Yes, I'm here, good

13

morning.

14

15

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Terry.

16

17

Robb Cross.

18

19

MR. CROSS: I'm on, good morning,

20

DeAnna.

21

22

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Rob.

23

24

Jake Musslewhite.

25

26

MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes, I'm here, good

27

morning.

28

29

MS. PERRY: Good morning, Jake.

30

31

Susan Oehler.

32

33

MS. OEHLER: Good morning.

34

35

MS. PERRY: Good morning.

36

37

Justin Koller.

38

39

(No comments)

40

41

MS. PERRY: Gregory Dunn.

42

43

MR. DUNN: I'm here.

44

45

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Gregory. And,
again, Gregory is doing all of the Teams, behind the
curtain stuff for us, so appreciate that.

46

47

48

49

Melinda Hernandez-Burke

50

0180

1 MS. HERNANDEZ-BURKE: (In Tlingit) I'm
2 here.

3
4 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Melinda.
5

6 Okay, those are, I think, all the folks
7 that I had from the Forest Service. Anybody else from
8 the Forest Service that I didn't call.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. PERRY: Okay. OSM Staff. Sue
13 Detwiler, were you able to join us today.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MS. PERRY: Katya Wessels.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. PERRY: Brent Vickers.

22
23 MR. VICKERS: Yes, good morning
24 everyone. Good morning, DeAnna.

25
26 MS. PERRY: Good morning Brent.

27
28 Pippa Kenner.

29
30 MS. KENNER: I'm here.

31
32 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Pippa.

33
34 George Pappas.

35
36 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Team

37 Southeast.

38
39 MS. PERRY: Good morning, George. I
40 know George is going to be stepping in and out with us
41 today.

42
43 Steve Fadden.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MS. PERRY: Tom Kron.

48
49 (No comments)

50

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1 MS. PERRY: Okay. Anybody else from
2 the Office of Subsistence Management that I didn't
3 call.

4
5 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, DeAnna, this
6 is Kevin Foley.

7
8 MS. PERRY: Sorry, Kevin, I had you on
9 my list from yesterday and I just didn't turn the page.
10 Thank you.

11
12 Okay. So from the National Park
13 Service, Joshua Ream, I see you're on Teams, are you
14 also on the phone line.

15
16 MR. REAM: Good morning, DeAnna and
17 Council members. I'm here.

18
19 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

20
21 Pat Petrivelli.

22
23 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm here, good
24 morning.

25
26 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Pat. Pat's from
27 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

28
29 Okay. Let's see, do I have Valerie
30 Lenharper back with us today.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MS. PERRY: How about Orville Lind.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MS. PERRY: Barbara Cellarius from the
39 Park Service.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MS. PERRY: Victoria Florey from the
44 Park Service.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MS. PERRY: Adam Durmish also from the
49 Park Service.

50

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1 MR. DURMISH: Good morning, I'm here.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

4

5 All right. And I'm going to see who we

6 might have with us on the phone from the State now.

7 Ben Mulligan, are you able to join us today.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. PERRY: Mark Burch, I think I saw

12 you on Teams, are you also online.

13

14 MR. BURCH: Yes, good morning.

15

16 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

17

18 Tom Schumacher. I know you were going

19 to be in and out today, I'm not sure if you're on right

20 now, Tom, are you there.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. PERRY: Okay. Ryan Scott.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MS. PERRY: Troy Thynes.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. PERRY: Okay. And then I have

33 several biologists that I know we had them scheduled

34 for yesterday and I'm not sure if they're back with us

35 today. Mark, before I go through this list, do you

36 know if any of the State biologists that we had

37 scheduled yesterday are back with us today.

38

39 MR. BURCH: You were asking me, DeAnna.

40 I'm not aware of any.

41

42 MS. PERRY: Okay.

43

44 MR. BURCH: We'll try to get fisheries

45 biologists in when you get back to fisheries proposals.

46 So I'll send an email and see what we can do.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Okay. All right, I

49 appreciate that Mark. Just wanted to doublecheck

50

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1 there.

2

3 MR. CHADWICK: Yeah, excuse me, this is
4 Bob Chadwick, Southeast Regional Management Coordinator
5 for Sportfish. I'll be in and out today but I'll be
6 listening on the phone and try to be available when you
7 need me.

8

9 MS. PERRY: Okay. Appreciate that Bob.

10

11 MS. DUBLIN: And this is Robbin Dublin
12 with Subsistence Fish and Game and I'll be in and out
13 as well.

14

15 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Robbin,
16 thanks for joining us.

17

18 MS. DUBLIN: Uh-huh.

19

20 MS. PERRY: Lauren Sill, are you with
21 us by chance.

22

23 MS. SILL: I'm here DeAnna, good
24 morning.

25

26 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

27

28 Okay. And then I'll doublecheck with
29 some of the folks from the public that were able to
30 join us yesterday. Marina Anderson, are you back with
31 us today.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. PERRY: And as I go through this
36 list if you would like to provide some public
37 testimony, if you could let me know that would be
38 great, we can make sure that we put you on the list and
39 come back to you. Katie Riley, are you with us today.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. PERRY: Keenan Sanderson.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MS. PERRY: I know Keenan said he would
48 be with us sporadically today.

49

50

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1 Sally Schlichting, are you back with
2 us.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MS. PERRY: Judith Eaton.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MS. PERRY: Heather Bauscher.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MS. PERRY: Jeff Feldpach.

15
16 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning, DeAnna.

17 Heather's here.

18
19 MS. PERRY: Oh, hey, Heather, thank
20 you.

21
22 Larry Edwards.

23
24 MR. EDWARDS: Larry is here.

25
26 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Larry.

27
28 Okay. And Cathy Henson.

29
30 MS. HENSON: I'm here.

31
32 MS. PERRY: Good morning. And do we
33 have anybody else from the public or a tribal member
34 who would like to make comments today or who is on the
35 phone. Again, we're just making note of that so that
36 we have a good administrative record. So if you could
37 identify yourself at this time.

38
39 MS. WELLER: Good morning. This is
40 Celeste at Pelican and we have a few community members
41 here.

42
43 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you. And were
44 you wanting to provide some testimony this morning.

45
46 MS. WELLER: Yes, please.

47
48 MS. PERRY: Okay, great. When we get
49 to that, if each person would just identify themselves
50

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1 before they speak, again, that's so that the court
2 reporter can capture that for the transcript.

3

4 Anyone else on the phone who would
5 either like to listen in or speak today.

6

7 MR. WIRTA: This is Terry Wirta.

8

9 MS. PERRY: Terry, I'm sorry, I didn't
10 get your last name.

11

12 MR. WIRTA: Wirta, W-I-R-T-A, and also
13 with me is George Phillips and we're going to talk
14 about the subsistence hunting here in Lisianski Inlet.

15

16 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you very much.

17

18 MR. SIMMONS: And, good morning. Good
19 morning, this is Avery Simmons and I'm on the phone as
20 well this morning and I'd like to testify on
21 subsistence hunting Lisianski Inlet this morning as
22 well.

23

24 MS. PERRY: Okay. Wonderful.

25

26 MR. SIMMONS: My wife Edwina is with me
27 and she'll probably have a few words to say as well.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you for that.

30

31 MR. SIMMONS: You bet.

32

33 MS. PERRY: Anyone else joining us
34 today.

35

36 MR. WALLACE: Hello, can you hear me?

37

38 MS. PERRY: Yes.

39

40 MR. WALLACE: Yeah, this is President
41 Lee Wallace from Organized Village of Saxman. I hope
42 to -- again, I'm late, so I'm not sure where you are in
43 the agenda but I did want to make some public comment
44 on nonagenda items when that's time.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Thank you, President
49 Wallace, good to hear from you. Anyone else on the

50

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1 phone with us today.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. PERRY: Okay, well, thank you all
6 for that. Again, it's important for us to capture an
7 accurate administrative record and although I know it
8 takes time each morning that really helps out a lot.
9 So before we hand this over for the official kickoff
10 from the Chair, I would just like to check what Council
11 members we have with us today.

12

13 Mike Douville, are you with us this
14 morning.

15

16 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville is here,
17 good morning.

18

19 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Mike.

20

21 Jim Slater.

22

23 MR. SLATER: I'm here, DeAnna, thank
24 you.

25

26 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Jim.

27

28 Bob Schroeder.

29

30 MR. SCHROEDER: Ready and able, DeAnna,
31 good morning.

32

33 MS. PERRY: Thanks, good morning, Bob.

34

35 Albert Howard.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. PERRY: Albert, are you on mute by
40 chance I think I saw you on Teams earlier.

41

42 MR. HOWARD: I'm here, DeAnna, good
43 morning.

44

45 MS. PERRY: Thanks, good morning.

46

47 Harold Robbins.

48

49 MR. ROBBINS: I'm here, good morning.

50

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1 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Harold.

2

3 Harvey Kitka.

4

5 MR. KITKA: Yes, I'm here.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

8

9 Larry Bemis, Jr.

10

11 MR. BEMIS: Here, good morning.

12

13 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

14

15 Cathy Needham.

16

17 MS. NEEDHAM: Good morning, I'm here.

18

Thank you.

19

20 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Cathy.

21

22 Ian Johnson.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Hey, good morning. Yep,

25

I am half here. We're without power in Hoonah right
now so I have no visuals but I am on the phone.

26

27 MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks, Ian.

28

29 Frank Wright, are you with us this

30

morning.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: I'm here.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Frank.

35

36 Cal Casipit.

37

38 MR. CASIPIT: Good morning from snowy

39

Gustavus.

40

41 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I just looked out the

42

window here and it's snowpocalypse. Okay.

43

44 And, Don Hernandez, our Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You

49

50

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1 have all 12 seated Council members and obviously you
2 have a quorum.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, great.

7

Thanks, DeAnna. Good morning everybody. Yes, today we
8 will pick up where we left off on old business. My
9 intention is to get through all of the proposals to the
10 Alaska Board of Fish this morning and then we can move
11 on to new business this afternoon and get started on
12 our wildlife proposals, call for proposals.

13

14

DeAnna, I want to check with you, we
15 have -- we still have an appointment with Earl Stewart
16 at 1:30.

17

18

MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

19

20

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. That will
21 happen. And also before the end of the day I'd like
22 the Council members to be thinking more about comments
23 on the wolf proposal that we heard about yesterday
24 afternoon at the end of the day, we should get that
25 formulated and written up before the end of the day
26 today.

27

28

But we start our meetings every morning
29 with public comment and it sounds like we have a number
30 of people wanting to talk to us this morning so that's
31 where we'll begin.

32

33

I heard a number -- I don't know the
34 best way to go through the order here but I did hear a
35 number of people from Pelican that may all be in the
36 same spot there possibly so I thought that might be a
37 good place to start and I guess I'll just ask you folks
38 to decide who wants to go first and the Council is
39 ready to listen.

40

41

MS. WELLER: Good morning, this is
42 Celeste Weller, can you hear me.

43

44

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, hi.

45

46

MS. WELLER: Thank you. My name is
47 Celeste Weller, I'm a City Council member for the City
48 of Pelican. I live in Lisianski Inlet with my family.

49

50

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1 MS. PERRY: Celeste, did we lose you,
2 you can go right ahead.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Did we lose a
7 connection.

8
9 MS. WELLER: I'm sorry, can you hear
10 me.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, I can hear
13 you now.

14
15 MS. WELLER: Okay, sorry about that.
16 This little phone device is failing. My name is
17 Celeste Weller. I live in Lisianski Inlet, and a City
18 Council member and I work in commercial fishing as
19 well. I do live a subsistence lifestyle focusing on
20 fishing and hunting. The only meat that I eat is what
21 I've caught or shot. I'm calling to testify about the
22 increased pressure from outside parties on the
23 resources we depend on for our daily life here,
24 specifically in Lisianski Inlet and Straits.

25
26 There are several groups that live
27 outside the area and state that come seasonally and
28 target some of our key resources here in Lisianski
29 Inlet. These include the coho run in Lisianski River
30 and Sitka black-tail deer hunting in the habitat
31 surroundings. In addition, there has been an
32 expedient growth in the last couple years with
33 visitors coming with the charter lodges. We're
34 expecting 500 to 750 visitors this year during the
35 summer. We're really concerned about the expansion of
36 these charter numbers, especially the boat charters
37 that will target our local rockfish and ground fish.
38 One lodge is even working to become a hunting lodge
39 further exploiting the resources here. The outside
40 pressure has affected our ability and especially the
41 ability of our older community members. They depend on
42 easy access to these resources.

43
44 This year several members were not,
45 including myself, were not able to harvest a deer or
46 saw very limited access. This is a low income
47 community, subsistence hunting and fishing is really
48 not optional for many folks here. Recent food scarcity
49 has been exacerbated by the fact that our ferry service
50

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1 has been intermittent and food supply has been
2 undependable because of that.

3

4

5 I'd like to encourage the Federal
6 Subsistence Board to consider limiting our area to
7 community members, if only part of the season. Pelican
8 and the surrounding homesteads must be ensured access
9 to the resources that they live in.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
13 Would you like to take any questions from the Council
14 if they have any?

15

16 MS. WELLER: Yeah, that's fine.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay,
19 Council members any questions.

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Hello, this is Frank.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: The hunting lodge, is it a
26 pretty -- this will be during the deer season, and
27 another question is limiting your hunting season for
28 outsiders, is that what you're talking about and what
29 are you proposing?

30

31 MS. WELLER: Thank you. The lodge that
32 I spoke of is currently a summer fishing lodge and to
33 be honest we've only just heard the idea that this is
34 going to become a hunting lodge so this is just
35 something that we're looking into the future to limit,
36 if possible, if that were to become an option for a
37 hunting lodge. As far as the dates that we're -- I
38 think we're asking -- and Jim Slater -- I'm sorry, I
39 don't have these dates right in front of me but we are
40 asking that our subsistence time be closed, I believe
41 starting October 15th to locals only for Lisianski
42 Inlet/Straits and Stag Bay.

43

44 MR. SLATER: And, Celeste, hi, this is
45 Jim. I think we were -- just kind of information -- we
46 don't have a definite proposal at this point, we're
47 looking at coming up with one, that would start this
48 afternoon. I think the main thing is expressing your
49 concern over the problems we've been having with the
50

0191

1 resource availability.

2

3 MS. WELLER: Okay.

4

5 MR. SLATER: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody
8 else with questions.

9

10 MR. SLATER: Celeste, you have a couple
11 other people there, right, is that two or one other
12 person with you?

13

14 MS. WELLER: Yes, I also have Mike
15 Allard and Mayor Walt Weller.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead and
18 get the next person online and there may be other
19 questions come up so we'll go ahead with the next
20 person.

21

22 MR. ALLARD: Hi. My name is Mike
23 Allard. I'm a local resident of Pelican and commercial
24 fisherman and on the Pelican City Council. And I've
25 lived here for about 30 years or so. And it used to be
26 back when I first came here that a lot of the hunters
27 or family and friends that come out because as we all
28 know, we all hunt the same area we grew up in. But
29 over the few years we've seen a lot of big parties
30 coming out and doing hunting, which, you know,
31 everybody's entitled to but you got to look forward to
32 the future and a lot of the game, you know, is -- you
33 got to let it mature and grow up and a lot of the game
34 that I pass by most people shoot so it doesn't seem
35 like a lot of the game is going to be maturing at a
36 rate to reproduce and look for the future generations.

37

38 So that's one of my concerns. And just
39 that, you know, we have no grocery store, along the
40 same lines as Celeste. So that's pretty much what I
41 got to say.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks,
44 Mike. Any questions for Mr. Allard.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think
49 we're getting a good picture here, but if you've got
50

0192

1 other people that want to add, put the next person on.

2

3 MAYOR WELLER: Okay. Yeah, this is
4 Mayor Weller over here in Pelican, can you hear me?

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

7

8 MAYOR WELLER: Okay. Yeah, so I'm
9 monitoring the situation, is what I'm concerned about
10 and the concern I share with the community is the
11 obvious growth in the sportfishing and now people are
12 talking about obvious growth in the deer harvesting.
13 And there's been a -- not to keep reusing the same word
14 but a clear and obvious increase in the last 10 years,
15 and we'd like to see exactly what routes we could take,
16 if there are any, to limit these sport activities where
17 people who live here are used to being able to
18 subsistence hunt and fish. And like I said my main
19 interest is seeing whether people are able to put any
20 limitations on this and if any other localities are
21 moving forward with that.

22

23 And that's all I had for right now.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, thank you.
26 Any questions for Mr. Weller from the Council.

27

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

29

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

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear two people,
33 Cathy and somebody else.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Ian.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Ian. Go ahead,
38 Ian.

39

40 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I just want to
41 clarify, so like we talked about both affect to coho,
42 deer, and ground fish, in regards to establishing a
43 subsistence only kind of area, are folks in Pelican
44 thinking about addressing all those resources or are
45 they focusing primarily on deer?

46

47 MR. ALLARD: All the resources.

48

49 MR. WELLER: I -- the people that live
50

1 here are focused on addressing some kind of control or
2 the options of control over all of those resources,
3 once, again, because of the -- of the large amount of
4 growth we've seen in people coming in from the outside
5 utilizing those resources.

6
7 MR. SLATER: This is Jim Slater. I'm
8 helping to organize this, specifically though we know
9 that this is a wildlife year so I think the focus for
10 right now is the deer hunting issue that we've seen.

11
12 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. I was
13 also curious if -- it's certainly troubling to hear
14 Celeste talk about not being able to get any deer this
15 year and honestly I was kind of in the same boat here
16 in Hoonah, I didn't shoot my deer until January 23rd.
17 I just -- yeah, has that been a -- is that this year
18 only or has it been -- can you talk just a little bit
19 more -- give a little more historical context on the
20 deer hunting situation.

21
22 MR. ALLARD: This is Mike Allard. And,
23 you know, every year varies. So, you know, you got
24 good years, you've got open winters, the deer feed, the
25 survival of the beaches need kelp, and some years, you
26 know, you get lots of snow and it just takes a toll on
27 all the animals and sometimes if you don't have snow
28 you need snow to drive them out of the big valleys. So
29 they're pretty easy pickins on the lower countries, you
30 know, the flats and heavy timber. Yeah, every year
31 varies. And, you know, I'm also a local trapper so I
32 trap all of Lisianski Inlet and Straits and when I'm
33 trapping there's years I see winter kill every 50
34 yards, you know, and what martin's going to want to go
35 to some scent box and not get caught when he's got a
36 fresh dead deer there to eat so, you know, there's
37 variables. But when we got years like that it's hard
38 to harvest animals, you know, and as we see there's
39 lots of big numbers of people coming out and last year
40 we seen, for the commercial king salmon -- or not
41 commercial king salmon, but the sport king salmon an
42 influx of people from Juneau coming out, which is kind
43 of unrealistic for me, it's surprising that they'd want
44 to come out for the weekend to catch king salmon and
45 halibut, you know, so obviously resources are hard over
46 there, too, you know, they're limited so I don't know
47 what else you want to know from me, but, yeah, it could
48 be hard. I shot one deer last year and that was it.

49
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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Cathy, did
2 you have a question.

3
4 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes, thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. This is Cathy. I am curious if there is -- if
6 you guys know whether or not there is a local group
7 that intends to put forward a proposal or a few
8 proposals during this wildlife cycle or if you are
9 thinking that you'd like to ask the Council to put
10 together and forward a proposal on this specific issue.
11 Like many times if there's an organization, a local
12 organization that puts in a proposal then we would, you
13 know, to support that effort but if you don't know that
14 anybody's going to be putting in a proposal then we
15 could potentially put one in on this issue if the
16 Council worked towards that.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MR. SLATER: Cathy, I can address that.
21 This is Jim Slater. I'm a new Council appointee. I,
22 working together with the individuals testifying I was
23 planning to discuss submitting a proposal this
24 afternoon and get feedback from the Council on that.

25
26 MS. NEEDHAM: Great, thank you, Mr.
27 Slater. And, Mr. Chair, I appreciate that, and I'm
28 really glad that the folks that called in today to
29 testify were able to help provide background and
30 understanding for the Council to know that this local
31 issue is, you know, coming from a variety of different
32 folks. So I appreciate that and all of your time.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, it's really
37 important that we hear from folks when we have a
38 situation like this. Is there anybody else there that
39 wants to testify this morning.

40
41 MR. WIRTA: Yeah, I'm Terry Wirta,
42 Pelican.

43
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead.

45
46 MR. WIRTA: Yeah, I've lived here all
47 my life, I'm 65 years old but I've been hunting for 50
48 years and this is a -- this past year has been the
49 first year that I haven't even gotten a deer. I am

50

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1 getting old enough where I don't climb up to the tops
2 of mountains like I used to all the time but I have
3 subsistence fished off the lower part of the hills
4 there -- I mean hunted, and I haven't had any luck this
5 year. So I'm not sure if it was because of the lack of
6 snow this year or what but I sure did not see any deer
7 around, and I do see that there's a lot of extra
8 hunters coming in nowadays. And, yeah, I'm for
9 subsistence. I would like to see things change there
10 to help the residences of Pelican out a little more
11 from the 15th of October to the end of January, is that
12 was subsistence that would be a real benefit for us, I
13 believe.

14
15 So, anyway, that's what I've got to
16 say.

17
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any
19 other questions come to mind from Council members.

20
21 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
22 Albert.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
25 Albert.

26
27 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 We deal with the same situation in Angoon and I've
29 talked about it several different meetings but I've
30 often thought that maybe if the State decided to divvy
31 up -- say they give me six tags every year but I'm only
32 allowed to use them in the Chatham Strait area, that
33 makes sense to me. You know, the same thing if you
34 live -- as an example, in Juneau, that they give you
35 tags and you're only allowed to use them in the Juneau
36 area, that would prevent, and I totally get it because
37 it happens here in Angoon as well, you see a big boat
38 towing several other boats and they're just out having
39 a good time after they load it up on groceries from
40 Costco to go hunting on Admiralty Island, and that --
41 that's one of the unintended consequences on a lot of
42 things that happens in Chatham with bear hunting and
43 everything else that goes on in Chatham, we seem to see
44 more and more pressure on the resource that has taken
45 care of us for generations.

46
47 It isn't we don't do it for fun, like
48 the person said, we -- everything goes in our freezer
49 so -- and the weather in Chatham has been less than
50

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1 reasonable for the guys running around in their Lunds.
2 So it's a thought. Maybe try to ask them to start --
3 when they hand out hunting tags make it specific to the
4 area they live in.

5
6 I thought about that for the same thing
7 with sockeye. We get pressure on -- well, last year, I
8 saw a big fancy yacht, probably 100 foot yacht coming
9 out of Sitka and they were in Hanus Bay with their nets
10 out, it must be nice, but you can't fault them for that
11 but they probably worked for all they have, but that's
12 kind of what we're dealing with. There's a lot of
13 pressure on resources. I know there's -- I've heard
14 about a lot of streams out on the outside that they
15 could go to but maybe that's not comfortable for them.
16 Just like it's not comfortable for me to have to run
17 across in an 18 foot boat in sometimes six foot seas,
18 but we've got to eat here and that's what we do.

19
20 So it's something to think about.
21 Maybe ask the State if they can start doing permits and
22 hunting tags specific to certain areas.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, thank you,
27 Albert. Any other questions from the Council, and is
28 there anybody else.....

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

32
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead Mike.

34
35 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah, I'm kind of
36 getting a picture of what the issue is and I guess my
37 question would be -- I missed a little bit of the
38 conversation, my question would be do those in Pelican
39 that are affected, did they offer a solution or are
40 they going to offer a solution that they have thought
41 of.

42
43 MR. SLATER: Yeah, this is Jim Slater.
44 I'm a new Council member. I think we have a proposal,
45 or at least a draft of a proposal that I would like to
46 discuss later today when we have the call for proposals
47 in the afternoon.

48
49 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, Mike Douville

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1 here. Okay, thank you, that would be great if you'd
2 come up with a proposal that you think might help the
3 situation, would be great, okay.

4

5 MR. SLATER: Okay.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, oh,
8 sorry, Mike. I was just going to say, you know, to the
9 folks that are there, you know, we can devote Staff
10 time at some point, these proposals don't have to be
11 finished until sometime later this spring and so the
12 Council can devote Staff time to doing some research
13 and stuff, you know, on what options are available. So
14 come up with a concept of where you want to go and we
15 can help fill in some specifics later. It doesn't
16 necessarily have to be decided right now, so they'll
17 work with you outside, you know, after the meeting to
18 flesh out, you know, details and stuff so that's
19 helpful.

20

21 Is there anybody else there that wanted
22 to testify this morning.

23

24 MR. SIMMONS: Yes, this is Avery, can
25 you hear me?

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep. Go ahead,
28 Dave [sic].

29

30 MR. SIMMONS: Good morning. Good
31 morning. My wife Edwina is here as well and we're both
32 residents of the Pelican area for the past 40 years.
33 And our lifestyle is such that we're very much
34 dependent upon hunting and our gardening and fishing
35 and we live a very subsistence lifestyle here in the
36 Inlet and what we have noticed in the last couple of
37 years is increased pressure from people that don't live
38 here. They show up and they compete with us directly
39 for the resources that we're after and that's one of
40 our big reasons for living here in Pelican, is that we
41 can live the subsistence lifestyle and we would like to
42 continue to make sure that we can continue to do that.
43 And if it means that we need to go to a subsistence
44 area then we're totally in favor of that.

45

46 MS. SIMMONS: And not open to non-
47 residents.

48

49 MR. SIMMONS: And, yeah, and not open

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1 to non-residents that come in here and compete with us
2 for these resources. So that's pretty much it.

3
4 We're in favor of subsistence only and
5 whatever form that that final, you know, that it comes
6 to is we're going to be supportive of that.

7
8 So that's about all that we have to say
9 at this time, I believe, unless Edwina wants to say
10 something further here.

11
12 MS. SIMMONS: Well, I'd just like to
13 say that, you know, we're talking about a fairly --
14 what appears to be a fairly large area of Lisianski
15 Inlet and the Straits and Stag Bay and et cetera. And
16 in reality there's only so many places that you can
17 actually hunt because of the terrain so that limits the
18 places for us locals to hunt. We know where they are,
19 we know where it's safe to hunt, but when you bring
20 people from out of state that have no idea, then you
21 bring in the possibility of them having problems,
22 they're not understanding hunting and killing young
23 ones that should not be killed and et cetera, so we're
24 just asking for some help here in regards to making
25 this a little bit more safer and for your understanding
26 that it's not just walk out in the woods and kill
27 something.

28
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
30 Any other.....

31
32 MR. SIMMONS: Yeah, this is -- yeah, I
33 do have another thought there, this is Avery again.
34 We're seeing more fishing lodges being created here in
35 the Inlet and we're very concerned that those lodges,
36 as time goes on, that they're going to also revert to
37 hunting lodges as well as fishing lodges and I wanted
38 to make the point that I see this coming down the road
39 and I'm totally against that as well. So anything we
40 can do to keep this more of a subsistence use area,
41 we're totally in favor of, and whatever form that takes
42 we'll probably be supportive of it.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. And I'd
47 also like to point out that there are proposals before
48 the Board of Fish coming up next year that kind of deal
49 with the increase in non-resident sportfishing

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1 happening throughout the region. So I'm sure Jim will
2 be working with us on those and how they might affect
3 Pelican. Yeah, we've already identified that as a
4 problem and we have proposals in to deal with some of
5 the fishing issues as well. So you want to keep track
6 of that.

7

8 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you. This is Avery
9 again. I'm signing off, I don't think I have anything
10 else to say if somebody else wants to talk.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks for
13 talking to us this morning. Is there anybody else
14 there that wanted to say something.

15

16 MR. PHILLIPS: I'm George Phillips,
17 resident of Pelican. I was born in Sitka, I'm 74.
18 I've lived up here all my life. Been a hunter all my
19 life, subsistence living most of my life, and I am not
20 going to go into great detail because I think it's been
21 pretty well said. I just want to voice that I am
22 behind the subsistence thoughts and I really can see
23 the impact here throughout the years and definitely it
24 is a problem and it needs to be figured out, some
25 solution has to come up with.

26

27 So, thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, thank you,
30 George. Of course I should point out to you folks
31 there, you also have a great resource in your community
32 there in Patty Phillips, she knows the system and the
33 issues better than anybody so I'm sure she hopefully
34 will be helping you out as well. I know she testified
35 yesterday to some of the same situations.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Hernandez, this
38 is Patty Phillips.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There's Patty.
41 Good morning, Patty.

42

43 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. So as a
44 followup, I did help Mr. Slater, I advised him to
45 contact the biologist and to get a proposal form and to
46 put it into a format so I could see what he's asking
47 for. And I did -- you know, he did want the RAC to
48 pass -- to endorse it because it would have greater
49 influence at the Federal Subsistence Board level, but I
50

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1 did advise him that, you know, we looked it up while we
2 were on the phone and the proposal period closes in May
3 and that at any point in time anyone can submit a
4 proposal, and the RAC will look it over -- the Staff
5 will do an analysis the RAC will look it over at the
6 next meeting, and can endorse it then and give it just
7 as much influence with the Federal Subsistence Board.

8

9 So yesterday I asked if we could reduce
10 the harvest of the non-Federally-qualified and, yes,
11 and the RAC, in the past, submitted a proposal and got
12 Unit 2, non-Federally-qualified hunters reduced, you
13 know, down to two deer, I guess. But my question today
14 is can we submit a proposal that eliminates the harvest
15 of non-residents of Alaska. So I'm not willing to
16 completely -- this is my opinion now. I'm not willing
17 to completely shut down those people from Juneau. And
18 the reason I say that is we went from a population of,
19 you know, 400 and we're down to less than 100 in the
20 winter. A lot of those people have moved to Juneau,
21 they have long ties to our community. You know multi-
22 generational families have had to move to Juneau in
23 order to support themselves and their families and they
24 like coming here to deer hunt, and besides that there
25 are people who own property out here who have jobs in
26 Juneau and come out and get a deer for their own, you
27 know, traditional use. So, yes, we should have the
28 priority, we are Federally-qualified, the law gives us
29 that right, but my main question is, can we shut those
30 non-residents out. So that's a question that I would
31 like answered, you know, before May 24th or whenever it
32 is.

33

34 So thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
37 Patty. Yeah, that is an important question. I don't
38 think that's something we've dealt with specifically,
39 are we constrained in just, you know, closures to all
40 non-Federally-qualified, or can we be more specific
41 than that. I don't know the answer to that. That
42 would take some research but it's a good point though.
43 And I know the situation -- we have the same situation,
44 you know, a lot of inter-connections between like
45 Ketchikan families and families on Prince of Wales,
46 yeah, same situation that we looked at here.

47

48 So, yeah, thanks for that Patty.

49

50

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1 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Other Council
4 members want to weigh in on that.

5

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

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

9

10 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
11 think it's a really good point what Ms. Phillips has
12 brought forward, and I guess my question kind of in
13 followup to that, that would be great to have, if we
14 could have an answer during this meeting at some point
15 in time from our biologist or the State biologist, is
16 whether or not that specific aspect that she's talking
17 about, if that's a Board of Game action, or if it could
18 be handled through the Board of Game process for not
19 having out of state sporthunting. Because anybody
20 coming from out of Alaska would be under a sporthunting
21 license.

22

23 So, yeah, some clarification on that
24 sometime during the meeting would be great, thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Maybe we
27 can get that answer before we get to the issue this
28 afternoon. Anybody else on the Council.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 MR. SLATER: Yeah, hi.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think I hear
35 Frank.

36

37 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, Mr. Chair, thank
38 you. You know people that come in from -- that don't
39 reside in the area, are just doing it for fun, don't
40 have no idea what subsistence is about, you know. In
41 Hoonah, we run into a problem where people from Juneau
42 come out and then they just take part of the deer and
43 not the whole deer, you know, and I always say, well,
44 whenever we strip a deer, we always boil -- even boil
45 the bones just to -- just for something to eat, gnaw
46 off the bone, you know, even -- they take the
47 backstrap, but what we do is we cut into the -- make
48 deer chops, you know, and then eat the whole thing. So
49 the subsistence way of life is that's they way it is,
50

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1 you know, use as much as possible.

2

3 The issue that Patty brought up about
4 relatives of people that lived in areas, you know, we
5 have the same problem too here in Hoonah, where we have
6 tribal members who got moved to Juneau, all of a sudden
7 they're urban Indians so, you know, we have, you know,
8 we always accept them, you know, Chookaneidi,
9 Kaagwaantaan, Wooshkeetaan, that live in Juneau and so,
10 you know, that issue of generational people that come
11 -- that move because of no jobs, you know, so -- and,
12 you know, how do we keep a culture alive when we deny
13 people that lived in areas for so many years and then
14 had to move because of the jobs and, you know, but
15 their blood is still the subsistence way, that's the
16 reason why they go out and do -- they'll get the foods
17 that they were -- they grew up on. You know, so that's
18 an issue that, you know, the Federal government and the
19 State and all those other people don't understand.

20

21 So when you have a cultural way, you
22 know, I always say you diminish the identity of a
23 people.

24

25 But, anyways, you know, subsistence is
26 a way of life in the small communities and like I said,
27 you know, I even boil -- I'll tell the guys that when
28 they're stripping the meat off the bone I always tell
29 them, well, give me the bones, I'll boil it and I'll
30 put some potatoes in there and onions in there and gnaw
31 off the bone, it's delicious, you got to try it.

32

33 Anyway, these are just, you know,
34 Pelican's got a family there that -- you know, they got
35 family members that are not living there anymore and
36 they got people that are residents that live there and
37 -- used to live there but don't live there anymore but
38 their heart is in a subsistence way of life.

39

40 That's just a statement, thank you, Mr.
41 Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.
44 That's a really important issue to consider. And,
45 yeah, whatever proposals come out, kind of tricky to
46 try and come up with but it's a big factor, you're
47 right.

48

49 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, this is Albert.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Somebody else.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: It's Albert.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

6

7 MR. HOWARD: I, too, have family that
8 moved from Angoon to Juneau for work and I totally
9 understand that, so maybe there could be a mechanism
10 that shows the history and ties to the land that
11 they've actually lived in Angoon before you issue them
12 tags to hunt here. There's got to be a solution to an
13 existing problem.

14

15 Angoon has unemployment of 80 percent.
16 I am fortunate to be one of the 20 percent and I'm
17 grateful for that so that allows me to buy gas and go
18 further than most people. And most people are
19 competing with a vessel that comes in about 58 feet
20 long towing four or five boats up Chatham and just
21 having a good old time. You know try to imagine going
22 to Costco and somebody buying everything there and
23 leaving and we get nothing. That's kind of how it
24 feels here.

25

26 I remember attending a T&H meeting and
27 some guy was talking about the feeling he gets when he
28 comes home with a bunch of deer or a bunch of fish, you
29 can compare that to going to the store on payday and
30 going home with a bunch of food. That's the same
31 feeling that that person had.

32

33 So there's got to be a solution to the
34 situation. I totally understand people moving to
35 Juneau, my brother's -- we have conversation and, you
36 know, I didn't tell you to move to Juneau, you know,
37 jokingly we have those conversations, I send him deer,
38 he sends me bullets, I don't send him a lot of deer
39 because he prefers steaks, I guess and he definitely
40 works for it. So I think working together there must
41 be a way we can find -- because we are a subsistence
42 Council, so we're not here to represent people that
43 move to Juneau, we're here to represent the people that
44 live in this situation, and that's kind of my thoughts.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair, this is Jim
49 Slater.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
2 Jim.

3
4 MR. SLATER: I'd like to make a point
5 that pretty much echoed what Albert said. Who do we
6 advocate for, and that's for the subsistence users, not
7 for people who have moved away. We all would love to
8 have enough resources for everyone and there wouldn't
9 be an issue. Unfortunately there's sometimes
10 competition for the resources. And I think our job, as
11 I understand it, is to advocate for the people who are
12 trying to live a subsistence lifestyle and have the
13 constraints and the hardships that come with that.

14
15 So as we evaluate this, I think it's
16 unfortunate that we have to advocate for someone and
17 not for someone else but I think in our role we
18 advocate for the subsistence side of things. That's my
19 main comment there.

20
21 Thanks.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
24 I'm going to jump in here because we're kind of getting
25 a little bit away from what we're supposed to be doing
26 here. We're going to have this discussion when a
27 proposal comes forward and there'll be a back and forth
28 and, you know, more of a discussion about the merits of
29 where we want to go. But right now we're, you know,
30 we're supposed to be hearing from the public so I don't
31 want to dominate the conversation here.

32
33 I want to ask if there was anybody else
34 in Pelican that had anything to add to this topic.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It sounds like we
39 got everybody in Pelican so I'm going to wrap this up
40 and say, you know, the situation in Pelican is not
41 unique to Pelican. There's some precedence available
42 to us, it took us a number of different tries and
43 several years to get a proposal through to deal with
44 the situation on Prince of Wales Island, it may take
45 some time and effort to come up with a proposal for
46 Pelican that may actually work for other communities as
47 well. We kind of build on what's been done in the past
48 and try and push it forward. So we will be having that
49 discussion in our call for proposals topic.

50

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1 So I want to thank all you folks from
2 Pelican for bringing the issue to our attention. I
3 think we got a good understanding of the situation
4 there and as I say it's relevant to a lot of
5 communities. So thank you for your comments this
6 morning.

7
8 MS. WELLER: Thank you very much.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I believe
11 we had some other folks that wanted to comment to the
12 Council this morning from the public.

13
14 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. President
15 Lee Wallace from the Organized Village of Saxman I
16 believe is with us to provide some public comment.

17
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Mr.
19 Wallace, if you're still there, you've got the floor.

20
21 MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Chairman
22 Hernandez. Thank you for this time. I just wanted to
23 make a tribal comment on managing the items, and that's
24 the eulachon fishery. U.S. Forest District Ranger
25 Shane Walker issued a limited opening period for Unuk
26 River limited only to Saxman, Metlakatla and that was
27 for Federally-qualified harvesters to participate in in
28 the eulachon fishery.

29
30 The District Ranger decided to do
31 something different than what's been done in the past
32 15 years. In the past 15 years the District Ranger's
33 just put a closure on the fishery, for 15 years. And
34 so I do thank Mr. Walker for at least having a limited
35 opening for Federally-qualified harvesters.

36
37 And so both Metlakatla and both Saxman,
38 we both submitted to Mr. Walker that we would like to
39 have a community fishery versus kind of an open
40 fishery. The reason behind that would be less invasive
41 area for the schools of eulachon going up the Unuk
42 River. And for the past years and generations,
43 Metlakatla harvesters have been the prime harvesters of
44 the Unuk River, there traditional and customary gear
45 has been the use of a beach seine. But this particular
46 limited opening was restricted to two types of gear,
47 that was a dipnet and a cast net. Both kind of really
48 untraditional uses of a way of fishing of both users of
49 Saxman and Metlakatla. So we did both, unilaterally,
50

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1 applied and we suggested a community fishery.

2

3

4 After a long 90 minute teleconference
5 with the District Ranger Walker and Terry Suminski, I
6 suggested that MIC submit a special action request for
7 that specific community fishery and the use of a beach
8 seine and I believe they submitted that SAR. And I'm
9 just saying this because I'm suggesting that for the
10 next fishery proposals that you'll probably be seeing
11 something like that from both Saxman and Metlakatla for
12 that type of a fishery.

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That's all my comments on the eulachon fishery.

And then I'll bring up one more item, which is subsistence related. I know probably many of you Council members were tracking NOAA, they had come up with an economic assistance for subsistence fishing, they had went to the Pacific states Marine Fisheries Commission, and most recently in checking the latest from the websites, so the State of Alaska had applications for the commercial fisheries, the sportsfish and charter sector, seafood processors and Alaska Aquaculture. Last on the list, subsistence harvesters. And the word there was no application was available at this time. So out of all those harvester groups, the one group that needs it the most is the subsistence harvesters. We all know from 2020 the salmon sockeye season was 'nil throughout the whole region and there's a lot of empty jars, empty freezers without our sockeye this year in 2020. And here we are into the next year with Covid and looking at the spreadsheet, Alaska was slated for \$50 million and also Federally-recognized tribes in Alaska were slated for \$1 million and I would say that those funds probably would have went to the Federally-recognized tribes and we probably would have assisted our harvesters and all that they provide for and here it is unspent because there is no application available for subsistence harvesters with the State of Alaska.

So being an elected leader, we're dealing with many different things and so this one is just now coming to my forefront to start making those phone calls and contacting Terry Winkle, Office of the Manager Office, with the State of Alaska, Fish and Game, and to start asking questions, why aren't we working on a formula to get these funds out for people

0207

1 that need it.

2

3 That's my comments, thank you for your
4 time.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
7 Lee. Other questions for Mr. Wallace.

8

9 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Calvin
10 Casipit. I just had a quick question for Mr. Wallace.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cal.

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: Good to hear you, Lee.
15 Good to hear you on the phone. I just had a quick
16 question for you. When I got appointed I started
17 getting some emails and stuff and saw some copies of
18 things that I thought I saw a letter from you to the
19 local manager asking for the ability to basically,
20 under the existing regulatory structure now, to
21 basically pool -- you know, be able to send more than a
22 few people together in one boat and be able to harvest
23 more than just the one bucket between all those people.
24 What was the -- what happened with the result of that
25 letter -- that request, did you -- were you -- did you
26 get a satisfactory response or is there anything that
27 the Council can do to help with that. Because I'm
28 really -- I am, personally, really concerned about the
29 Unuk. You know, I was concerned way back when about
30 the conservation issues, they seem to be coming back
31 and it's great that we can provide a little bit of
32 harvest to the customary and traditional users, but if
33 there's a way we could improve that and help, sure
34 would like to help and I know the rest of the Council
35 would like to help provide for that opportunity.

36

37 So anything on that?

38

39 MR. WALLACE: Yeah, thank you for the
40 question. Yeah, again, I was most pleased with Mr.
41 Walker and his approach. We definitely wanted to have
42 that limited opening and so both conversations with MIC
43 and OVS, we were really looking at working together in
44 management and observation of, you know, the biomass.
45 When we were up there fishing, you know, both the U.S.
46 Forest Service and MIC and Saxman harvesters could
47 really kind of look at what kind of biomass we're
48 looking for and definitely we don't want to
49 overharvest. That was my initial response when I

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1 received a phone call from the District Ranger, I said,
2 you know, it's been closed and I said here we are with
3 an opening, what we really want to do is not to
4 overfish it and so we're looking at working together as
5 far as seeing what kind of fishery is available up
6 there and, you know, right now looking at keeping it to
7 Federally-qualified harvesters, and that's the key word
8 there. You know, I hear Pelican with their concerns
9 and, again, the key word there is giving an advantage
10 to those Federally-qualified harvesters in any fishery,
11 and if there's a -- there's, you know, stats that say
12 there's a limit on the game or fish, that should
13 definitely keep into account, you know, and giving the
14 nod to Federally-qualified users.

15

16 Thank you. I think we're going to be
17 working together on this, so thank you.

18

19 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Lee. I really
20 appreciate everything you do. I know how hard you've
21 been working, really appreciate it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other
24 questions from the Council for Mr. Wallace.

25

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

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

29

30 MR. KITKA: I just had maybe a comment
31 and maybe kind of a question. I don't know what Lee
32 Wallace and his -- I kind of know what he's proposing
33 and I like it, I like the idea, but I was wondering --
34 really the question for Lee Wallace but also for our
35 Council, is to what we can do about maybe having
36 community permits be handled by the tribal entities in
37 their communities. I really think that we shouldn't
38 have to go through a whole bunch of steps to have our
39 tribal councils handle this part to -- I know we need
40 to work on it, but I was wondering what Lee Wallace
41 would think of that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If you want to
44 respond, Lee.

45

46 MR. WALLACE: Yeah, thank you, Harvey.
47 Yeah, you know when I initially talked to District
48 Ranger, I said when a harvester goes out whether you're
49 going after game or fish or any other resource, a lot

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0209

1 of times you're actually harvesting for two, up to five
2 different households and so when we talked about the
3 harvest, you know, Shane actually worked with me and he
4 really kind of increased that amount because I told him
5 if anybody was to go out to harvest -- again, we're
6 harvesting for two or up to five households, so we went
7 from a five gallon bucket per household to 10 gallons
8 per bucket per household. And, again, I think we're
9 looking at trying to keep a whole bunch of people from
10 going up there and, you know, disturbing the run of the
11 eulachon in the river and people who were quite
12 knowledgeable, that were the main harvesters for years
13 have been the Metlakatla harvesters, they really know
14 that area quite well and so, yeah, thank you for the
15 comment and question, Harvey.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, is there
18 anybody else on the Council with questions for Mr.
19 Wallace.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I don't
24 think I'm hearing any. Lee, I just wanted to say that
25 I read those letters that were exchanged between you
26 and Mr. Walker there and I was actually pretty pleased
27 as well to hear his response. It sounded like he was
28 very receptive to what you wanted to do and it also
29 seemed that he couldn't do everything that you
30 requested, he felt he was constrained by what his
31 delegated authority allowed him to do which is
32 something that maybe can be addressed but, no, I was
33 glad to see his willingness to work with you. And also
34 wanted to point out that we've had a good cooperative
35 agreement with the Ketchikan Indian Community on
36 monitoring the Unuk. I can see moving forward, you
37 know, getting more tribal involvement in, you know, if
38 we are going to be able to have some fishing activity
39 up there on the eulachon that, you know, the tribes
40 could certainly aid in the management of that as well
41 so that's something we definitely need to look at.

42
43 So it'll probably fit right in with
44 discussions we're going to have, you know, later on
45 this meeting. So, I don't know, do you have anything
46 else to add.

47
48 MR. WALLACE: No, I don't, Don. Thank
49 you for your time.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
2 Lee.

3
4 MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Council.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna, do we have
7 somebody else on the line that we know wants to testify
8 this morning.

9
10 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, those were those
11 folks who identified themselves earlier this morning.
12 I don't know if anyone else has joined us since then
13 but those are the folks that I had on an earlier list.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Is there
16 anybody else that's come on the phone line that would
17 like to comment to the Council this morning.

18
19 MS. WAGNER: Hi, this is Tezia Wagner.

20
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

22
23 MS. WAGNER: Metlakatla Indian
24 Community.

25
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,
27 what was your name again?

28
29 MS. WAGNER: Tezia Wagner.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Tezia, okay,
32 Wagner, go ahead.

33
34 MS. WAGNER: Hi. I was in that meeting
35 with President Wallace and our MIC members as well as
36 Terry and Shane Walker and I've been able to speak with
37 Shane Walker a little bit afterwards when he traveled
38 last week to our community to issue out the permits for
39 the eulachon harvest on the Unuk River. My grandfather
40 is Louie Wagner, Jr., and he has been harvesting
41 eulachon for communities in Southeast since the '60s
42 and he was taught by his older brother, Bert May, who
43 has been harvesting probably before the '60s. So him,
44 my -- his brother, Bo Wagner, or Walter Wagner, maybe
45 you know of him as, and my uncle Louie Wagner, III.,
46 and as many of you know Louie Wagner is the grandson of
47 the (In Native). His family has been harvesting on
48 that river since time and immemorial and usually we are
49 -- our family are the ones that would harvest eulachon
50

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1 and bring it back for everyone and we only took as much
2 as we needed and as much as our communities needed. We
3 never overharvested or anything. And I thought it was
4 -- like President Wallace said, it was a great meeting
5 and Shane Walker is wanting to work closely with
6 Metlakatla Indian Community as well as Saxman and it's
7 made us all hopeful here in Metlakatla because we have
8 so many elders that have gone without eating their last
9 meal of eulachon from the Unuk River and we would like
10 to bring that back to our people again, and this is a
11 great first step on opening it back up the first time
12 in 15 years and seeing the hopeful faces when they
13 signed up for their permits.

14
15 And I just wanted to make a suggestion
16 that I completely agree with President Wallace to do a
17 community harvest and have only a few boats up there to
18 not disturb the ecosystem or the run. They're crafty
19 fish. Like he said dipnet and cast net, it's very
20 difficult, they're quick, the water's clear up there
21 and so beach seine is the easiest way and most
22 effective way to do it and you won't disturb them.
23 Because you have to run after them with the dipnet in
24 order to get what you need so community harvest would
25 be the best way. And my suggestion is to do what Shane
26 Walker did last week and have our community members
27 sign up for these permits and have a boat or a fisher
28 or a few fishers be able to proxy for more than just
29 one household, to do it for a whole community or two,
30 that way it's all done in one trip, there's less money
31 spent, there's less safety hazards, that is a very
32 dangerous river and we now it very well.

33
34 That's all I have to say, thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any
37 questions for Ms. Wagner.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not hearing
42 any questions. But I just want to say, you know, for
43 the Council, I know I came on the Council right about
44 the time that the Unuk River stocks collapsed and like
45 you say that was some time ago now. Your grandfather,
46 Mr. Louie Wagner, Sr., has come before the Council many
47 times, you know, informing us about the history of the
48 Unuk and the fishery and he's always been extremely
49 helpful and I think for those of us who have been on
50

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1 the Council for awhile, you know, we're pretty well
2 aware of the situation there although nobody's every
3 figured out why those stocks collapsed which is kind of
4 unfortunate. I don't think it had anything to do with
5 the fishing effort up there, it's factors probably
6 beyond our control but fortunately they do seem to be
7 building back slowly.

8

9 So I think we need to be able to move
10 forward after this 15 year closure and if there's some
11 opportunity for harvest I'm sure the Council would
12 support that.

13

14 So good hearing from you on this issue.
15 Like I say we know there's the vast amount of knowledge
16 and experience coming from Metlakatla on this. So we
17 probably will be working with you in the future, so
18 thank you Tezia for testifying this morning.

19

20 MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: Mr. Chair, this
21 is Melinda Hernandez Burke from the Forest Service.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Melinda.

24

25 MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: Hi. Good
26 morning. (In Tlingit) everybody. I just want to share
27 how happy my heart is to hear the story of
28 collaboration and communication between the tribes and
29 new Ranger Walker in the Ketchikan area. I am just so
30 pleased to see somebody new come in and immediately
31 build relationships, think outside the box and I'm just
32 want to give kudos, gunalcheesh, haw'aa, thank you to
33 everybody. This is just a great story and I think one
34 that we can continue to build on and is a great model.

35

36 I just want to express my appreciation
37 for the tribes and for Ranger Walker and everybody
38 involved.

39

40 Gunalcheesh.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
43 Melinda.

44

45 MR. WALLACE: Chairman Hernandez.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me.

48

49 MR. WALLACE: Chairman, this is

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0213

1 President Wallace, if I could make one more comment
2 after hearing from.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure, go ahead,
5 Lee.

6
7 MR. WALLACE: Yeah, just last night MIC
8 sent me an addendum to their special action request for
9 me to review it and I'm sure they probably need to edit
10 and they probably sent it in to Chairman Tony
11 Christianson and maybe I could request Southeast RAC to
12 touch in -- touch base with Tony on this and possibly
13 give the Southeast RAC's viewpoint on what has been
14 submitted by Metlakatla Indian Community.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah,
17 thanks, Lee. If there's anything new that's happening,
18 yeah, we should be informed of that and we may be able
19 to have some input into it. So, yeah, we'll check into
20 that.

21
22 MR. WALLACE: Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else on
25 the Council.....

26
27 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

30
31 MS. PERRY: Pardon me. This is DeAnna.
32 I just wanted to give folks a head's up, it looks like
33 our Teams meeting was disconnected so if folks were on
34 Teams and got an error message or got kicked off I'm
35 not quite sure why that happened but if you'll go
36 around and click the link again and get back in the
37 meeting is still there. I'm not quite sure what
38 happened, but I did want to bring that to people's
39 attention, just go ahead and click the link again and
40 you should be able to get back in.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks,
45 DeAnna. Was anybody else on the Council who wanted to
46 add to the discussion on Unuk River eulachons.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

0214

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. DeAnna, do
2 we have anybody else on the line, or maybe I should
3 just ask is there anybody else on the line.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think
8 that concludes our public testimony for the morning.
9 Thank you all for calling in, very helpful, good
10 discussion. So next up will be -- we're going to go
11 back to the Board of Fish proposals and Cathy Needham
12 was very helpful last night, she kind of organized what
13 we need to do to get this accomplished and DeAnna, has
14 everybody on the Council gotten the prioritization
15 list, I guess, that Cathy put together last night.

16
17 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I believe we
18 were going to show that on Teams. I can share that,
19 maybe I missed that, but I know we were going to have
20 that available to show visually. Do you want me to
21 send that out to folks, I think it was just a.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I see it up
24 on the Teams. If all the Council members can access
25 that, that's fine. But, anyhow, what Cathy did was she
26 kind of organized the, what is it, the 21 proposals
27 before us and prioritized them and there was, oh,
28 almost half of them that the Council had taken action
29 on last fall and then there's a few proposals that we
30 started to work on but asked for some more information
31 and then there's a number of proposals, it looks like
32 eight proposals that we haven't done any work on at
33 all. So what we're proposing to do is to go through
34 these in a prioritized fashion. We'll start with the
35 ones that we haven't addressed much before and try and
36 work on those and then we'll go back and look at the
37 few that we talked about previously and might have more
38 discussion on. And then the ones that we've already
39 come to a decision on last fall, I'm going to ask any
40 of the Council members who weren't on last fall to
41 maybe take a look at those and if there's anything
42 about those decisions that we made last fall that you
43 want to question or bring back to the Council you can
44 do that. If we're all in agreement of what we did last
45 fall is done then we don't really need to address those
46 again. So.....

47
48 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

49
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0215

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
4 actually do need to vote to finalize the work that the
5 Council did. The vote that we took at the last Council
6 meeting was to adopt the preliminary comments for the
7 next meeting so we do need a vote to finalize those and
8 it could be as short as, you know, finalize the work of
9 the last meeting, but that does need to be part of the
10 record.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
13 DeAnna, that sounds easy to do. So I guess also, you
14 know, for the more recent Council members if there were
15 any other proposals that you saw in the book that you
16 wanted to bring to our attention that we did not
17 identify yet, do that as well this morning. So I'd
18 like to take a 15 minute break and give everybody a
19 chance to stretch your legs and maybe review some of
20 these again, make sure we know what we're going to do
21 and we'll come back at 10:45 and start up with those.
22 My goal is to try and have these done this morning so
23 we can move on to our wildlife proposals this
24 afternoon. I think I'm going to leave it at the end of
25 the morning this morning, even if we haven't completed
26 them, and move on, and we'll have to come back to it,
27 but that's our goal. Try and wrap up the Board of Fish
28 proposals by noon today. So let's keep that in mind.

29

30 Okay, we'll recess until 10:45.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna, could you
37 do a quick roll call and see if the Council's back.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Alrighty. Okay, good
40 morning, it's almost 10:45 and the Council will be back
41 in session after their break and I just want to
42 doublecheck which Council members we have back on.

43

44 Cathy Needham.

45

46 MS. NEEDHAM: I'm back.

47

48 Larry Bemis, Jr.

49

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0216

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PERRY: Larry are you back with us,

4 I see that you sent me an email and I will send you

5 that information shortly. Are you online, Larry.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.

10

11 MR. KITKA: I'm back.

12

13 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Harvey.

14

15 Harold Robbins.

16

17 MR. ROBBINS: I'm here.

18

19 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

20

21 Ian Johnson.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. PERRY: Cal Casipit.

26

27 MR. CASIPIT: Here.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Cal.

30

31 Mike Douville.

32

33 MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

36

37 Jim Slater.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. PERRY: Robert Schroeder.

42

43 MR. SCHROEDER: Standing by.

44

45 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Bob.

46

47 Albert Howard.

48

49 MR. HOWARD: Here.

50

0217

1 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Albert.

2

3 Larry Bemis, are you back with us.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MS. PERRY: I'm not sure if perhaps
8 you're on mute.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MS. PERRY: Ian Johnson.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MS. PERRY: Frank. Frank Wright, have
17 you rejoined us.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. PERRY: Okay. Currently, and, Don,
22 I just heard you, so currently we have 8 of our 12
23 members online, you do have a quorum if you'd like to
24 go ahead, Mr. Chair.

25

26 MR. BEMIS: Excuse me, this is Larry.

27

28 MS. PERRY: Oh, hi, Larry.

29

30 MR. BEMIS: I'm checking in.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There's nine.
35 Okay, we'll probably get everybody back here very
36 shortly. Like I said, Cathy organized things for us
37 last night a little better, and, Cathy, I just thought
38 I might check with you, I don't know if you would like
39 to lead us through this discussion. It kind of
40 occurred to me that when I didn't really think I was
41 going to be on the Council for this meeting I really
42 didn't do as much homework looking into these as I
43 probably should have, I don't know if you feel if
44 you're better prepared, I'd be glad to turn it over to
45 you at this time. I don't want to put you on the spot,
46 though, I'm glad to do it, I'm wondering if you had
47 planned on doing it and were a little better prepared
48 than I was -- am.

49

50

0218

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.
2 I don't know that I am any more prepared than you are
3 but if you would like for me to do it because I
4 organized this and I have it in my head of how to go
5 through these maybe a little quicker I'm happy to do it
6 for you, no problem.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, if you would
9 want to do that I'd be glad to let you lead the
10 discussion so, yeah, go ahead.

11
12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
13 you, Mr. Chairman. For Council members, I'm hoping
14 that you all have the road map of potential Southeast
15 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council comments
16 for the Board of Fish proposals before you, that's in
17 your supplemental handout materials we started working
18 through them yesterday. And I think that road map and
19 guide is a good synthesis so you don't have to flip
20 through the Board of Fish proposal book.

21
22 And, again, the Council did a lot of
23 work at the last meeting on proposals that are in this
24 and so I just want to make sure that everyone
25 understands that the ones that -- that the spreadsheet
26 that I put together that's on the Teams board is not in
27 the same order as the one of the road map but you
28 should be able to flip through this a little bit
29 quicker to get to the proposal when we discuss them.
30 I'd like to start off with the ones that we didn't
31 finish, and do our due diligence on, and maybe that
32 would begin with finishing up -- we did hear from
33 Hydaburg Cooperative Association yesterday, that might
34 be fresh in everybody's mind, Proposal 210, which was
35 submitted by the Hydaburg Cooperative Association
36 regarding a closure for crab fishery.

37
38 Someone needs to make a motion to
39 support this and then we can have our discussion on if
40 the Council would like to provide comment to the Board
41 of Fish on that.

42
43 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
44 Albert.

45
46 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Howard.

47
48 MR. HOWARD: I had thought we did the
49 motion to support that yesterday already or was that
50

0219

1 something else.

2

3 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
4 Howard. What we actually did was move to support the
5 proposal that was just before it, I believe it was No.
6 177 and that was for the closure on shrimp fisheries,
7 there were two separate proposals that were prepared,
8 so we didn't actually do anything by motion on Proposal
9 210 yesterday.

10

11 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, I move to
12 support 210.

13

14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Is
15 there a second.

16

17 MR. KITKA: Second it.

18

19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you.
20 Does the Council wish to have any discussion regarding
21 this proposal.

22

23 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, this is Calvin
24 Casipit. I don't really need to discuss this anymore,
25 I heard plenty enough from Mr. Christianson yesterday.
26 I think, again, similar to rationale for the previous
27 one, 177, I think the area that's requesting to be
28 closed to commercial harvest is fairly small. It's
29 smaller compared to the area open to the entire
30 commercial crab fishery and that this is needed to
31 preserve the customary and traditional uses for the
32 people of Hydaburg. I support and will be voting in
33 support of this.

34

35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for
36 providing that justification for the record, Mr.
37 Casipit. Is there any other discussion or comments
38 from the Council.

39

40 MR. HOWARD: Just a thought, Madame
41 Chair, this is Albert.

42

43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

44

45 MR. HOWARD: Thanks, Madame Chair.
46 Maybe in the future we may consider, as an example,
47 Angoon, pick a bay or two you'd like to see
48 specifically for subsistence that not -- doesn't
49 necessarily impact commercial. Because there's a
50

0220

1 couple of places here that -- there is a lodge in town
2 that's required to have a commercial crab permit so
3 they'll run up to the place and set their pots all over
4 the bay and then that takes away from us when they
5 could go a little -- another 10 miles and set somewhere
6 else but they choose to set where we set. So just a
7 thought, maybe we can try to designate subsistence
8 areas for each community that's Federally-qualified and
9 see if we can do one proposal that designates an area
10 for each community.

11

12 That's just a thought.

13

14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
17 Howard. Are there any other Council members that would
18 like to speak towards the proposal.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy, this is
21 Don. I would vote to support this proposal. I think
22 Cal laid out the reasons I'm in support of it quite
23 well. I would agree with everything that he said.

24

25 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
26 Hernandez. Does any other Council members have
27 comments.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
30 Frank.

31

32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Wright.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: You know like I said
35 yesterday that closure in this area behind the island
36 over here really benefitted the community since the
37 commercial can't go in there so like I said I lost pots
38 every time when the commercial opened. But I would
39 speaker in favor of this motion.

40

41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
44 Wright. Any other comments from Council members
45 regarding Proposal 210.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'd like to call

50

0221

1 for the question.

2

3 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. The
4 question's been called. Mr. Wright, would you please
5 do a roll call vote.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Wright, are
10 you on mute, would you please do a roll call vote.

11

12 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Cal.

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

17

18 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

21

22 MR. SLATER: Yes.

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: Robert Schroeder.

25

26 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

29

30 MR. HOWARD: Yes.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: Donald Hernandez.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

35

36 MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

37

38 MR. ROBBINS: Yes.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

41

42 MR. KITKA: Yes.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

45

46 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

49

50

0222

1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Ian Johnson.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Ian Johnson.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Frank votes yes. Motion
12 passes.

13

14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
15 you, Mr. Wright. The next.....

16

17 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair.

18

19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Ms. Perry.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Sorry to
22 interrupt but I just wanted to confirm, was that Cal
23 who seconded that motion?

24

25 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka.

26

27 MS. PERRY: Harvey. Thank you, Harvey.
28 It was hard to figure out who was speaking, I
29 appreciate that, thanks.

30

31 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. All
32 right, the next proposal is Proposal 127. It was
33 submitted by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe. We did have
34 some discussion on this proposal at our last Council
35 meeting, however, the Regional Advisory Council was
36 interested in knowing -- was seeking more advice from
37 the Yakutat AC. I'm unsure if any representatives from
38 the AC are available if there are specific questions,
39 however, potentially the Alaska Department of Fish and
40 Game, if they're on, might be able to help clear up any
41 questions that we had.

42

43 This proposal has to do with repealing
44 the net tending requirement in Yakutat Bay and I'm not
45 sure if there's one of our Council members from Yakutat
46 Tlingit Tribe, if Mr. Bemis wants to talk a little bit
47 more about that, and I would invite him to do so.
48 Otherwise Staff might be able to remind us what the
49 issue was from -- why we didn't take action on this
50

0223

1 from our last meeting and what we were needing advice
2 from the AC from but I'll call on Mr. Bemis, if he's
3 interested in speaking towards the proposal at this
4 time.

5

6 MR. BEMIS: Yes, Cathy, this is Larry.
7 It was a representative -- the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
8 didn't exactly, along with Yakutat Kwaan, 126 and 127,
9 those are individual -- the tribe itself didn't -- it
10 was a position put in by an individual and they used
11 the tribe as a backing of it. It didn't come from any
12 fisheries -- directly from the tribe itself.

13

14 Our problem is, is that we are unable
15 to have an AC quorum because of Covid and the State
16 didn't set anything up, we haven't had any meetings.
17 We don't have -- our Board has run out of the time
18 served, we've got to have new Board members voted in,
19 so without having a meeting and without having anything
20 set up like doing a virtual or a call in or any of
21 this, we've been just on hold.

22

23 Now, I talked to the local Fish and
24 Game manager here in Yakutat and he said that these
25 proposals are going to stay in limbo until November.
26 He said everything will stay the same because there'll
27 be nothing put in. We would like to have this
28 represented and I'm not really sure where the AC sits
29 on this. We're the ones that kind of set that up in
30 2008 and they want to rescind it based on -- because
31 the fish that have returned that -- the rivers that
32 have been in question, like the Situk River and the
33 Alsek, now they're escapement on the kings have
34 returned, but whether that's going to happen this next
35 year we're not really sure but this wasn't really a
36 total intention to make this into law, it was -- we
37 were going to see at the time we were in crises mode,
38 we were doing everything we could to make sure that the
39 fish got to the stream. So there was no intention of
40 keeping this as a law. This was just a preservation
41 act.

42

43 And what now is happening is the people
44 are saying you guys have got your kings, we would like
45 to be able to get our rights back of the original
46 fishery. And I'm not really sure where the AC sits on
47 this. These letters have been put out and I don't
48 think the AC has put anything on as far as the AC Board
49 itself. There might be individuals, and I'm thinking

50

0224

1 that this was an individual that wrote through Yakutat
2 Kwaan on 126 and 127. Because I'm on the fisheries
3 board for the Yakutat Tlingit Tribes and I did not see
4 this -- I did not have a meeting and I did not see this
5 letter that was put out.

6
7 So I would say more this is an
8 individual group that is tribal members and the same
9 with the Kwaan, those are Kwaan members. So we're kind
10 of at a standstill of what the local Fish and Game
11 manager's saying and what the AC was. So until we get
12 a Board, my understanding is from the local manager is
13 that this is going to sit in limbo until November, in
14 other words this law cannot be changed. So at this
15 time maybe by come this fall that we'll have a little
16 more refined direction of where the AC's going to be
17 and where they stand with this.

18
19 So these two proposals basically are in
20 limbo right now.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
25 you, Mr. Bemis, and thank you for pointing out that the
26 proposals were sort of addressing, it looks like the
27 same issue, Proposal 126 and 127.

28
29 MR. BEMIS: Correct.

30
31 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: And just to remind
32 the Council members and for the benefit of the new
33 Council members, what we're doing is trying to
34 determine whether or not this body, the Regional
35 Advisory Council, would like to make comments regarding
36 proposals. At our last meeting these were proposals
37 that were brought forward to us as potential proposals
38 that we could support, we also have the option to take
39 no action if we did not want to take a position on
40 these proposals. And I just wanted to -- I meant to
41 say that in the beginning so I'm saying it now.

42
43 Is there any other clarifications that
44 need to be made regarding these two proposals and if
45 not I would entertain the wish of the Council.

46
47 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

48
49 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

50

0225

1 MR. KITKA: Yes, hi, I'm a little --
2 maybe I need to ask a question first before I recommend
3 something. I'm a little unclear about what this
4 proposal is. Is this subsistence for sockeye that they
5 got there that the permits are saying that we can get
6 incidental catches on coho and king but I'm not sure.
7 I read it and reread it and I just can't see it.

8
9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
10 Kitka. When I look at it, I see them as net tending --
11 repealing net tending requirements. But maybe we can
12 ask, if there is a Staff person that can give us a
13 concise explanation of what these two proposals are
14 addressing.

15
16 MR. SUMINSKI: This is Terry Suminski,
17 Madame Chair.

18
19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
20 Suminski.

21
22 MR. SUMINSKI: I think Harvey may be
23 looking -- sorry.

24
25 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I just said thank
26 you, Mr. Suminski.

27
28 MR. SUMINSKI: Oh. I think Harvey may
29 be looking at Proposal 125 from what he described.
30 That was the one that involved allowing the issuance of
31 permits for king salmon for Southeast. These two
32 proposals deal specifically with Yakutat and net
33 tending.

34
35 (Teleconference interference - beeping)

36
37 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
38 Suminski. I hear that noise and I automatically.....

39
40 MR. SUMINSKI: So I'm not sure
41 what.....

42
43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM:think fire.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MR. SUMINSKI: Yeah, I was wondering if
48 that was me. But I know -- my recollection of the last
49 meeting, that we weren't sure about these proposals --
50

0226

1 or the Council was not sure about these proposals
2 because of the -- it was enacted during the last Board
3 of Fish cycle and I think at that time it was supported
4 by the Advisory Committee, if I'm not mistaken, and
5 then this time these -- it's trying to repeal it during
6 this next Board of Fish cycle, and it appears they're
7 from the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe but it sounds like Mr.
8 Bemis had different ideas about that.

9

10 But the -- and I remember that Harold
11 Robbins had some comments on these as well. But we
12 were kind of about in the same spot as we are right now
13 as far as we didn't know -- the Council didn't know
14 which way to go. So maybe Mr. Robbins has some
15 comments as well.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
20 you, Mr. Suminski. I do want to check back with Mr.
21 Kitka to make sure that Terry is correct in that he
22 might have been referring to Proposal 125.

23

24 MR. KITKA: Yeah, I guess I was looking
25 at 125 and looking at all of them and trying to figure
26 out where I was on this, and so I guess we're on 126
27 and 127.

28

29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Correct. We're
30 kind of discussing those two similar proposals in
31 tandem to decide if we want to include them in our
32 letter of support with comments. We skipped over 125
33 because the Council spent a lot of time on that
34 proposal, not to mention it was a proposal that was
35 submitted by the Council. We did do a lot of due
36 diligence work on that proposal at our last Regional
37 Advisory Council meeting, Harvey. So we're trying to
38 put in the work on proposals that we haven't spent much
39 time on yet and that, right now, includes 126 and 127.

40

41 MR. KITKA: Okay, thank you.

42

43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Robbins, did
44 you -- yep, no problem, thank you. Mr. Robbins, did
45 you want to add any comments at this time.

46

47 MR. ROBBINS: Yes, thank you, Madame
48 Chair. Yeah, what the idea was was there was a couple
49 of subsistence nets that seem to get set and weren't

50

0227

1 tended very closely and it caused some dissention in
2 the community and so I think that's kind of where this
3 was going with this and the AC had kind of picked it up
4 and run with it. I wasn't on the AC but that's my best
5 recollection of it and they were trying to get it
6 rescinded.

7

8 And if you look at the regulations for
9 the Yakutat area, if you get your permit, in it, is
10 condition No. 5, is Yakutat Bay subsistence
11 permitholder must attend their set gillnet at all
12 times, April 1st through May 31. Item No. 6, the Situk
13 River, each permitholder must attend their net at all
14 times when it's being used for taking of salmon. So
15 it's not just bay specific, but -- so consequently
16 that's kind of where that's at.

17

18 So, personally, I kind of think it's
19 reasonable but there's others that don't agree with
20 that so that's kind of where we're at with this.

21

22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
23 Robbins. At this time I would ask if the Council would
24 like to take a position on these, one or both of these
25 proposals.

26

27 MR. CASIPIT: Well, Mrs. Chair -- Ms.
28 Chair, this is Cal Casipit again. I had a quick
29 question, maybe Staff can answer it. For the
30 commercial users, are they required to attend their
31 nets in the same way?

32

33 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
34 Casipit. Do we have a Staff member that can answer
35 that question for us.

36

37 MR. BEMIS: This is Larry.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair, this is
40 DeAnna. I don't know if Mr. Chadwick or another State
41 biologist has joined us today. I know Mr. Chadwick was
42 on earlier.

43

44 MR. BEMIS: Mr. Chair, this is Larry.
45 I commercial fish the Yakutat area and, no, there is no
46 attending a commercial net. In fact, this proposal
47 that both 126 and 7 only participates to the Yakutat
48 Bay area, which before 2018, you were allowed to set
49 the net and fish it without tending it 24/7. It was

50

0228

1 only until we had a little bit of a crises on a fish
2 return, which now the fish have returned and the people
3 want to have their rights back. Because this is a
4 subsistence issue. And it was never originally
5 intended to become law.

6
7 Now, the Situk River is a law because
8 they have the kings, are having problems, other
9 fisheries been having problems so they adopted tend
10 your net in the Situk River. No other rivers do you
11 have to tend your net or any of -- other than the
12 Yakutat Bay and the Situk River that I know of. I am
13 not positive what other rivers have but I know that
14 those two rivers are the only ones that had -- put this
15 into law. Now, what the subsistence users are asking
16 is to rescind the law for the net only in Yakutat Bay
17 for the harvest of the spring king salmon from the
18 April 1 through the May 31, I think it is. I'm not
19 really sure what those dates are.

20
21 So my feeling on this situation is that
22 we never did have the AC bring in their recommendation
23 in order to follow through with this because this is
24 kind of an individual request coming from the Kwaan and
25 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, and we never did have a
26 recommendation come from the AC. And I kind of feel
27 until we have an AC support, where this started, we're
28 kind of in a holding pattern right now.

29
30 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
31 Bemis. Mr. Casipit, did you have a followup to your
32 question.

33
34 MR. CASIPIT: Well, I don't really have
35 a followup but I guess I got to make an observation.

36
37 You know, I understand what the
38 proponents are asking for here. I understand how that
39 reg -- how the net tending regulation got put in place,
40 it was concern of conservation for chinook salmon. But
41 I have a problem and it seems that whenever there's a
42 conservation issue the first people to get restricted
43 are the subsistence users. And I can't, for my life,
44 understand why we would put a net tending restriction
45 on subsistence users who are catching one king salmon
46 when we don't have the same -- when there's not the
47 same net tending requirement for the commercial fishery
48 which is taking a lot more. I just -- you know, I
49 understand we want the ACs input and all but just from
50

0229

1 a -- just in my gut I'm feeling that this isn't fair
2 what happened. And that it seems like the subsistence
3 users are taking the restrictions and taking the brunt
4 of the conservation measures that need to happen. And
5 it always seems that way. To me, it always seemed that
6 way, that whenever there was a conservation issue the
7 first people to take the action and the first people to
8 suffer are the subsistence users and that's backwards.

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you remember
11 him.

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted - cross talk - typing)

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
17 Casipit. Are there other Council members.

18

19 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair.

20

21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes. I didn't --
22 there was some typing so could you identify yourself
23 please.

24

25 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
26 Albert.

27

28 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
29 Howard, you have the floor.

30

31 MR. HOWARD: I move to support Proposal
32 127.

33

34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there a second.

35

36 MR. SLATER: This is Jim Slater, I
37 second it.

38

39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
40 Slater. Seconded by Mr. Slater. Is there any Council
41 discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I would recommend
46 Council, now that we're in sort of deliberation or
47 justification of supporting this Proposal No. 127,
48 which is to repeal the net tending requirement, that we
49 add a little bit of rationale so that can be captured

50

0230

1 and put into the Board of Fish.

2

3 MR. ROBBINS: Madame Chairman, this is
4 Harold.

5

6 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
7 Robbins, you have the floor.

8

9 MR. ROBBINS: Yes, one thing maybe we
10 ought to consider is that often times, at least
11 personally where I subsistence fish, if you don't tend
12 the net quite closely it soon becomes a feeding trough,
13 or a bait station for all the sea lions and the seals
14 within a very large radius. And I generally end up
15 with nothing except heads and pieces if I don't tend
16 the net very closely. I haven't never subsistence
17 fished in Yakutat Bay but I've fished in the Alsek
18 River for nearly 50 years that way. So anyway that's
19 my personal observation and maybe just a note that
20 everybody needs to take into account for.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
25 Robbins. Are there other Council members with
26 comments.

27

28 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

29

30 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
31 Kitka.

32

33 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. I feel that
34 there's no conservation concern with this proposal. I
35 feel that it's detrimental to the subsistence person.
36 I feel that the State of Alaska has got the subsistence
37 priorities backwards for a long time so I will support
38 this.

39

40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
41 Kitka. Are there other Council comments.

42

43 MR. BEMIS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
44 Larry Bemis. It is the wish of the people of Yakutat
45 to rescind this because it was never intended to be
46 law. So the thing is is that everybody in Yakutat,
47 this is why these were personally put in and
48 represented by the different Yakutat Tribe and the
49 Kwaan is for reasons that they've taken upon themselves
50

0231

1 because they're the ones that are being affected and it
2 seemed like to me that it would be the wishes of the
3 people to have back what they had before. And all I
4 was saying is that when I talked to Fish and Game we
5 got held up on it because the AC didn't weigh in.

6
7 But as far as the subsistence users,
8 which, who we represent, we don't represent the AC, the
9 Yakutat people have spoke and these are their wishes.
10 And as an AC member, as a Tlingit Tribe member and a
11 Kwaan member, I agree to rescind this because it's the
12 wishes of the users. So that's my part in this.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
17 Bemis. Are there other Council comments.

18
19 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, this is Cal
20 Casipit, I've heard enough I'm ready for the question.

21
22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, the
23 question's been called. Mr. Wright, would you do a
24 roll call vote, please.

25
26 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.

27
28 Cal Casipit -- I'm have a hard time
29 with your name, Casipit.

30
31 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

32
33 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

38
39 MR. DOUVILLE: Votes yes.

40
41 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

42
43 MR. SLATER: Yes.

44
45 MR. WRIGHT: Robert Schroeder.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

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0232

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MR. HOWARD: Yes.
MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

MR. ROBBINS: Yes.

MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

MR. KITKA: Yes.

MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

MR. BEMIS: Yes.

MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

MR. WRIGHT: Ian Johnson.

(No comments)

MR. WRIGHT: Ian Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: I apologize I was -- I had to do a previous engagement during most of the discussions so since it doesn't sound like it will sway the vote I will abstain from this one.

MR. WRIGHT: So is that a no or yes or abstain.

MR. JOHNSON: I believe it's a -- yeah, yes then.

MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Frank votes yes. Motion passes, Madame Chair.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Wright. So we will include support for Proposal 127 in our letter with the rationale that we laid out.

The next proposal is Proposal 126, which I'll remind everyone that Mr. Bemis let us know that this one is related and similar to 127, we could simply roll them together with our support if the

0233

1 Council would like to provide comments for the Board of
2 Fish on that proposal, or we could take no action.
3 What is the wish of the Council.

4
5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this
6 is Don.

7
8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm going to make
11 a motion that we take no action on 126, I think
12 Proposal 127 is adequate support.

13
14 MR. KITKA: I'll second that. Harvey
15 Kitka here.

16
17 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. It's
18 been moved and seconded to take no action, is there any
19 comments or questions from the Council.

20
21 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, this is Cal
22 Casipit, I move that we have a unanimous consent to
23 take no action on that proposal, 126.

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'll second that.

26
27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
28 Casipit and Mr. Hernandez. So hearing no objection, we
29 can move on to the next one.

30
31 (No objection)

32
33 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is that correct,
34 we can move on to the next one at this point.

35
36 MR. WRIGHT: If there's no
37 objection.....

38
39 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair.

40
41 MR. WRIGHT:yes we can move on.

42
43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
44 Wright. So hearing no objection we will move on to the
45 next one. The next proposal that we need to do our due
46 diligence on is Proposal 130. It actually starts on
47 the back side of the third page on your road map.

48
49 Proposal 130 was submitted by the
50

0234

1 Klawock AC. The Council did discuss this a little bit
2 at our last meeting, however, we were unclear on what
3 the proposal is asking for and we hoped to hear more
4 from either the representatives from the Klawock or the
5 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The proposal is to
6 modify fishing times and locations for the subsistence
7 salmon fishery in the Klawock River and Lake.

8
9 So I would like to ask whether or not
10 if there's any -- if the proponent is on the line, the
11 proponent for this proposal, is the Klawock AC, if
12 they're on the line at this time.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, not
17 hearing from them. I'd like to ask if there is any
18 representatives from Alaska Department of Fish and Game
19 on the line that might be able to help us with
20 questions regarding this proposal.

21
22 MR. THYNES: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
23 is Troy Thynes with Fish and Game here. I'm prepared
24 to answer any questions you may have.

25
26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
27 Thynes. All right, so Council members Proposal 130,
28 modifying fishing times and locations for subsistence
29 salmon fishery in the Klawock River and Lake as
30 follows:

31
32 From July 10th through July 31st
33 annually, sockeye salmon may be taken in the waters of
34 Klawock Harbor enclosed by a line from the northernmost
35 tip of Klawock Island, the Klawock River and Klawock
36 Lake only from 12:01 a.m., Monday until 11:59 p.m.,
37 Friday.

38
39 Is there any Council members that
40 remember from the last meeting what questions that we
41 had regarding this particular proposal -- well,
42 actually I will add -- before I do that I will add,
43 you'll note in our road map the Council was unclear
44 what is being asked for and how this relates to the
45 Klawock Management Plan. Is there specific questions
46 from the Council for Mr. Thynes on this proposal.

47
48 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, this is Cal
49 Casipit. I have a question for Mr. Thynes. It's been
50

0235

1 awhile since I've -- and I don't have all the papers in
2 front of me but what is the current regulation there
3 for the take of sockeye in terms of fishing schedule
4 and these July 10 to 31 dates?

5

6 MR. THYNES: Sure. The current
7 regulations allow subsistence and personal use fishing
8 for salmon in Klawock Inlet and the estuary down stream
9 of the Klawock River bridge from July 7th through
10 August 7th on a weekly fishing period from 8:00 a.m.,
11 until 5:00 p.m., on Friday, Monday through Friday.

12

13 MR. CASIPIT: So basically this cuts
14 off some time for subsistence fishing basically.

15

16 MR. THYNES: What this proposal would
17 do is it would do two things. It would extend the area
18 allowed to fish and it would also reduce the fishing
19 time by one week from August 7th to July 31st.

20

21 MR. CASIPIT: Okay, thank you. Are
22 there any other questions regarding this proposal that
23 Mr. Thynes might be able to help us through.

24

25 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

26

27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

28

29 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair. I know that
30 -- maybe Staff can answer this, would this be
31 detrimental to any of the other subsistence users down
32 stream because of the shortened time limit?

33

34 MR. THYNES: Madame Chair, this is Troy
35 Thynes here again. I'm not sure if I'm supposed to
36 respond to questions for Staff or in particular from
37 the Fish and Game so -- and so I'm not sure how you
38 want me to proceed there.

39

40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Thynes, if you
41 have an answer to the question we'd like to hear it,
42 otherwise we can see if there's anyone else on our
43 Staff that might be able to help us with that.

44

45 MR. THYNES: Okay. So if I understand
46 the question correctly, was, if other subsistence users
47 would be affected down stream; and that is a difficult
48 question to answer. Certainly, reducing the time
49 period could affect people who want to -- who would
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1 rather fish in that first week of August period, but,
2 then again increasing the area in particular to an area
3 that has shown in the past to be where sockeye are more
4 susceptible to harvest could increase harvest. There
5 could be, you know, a net increase in harvest, or a net
6 loss in harvest, you know, based on the increase in
7 area versus reduction of time. Hard to say on that.

8
9 I will say that, you know, this
10 particular area has been an area that has been a
11 concern of users in the past, the area above the bridge
12 as far as opening up the harvest. And to address these
13 concerns, and based on proposals from the local
14 Advisory Committees and the Southeast Subsistence
15 Regional Advisory Committee the Board established
16 regulations that closed to fishing on the weekends and
17 closed waters above the Klawock River bridge in 2015.
18 So the weekend closures occurred in 1986 and then the
19 closed waters above the bridge occurred in 2015. So
20 this is something that both your body and the Board of
21 Fisheries has addressed before.

22
23 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
24 Thynes. Mr. Kitka, did you have any followup to your
25 question.

26
27 MR. KITKA: I have to think about that
28 for awhile. I still didn't get an answer whether it
29 would be detrimental but would -- was there any
30 conservation concerns with the sockeye returns in the
31 lake?

32
33 MR. THYNES: Through the Chair. Mr.
34 Kitka. Yes, there has been conservation concerns for
35 Klawock River sockeye and, you know, concerns continue.
36 In recent years sockeye stocks throughout Southeast
37 have been on a decline in general, there certainly are
38 some sockeye stocks that have done better than others.
39 But -- and in this particular system, I believe, in
40 recent years it's been showing a decline. So these
41 regulations that have been, again, like I said,
42 addressed by local Advisory Committees, the RAC, and as
43 well as the Board of Fisheries have been in response to
44 conservation concerns from those bodies.

45
46 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

47
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Mr.
2 Douville.

3
4 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you. The Council
5 supported the closure from above the bridge a few years
6 back for conservation purposes. Those fish were
7 getting hammered up in the mouth of the creek, and, you
8 know, the runs have been severely depressed there so in
9 any case I'm not sure about the other parts, why they
10 would want to reduce the time. Anyway, I would not be
11 in favor of supporting this one as it opens up more
12 area, which we're trying to conserve -- during the
13 sockeye run, in any case, trying to conserve sockeyes.
14 But there's nothing wrong with opening it after the
15 sockeyes have passed for cohos. But that's my
16 thoughts.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
21 Douville. Are there other questions or would someone
22 on the Council like to put forward a motion to support
23 this or take no action.

24
25 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, I move to
26 support Proposal 131.

27
28 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard, the
29 proposal we're discussing right now is 130, did you
30 mean 130 -- did you say 130 or 131, I thought I heard
31 131.

32
33 MR. HOWARD: Excuse me, that's 130,
34 you're correct.

35
36 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there a second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: This is Don, I'll
39 second.

40
41 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
42 Hernandez. The Council moved to support Proposal 130
43 so we're now in Council discussion on what we would
44 like to include in our comments to the Board of Fish
45 regarding this proposal.

46
47 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
48 Albert.

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.

4 We heard the reason we closed it was a conservation
5 concern, but what we didn't hear is what they've done
6 to other user groups to address this concern. This
7 demonstrates what they've done to subsistence users,
8 but there's no demonstration of what was done to other
9 user groups to address the same concern. It was just
10 put squarely on the shoulders of the subsistence user
11 and that's what they have demonstrated to me. So
12 that's why I'm supporting this.

13

14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.

17 Howard. Are there other Council comments.

18

19 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

20

21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

22

23 MR. KITKA: I had one more question,
24 maybe of Staff. When is the biggest run of the
25 sockeyes that go to the lake, what time periods, what
26 months and what days?

27

28 MR. SUMINSKI: Ms. Needham, this is

29 Terry Suminski.

30

31 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Suminski.

32

33 MR. SUMINSKI: I don't have the run
34 timing information in front of me, maybe Mr. Thynes
35 does, but I could maybe add to Mr. Kitka's earlier
36 question. This proposal is outside of Federal
37 jurisdiction and really wouldn't have any effect on
38 Federally-qualified users. So people fishing up in the
39 river under Federal rules, this would not change
40 anything.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.

45 Suminski. Harvey, were you still looking for an answer
46 to your question regarding run timing?

47

48 MR. KITKA: Basically it would probably

49 go to the State.

50

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Mr.
2 Thynes, do you happen to have that information
3 available?
4

5 MR. THYNES: Yeah, so I don't have the
6 specific run timings for that stock at my ready
7 disposal right here, right now, but generally speaking
8 from what I understand of it, it is typical run timing
9 for that area, where the fish start coming in in June
10 and July, and are going to peak out coming through the
11 salt water sometime in late July and early August. And
12 I should add that there's -- you know, for the Klawock
13 Lake, it's a fairly short distance between the salt
14 water and the lake itself.
15

16 MR. KITKA: Thank you.
17

18 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
19 you. Are there other Council comments.
20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this
22 is Don.
23

24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
25 Hernandez, you have the floor.
26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you.
28 I'm going to tend to support this proposal even though
29 it's -- there is some disagreement, I guess, on what
30 the benefits would be versus the possible impacts. I
31 know that we do like to support local Advisory
32 Committees when they put in a proposal, and they are
33 obviously the people closest to the fishery and
34 probably know it best. I'm looking on our Council book
35 where we have some information on Klawock Lake
36 escapement, I believe we had a weir in place there for
37 a number of years. It's in our book on Page -- oh,
38 these pages -- I don't see numbers on them, it's a
39 harvest report -- it might be Page 38. I don't know,
40 there's a Prince of Wales section on the information we
41 have on harvest and escapements for the area. And it
42 shows for Klawock Lake, while it was being monitored,
43 there was a drastic decline in escapement, oh,
44 approximately 10 years ago now. It kind of shows that
45 the stocks may have been rebuilding somewhat in the
46 recent years, although we don't have any information
47 for the past couple of years, unfortunately, but I
48 think what this proposal is seeking is to increase some
49 opportunity for harvest for subsistence users. It
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1 sounds like they're trying to balance that somewhat
2 with decreasing the time that is available to harvest,
3 but increasing the area for harvest and I'm sure that's
4 something they've given some careful consideration to.

5

6 So I would tend to support their
7 proposal based on the fact that we may be seeing some
8 indications of some improvement in the escapement in
9 recent years and they may see an opportunity to
10 increase subsistence harvest, so, yes, I'm going to
11 support the proposal.

12

13 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
14 Hernandez. Are there other comments from the Council.

15

16 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, this is Calvin
17 Casipit. I think Mr. Hernandez has done an excellent
18 job outlining the issues and, you know, I am kind of
19 torn between giving up time for area. I think,
20 personally, I'd rather have the time. But since this
21 is coming from local users I have the tendency to go
22 with what the local folks want. So, you know, my
23 personal preference doesn't really matter. So, yeah, I
24 have a tendency to support this. I plan to support
25 this, and it's because the local people have asked for
26 it, and like Mr. Hernandez said it looks like there is
27 some recovering escapement. So if the runs are
28 improving then I think it's right that the subsistence
29 users have a little bit of an extra shot if that's what
30 they think is going to get them that.

31

32 So I'm ready to support this.

33

34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
35 Casipit. Are there other comments from Council members
36 regarding Proposal 130.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

39

40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville.

41

42 MR. DOUVILLE: I will not support this
43 proposal because it opens that area which is critical,
44 it's like shooting fish in a barrel. The reason that
45 we have slightly increased runs is because that area
46 has been closed. There's adequate opportunity below
47 the bridge to intercept those fish, but once they get
48 past there, they school up at high water and you can
49 virtually wipe the runs out. So it's really a

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1 dangerous thing to do.

2

3

4 While you might see a slight increase
5 in the runs, this system historically had runs that
6 were in the near 100,000 or better, consistently. The
7 canneries in the old days used to take 40,000 fish and
8 run them into the cannery and there was still enough
9 escapement to maintain that level of harvest for quite
10 some time. The run is getting later in that system.
11 As a teenager, we used to go up there and fish and it
12 closed by the Fourth of July, when the seining season
13 opened it was closed, like all other streams were at
14 that time because there was fear that some of those
15 fish would go into the commercial market, so all of our
16 fish were caught in June but now it's caught in July
17 and later July.

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So I think it's too much risk to the
resource to open it up until, you know, we see
significant -- significantly healthy returns there
which we are not. Last year was a scratch year.
You're not seeing it on your graph but last summer was
not very good.

Anyway, thank you.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
Douville. Are there other comments from Council.

(No comments)

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'd like to ask a
question of Mr. Thynes so that I can make sure I
understand this in light of Mr. Douville's comments.
Essentially the effects of this proposal, would that
open up the State waters above the bridge, under State
jurisdiction? I noticed in the -- it looks like it's
modified fishing times and locations, and then they
talk about locations, it has the line, which is
northernmost tip of Klawock Island, the Klawock River
and Klawock Lake and this proposal before the Board of
Fish, in my understanding, is the River and the Lake
would be under Federal jurisdiction. So I'm wondering
if you can clarify that for me?

(No comments)

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Or is there anyone
besides Mr. Thynes that might be able to address that

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1 question.

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MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

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VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

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MR. DOUVILLE: Were you asking where the Federal water starts?

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VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm asking -- yeah, I know where the Federal waters start but this proposal is a Board of Fish proposal, and it's to modify fishing times and locations and it looks like it is to open up harvest in -- under the State jurisdiction, which is above the bridge to the mouth of the river, and then it also would open up the river and the lake, which would be Federal, and I was asking for clarification of the Department's interpretation of what the intent of this proposal is.

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MR. THYNES: Madame Chair, this is Troy Thynes, I'm back on the line here again. I apologize, I hit the wrong button on my phone and hung up instead of hitting the mute button. So was that your previous question, on what exactly this proposal would open up?

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29

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, essentially, what are the local aspects of this proposal.

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MR. THYNES: So the -- it would open up waters up stream of the bridge and, you know, in regards to what you're saying was State jurisdiction or Federal jurisdiction, so all waters, marine and fresh water still within the State jurisdiction, the Federal jurisdiction ends at essentially salt water. So it would open up the State fishery up stream of the bridge.

39

40

41

42

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: And then it would include -- and that would be for net fishing, like beach seine fishing?

43

44

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46

MR. THYNES: That's correct. There's no -- just your typical gear that are allowed in the State fisheries.

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VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank you for that clarification for me. I think in light of the comments that Mr. Douville provided and recalling

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1 back to this Council's work and talking about that
2 pinch point, I now remember that this Council did -- it
3 was a hard closure to make but we did make this closure
4 for the conservation concern for sockeye in Klawock
5 Lake and I'm in agreement with Mr. Douville, in that,
6 that there is still a conservation concern and that
7 potentially reopening that previous closure that the
8 State implemented and then the Federal system kind of
9 followed suit to make sure that we closed off the
10 quote/unquote, donut hole, at the mouth of the river
11 there, I would tend to not support this proposal.

12

13 All right. Are there other Council
14 comments.

15

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

18

19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

20

21 MR. HOWARD: Sitting here listening to
22 -- so in your mind this was originally closed for a
23 conservation concern. Also on your mind there's still
24 a conservation concern. Even with it closed. That's
25 kind of like a -- Angoon has a history of closing
26 Kanalku to tribal members and if you go up there, well,
27 everyone just kind of looks down on you for the rest of
28 the year for doing that. So we hold our ourselves
29 accountable when we decide to close an area for
30 conservation concerns. So when I think about the word,
31 conservation concern, and the context you're using it,
32 this doesn't address the conservation concern keeping
33 it closed if there's still a conservation concern.
34 Something else is affecting this system, besides the
35 subsistence user. So when you address the conservation
36 concern on the backs of the subsistence, like it's
37 being done here, we're not meeting our requirement of
38 subsistence priority under Federal law.

39

40 I get it.

41

42 State law has jurisdiction. State law
43 doesn't give anyone a priority. I understand all of
44 that. But we have to look at it from -- and I guess my
45 question would be is there anyone from Klawock on here?
46 I would never -- as much as I fish around Chatham, I
47 would never close down an area around Tenakee because I
48 think it's important, to me, if it hurts Tenakee. So I
49 think this coming from Klawock Cooperative Association,
50

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1 they seem to think they have the problem addressed.
2 They may be opening more area but they're also closing
3 it a week sooner. I know we talked about the coho and
4 the concern there. Here, the cohos don't show up until
5 August so maybe it's the same there, I don't know. But
6 it seems like as a subsistence Council, we should ask
7 for other user groups to make sacrifices as well, not
8 just the subsistence user if the conservation concern
9 still exists after we already restricted the
10 subsistence user.

11

12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
15 Howard. I would provide one clarification, this
16 proposal was put forward by the Klawock Fish and Game
17 Advisory Committee and not the Klawock Cooperative
18 Association, which is the Federally-recognized tribe.
19 I don't know whether the Klawock Cooperative
20 Association supports or opposes this proposal, but that
21 is a point of clarification.

22

23 Are there other comments from the
24 Council.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this
27 is Don again.

28

29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I did speak
32 in support of this proposal but, yeah, after hearing
33 Mr. Douville, who, I know is very familiar with that
34 fishery, I think I'm going to tend to defer to his
35 opinion on this. And I do recall discussions that
36 we've had in the past on, you know, the impacts that
37 opening up, you know, certain specific areas could have
38 on that fishery just the vulnerability of the fish. I
39 do recall those discussions. We obviously have had
40 conservation concerns, probably still do, with that
41 Klawock sockeye run. The problems probably lie
42 elsewhere, but if I'm not hearing any solutions to
43 solving those problems elsewhere, I guess what I have
44 to consider is if those stocks are depressed and, you
45 know, they become vulnerable to overfishing by the
46 subsistence fishery because of, you know, the factors
47 Mr. Douville expressed, you know, we could do further
48 damage. I'm not saying that's the cause of the
49 problem, but we certainly don't want to exacerbate the
50

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1 problem by, you know, overfishing. The problem needs
2 to be solved elsewhere but without anything before us
3 now to solve that problem, I don't think that we want
4 to exacerbate it.

5

6 So I'm going to change my opinion on
7 this and note support it.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

10

11 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
12 Hernandez. Yes, Mr. Wright.

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: You know, we're here to
15 take care of the resource for the subsistence users.
16 And I recall a few years back when the deer were really
17 depressed here because of the big snowfall we had and
18 we had shut down the hunting season early and people
19 were getting upset with me, I says, we're trying to
20 protect what we have, what's left, you know, and I was
21 glad that Mr. Douville had spoken because I was sitting
22 here not knowing what the river was about and when he
23 told me about the way it came out, the river got
24 smaller and became an easy catch and, you know, if you
25 depress your resource then you can't, you know, cry
26 about it after because it's going to be gone.

27

28 So I would be probably voting against
29 this proposal. And, because we're here to take care of
30 our resources, that's what we're about.

31

32 So, thank you, Madame Chair.

33

34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
35 Wright. Are there other Council comments.

36

37 MR. HOWARD: Last one, this is Albert.

38

39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

40

41 MR. HOWARD: The reason I didn't offer
42 a solution of other user groups, it isn't our
43 responsibility to, you know, as an example, tell the
44 seiners you can't catch anymore of this systems
45 sockeye. Our responsibility is to the subsistence user
46 and make sure they have enough of a resource to meet
47 their needs. You know, so by allowing them to do this,
48 maybe if the system reaches -- so we're again we're
49 restricting subsistence users to the resource they've
50

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1 always used for generations. And we are the --
2 restricting only them on this resource is my point. I
3 totally get it. I totally understand trying to save
4 the system, but it shouldn't only be on the back of the
5 subsistence user. By allowing this to happen we're
6 saying, oh, yeah, we don't care that other user groups
7 are affecting this system because we have control of
8 the subsistence users and we can tell them to no longer
9 use this system without addressing other user groups
10 and the impact they are having on the system.

11

12 So there needs to be something done to
13 restrict other user groups from catching this systems
14 sockeye. Otherwise you're only hurting the subsistence
15 user by restricting only them, and that's what this is
16 doing when you vote no on this, is you're only
17 restricting them with no answer.

18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
22 Howard. Other.....

23

24 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

25

26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Douville.

27

28 MR. DOUVILLE: There are several things
29 we think that are affecting this system. It was logged
30 completely around the lake which affected the streams.
31 It made good beaver habitat which blocked many of the
32 streams and it's still an issue today. We have global
33 warming. The other thing is the seining here does not
34 open on the outside of Noise Island for the month of
35 July, maybe one nine hour opening to conserve Canadian
36 sockeyes but at the same time it conserves our sockeye
37 also. However, these sockeyes are protected in the
38 stream itself. There's the no sportfish retention in
39 Klawock on sockeye. However, you can get a Federal
40 permit and the bag limit changes, you can still --
41 Federally-qualified users can get a Federal permit and
42 use a dipnet or a spear but there is no sportfishing s
43 it is protected in that sense.

44

45 What it -- it's still a very depressed
46 run and until we get it up to significant numbers, our
47 charge is not only to help subsistence users but it is
48 also to maintain the resources. So while the
49 subsistence user, rural users are the last ones to be

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1 cut, our job is also to be responsible with the
2 resources.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
7 Douville. Are there other comments from Council
8 members at this time.

9

10 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

11

12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

13

14 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 Being on the Council when some of this took place for
16 the Klawock River, had concerns back then about what
17 effect it would have on the users but also conservation
18 concerns. I realize that the area has been heavily
19 logged. I've seen what it did to other lakes that got
20 logged and sockeye runs dropped considerably. And
21 since that's been logged we also have some other
22 concerns that are happening in the ocean that cause --
23 that are causing considerable concerns across the state
24 and it has to do with zooplankton and global warming,
25 the food that they eat, causing diminishment of our
26 salmon within the ocean, it's also causing some
27 problems with the forage fish.

28

29 So I'm pretty much inclined to not
30 support this proposal.

31

32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
33 Kitka. Are there any other comments at this time.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing
38 none and before we come to the question, I have a
39 procedural question for Ms. Perry. The motion on the
40 floor is to support this proposal, and really what the
41 Council's work is here is to provide comments to the
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And in the
43 discussion, I'm not sure if we're still split or if
44 most of the Council wants to oppose this -- like
45 provide comment to the Fish and Game that we oppose
46 this proposal, so if we get to a vote to not support
47 this -- basically if we turn this motion on the floor
48 down, will we need to take subsequent action to make
49 sure that we all agree that we're providing comment to
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1 oppose the proposal in our response to the Board of
2 Fish.

3

4

5 MS. PERRY: Thanks for the question,
6 Madame Chair. I think it would be cleaner to go ahead
7 and vote on the current motion that you have regarding
8 whether this Council wants to put in a comment to
9 support the proposal. And if you find, through that
10 vote, that the Council majority is to oppose the
11 proposal, then you could follow that up with a motion
12 to make a comment the same way. Again, this is just
13 voting to make comment.

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So that's my suggestion going forward,
to go ahead and proceed with the current motion you
have on the table. If you see that the majority is in
opposition, then the Council, if they so choose, can
make a motion to send a comment to the Board of Fish
opposing this proposal.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
you for that clarification. I just want to make sure
that we all understood what we were doing as we
potentially come to a vote on this proposal.

At this time I'd ask if there's any
other Council comments.

MR. HOWARD: One last one, Madame
Chair.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
Howard.

MR. HOWARD: It's Albert.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Howard,
you have the floor.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
Based on Mr. Douville's comments that there is no other
impact by any other subsistence user -- or any other
user of the resource and also based on what you said,
that this doesn't come from Klawock Cooperative
Association, I'm going to have to agree with Mr.
Douville and yourself, and Mr. Kitka, and not support
this based on the conservation concern.

So, thank you, Madame Chair.

0249

1 Call for the question.

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Call for the question.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, the question's been called. Mr. Wright, I think we're probably going to need a roll call vote on this. Again, for the Council, understanding the motion on the floor is to support -- to provide comments to support this proposal so by voting yes you are voting that you would like for us to support it, and by voting nay you would be voting that we would not support it and we may need subsequent action after that.

Mr. Wright.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.

Cal Casipit.

MR. CASIPIT: No.

MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: No.

MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

MR. SLATER: No.

MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

(No comments)

MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

MR. HOWARD: No.

MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No.

MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

MR. ROBBINS: No.

MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

MR. KITKA: No.

MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

0250

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

8

9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: No.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Ian Johnson.

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: No.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Frank Wright votes no.

16 Motion carries, Madame Chair, to object.

17

18 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
19 Wright. Essentially the motion failed. So does the
20 Council wish to take any other action on Proposal 130.

21

22 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, request we
23 break for lunch.

24

25 MR. HOWARD: Second.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: That is not a
30 formal motion, it was a request. I would like to break
31 for lunch. I think we can quickly decide if we want to
32 take action -- if we want to provide comment to oppose
33 this. Somebody could simply make a motion that we
34 provide an opposition to this proposal to the Board of
35 Fish in our letter based -- and we could base it on all
36 of our previous discussion, from the previous action,
37 and we could get this one ticked off really quick if
38 you wanted to do that.

39

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

42

43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr.
44 Hernandez.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, I think I
47 don't know if it requires a motion but I think we
48 should include in our letter to the Board of Fish that,
49 you know, pointing out that the Council did oppose this

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1 proposal and if the letter could include a summary of
2 some of the reasons that were given, I think that would
3 be appropriate.

4
5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
6 you, Mr. Hernandez. Ms. Perry, would that suffice for
7 drafting of our letter that we're going to actually
8 pass later?

9
10 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair, I would
11 suggest that it be a motion and a vote just to keep the
12 record clean because we are making motions for
13 supportive comments, so I think any comment, again, for
14 a clear record, we should just go ahead and have a
15 quick vote. And the motion would be, you know, a
16 motion to have a comment in opposition to Proposal 130.
17 That would be my suggestion.

18
19 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair.

20
21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Howard.

22
23 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 Has this Council ever opposed anyone's proposal in the
25 past?

26
27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard, if you
28 look on the -- or actually I guess it's not up on Teams
29 anymore but we did work last meeting on a number of
30 these Board of Fish proposals and it looks like we did
31 oppose Proposal 134 and we provided comments to oppose
32 134 and 161 of those so we did do it this last meeting,
33 basically we -- and we provided a rationale of why we
34 opposed the proposal.

35
36 MR. HOWARD: So, Madame Chair, do you
37 need a motion to write a letter in opposition?

38
39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes. What we
40 would need is a motion to provide a comment in
41 opposition to Proposal 130 to the Board of Fish.

42
43 MR. HOWARD: I'll make that motion,
44 Madame Chair.

45
46 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there a second.

47
48 MR. ROBBINS: Second.

49
50

0252

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'll second.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: This is Ian, I second.

4

5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: So there were a
6 number of a seconds in there.

7

8 MS. PERRY: I believe I heard Harold
9 first.

10

11 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Mr.
12 Robbins seconded the motion. We've had quite a bit of
13 discussion, I think that we can just guide -- when we
14 write this letter that we use all of the discussion of
15 why we're opposed to this when we were discussing the
16 previous motion that was on the floor. Unless anybody
17 else has anything they would like to add to the
18 conversation, otherwise, I would entertain the question
19 to the motion.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'll call for the
22 question.

23

24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
25 Hernandez. I would -- since the vote before on
26 supporting it was -- everybody was in agreement I would
27 recommend that we do this vote by unanimous consent,
28 and I'll ask if there's any opposition for a unanimous
29 consent on this motion.

30

31 (No opposition)

32

33 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Hearing none, the
34 Regional Advisory Council will provide comments in
35 opposition to Proposal 130 in our comments to the Board
36 of Fish. And now I'd like to entertain Mr. Douville's
37 request for us to break for lunch. I know Chairman
38 Hernandez did want to try to get through all of these
39 proposals before lunch. We have three more left that
40 we haven't put much work into or made decisions on, and
41 then ones that we put some work into but might need to
42 do some housekeeping on before we have done all of our
43 due diligence for providing comments to the Board of
44 Fish on proposals. So I just want to throw that out
45 there that we didn't meet his objective of finishing
46 before lunch but I think that we're really on our way
47 to cleaning this up.

48

49 And so if everyone is okay maybe taking

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0253

1 a shortened lunch hour like we did yesterday of 45
2 minutes and reconvening at 1:00 o'clock, I'd like to
3 recess until then.

4
5 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair.

6
7 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Two folks at once.
12 Was that Mr. Howard or Mr. Douville.

13
14 MR. HOWARD: Both. Just real quick
15 though. I know I talked about getting king salmon
16 recognized as a subsistence use fishery and I don't see
17 that proposal, maybe I missed it. I think that's
18 something important to the community members of Angoon
19 because it's been no consideration to the subsistence
20 users.

21
22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard, is
23 there a proposal in the Board of Fish proposal book
24 that addresses that, do you know?

25
26 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, I didn't see
27 one.

28
29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. I
30 don't have a fisheries proposal book before me so.....

31
32 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
33 Pippa.

34
35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Pippa.
36 Please.

37
38 MS. KENNER: For the record this is
39 Pippa Kenner. It's Proposal 125 and it's at the bottom
40 of your list because it had already been processed and
41 submitted and commented on by the Council.

42
43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.
44 Kenner. So that and Mr. Howard, when we go back to
45 Board of Fish comments, if you would like to bring that
46 particular proposal back to the table to talk about it,
47 even though we voted to support it and provided a
48 rationale, you can do so at that time.

49
50

0254

1 Mr. Douville, did you have a comment,
2 or question.

3
4 MR. DOUVILLE: I think we have until
5 December sometime to make comments on these Board of
6 Fish proposals, it was rescheduled until 2022, you
7 know, so if I'm correct, it doesn't mean that we have
8 to scramble to get through these.

9
10 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
11 Douville. That is a good point. I know when we
12 planned this meeting we wanted to try to wrap up
13 comments at this meeting if we could in anticipation
14 that there might be a lot of wildlife proposals at that
15 meeting, but I think after lunch we can tackle whether
16 or not we want to table the last three or four until
17 the next meeting so that we can use our time this
18 meeting on other actions that we need to take, but also
19 maintain some efficiency so we don't take up too much
20 time at the next meeting. So I appreciate you bringing
21 that back to our attention.

22
23 And, again, I'd like to recess until
24 1:00 o'clock for lunch.

25
26 (Off record)

27
28 (On record)

29
30 MS. PERRY: Albert Howard.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MS. PERRY: Albert Howard have you
35 rejoined us?

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MS. PERRY: Okay. Harold Robbins.

40
41 MR. ROBBINS: I'm here.

42
43 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Harold.

44
45 Harvey Kitka.

46
47 MR. KITKA: I'm here but I got to leave
48 at 4:30.

49
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0255

1 MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks, Harvey.

2

3 Larry, I just heard you and Don I just
4 heard you. Cathy I just heard you.

5

6 Ian Johnson.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. PERRY: Frank Wright.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MS. PERRY: Cal Casipit.

15

16 MR. CASIPIT: I'm here.

17

18 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Cal.

19

20 Mike Douville.

21

22 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville's here.

23

24 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mike.

25

26 Jim Slater.

27

28 MR. SLATER: Hi DeAnna, I'm here.

29

30 MS. PERRY: Thank you. And I believe
31 Bob Schroeder is still out this afternoon.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. PERRY: I'll check once more for
36 Albert Howard.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: Frank's here.

39

40 MS. PERRY: Albert was that you?

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: Frank.

43

44 MS. PERRY: Oh, Frank. Thank you,
45 Frank. And, Ian Johnson. I know Ian was kind of back
46 and forth today. Ian, are you with us at present.

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I am present.

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MS. PERRY: Thank you. All right, Madame Chair. We have 10 of your 12 seated Council members, you have a quorum.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, DeAnna, for doing that roll call.

Mr. Douville, I have a question for you. One of our potential actions was to address the proposal that's going before the Board of Game tomorrow, the special action proposal. Do you think that a half an hour is enough time to actually just talk about that specific proposal before we have a time certain for Mr. Stewart at 1:30?

(No comments)

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville, are you online?

MR. DOUVILLE: I don't -- I suppose it is. I don't know how to respond really. I do have my statement on the proposal.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Given that it has the potential for being a longer discussion, I mean I was just trying to gage whether or not we could formulate or give guidance on what comments we think we're going to come forward with for that Board of Game proposal, just the one proposal, not the wolf issue as a broader issue. But if it's going to be more than a half an hour, then maybe we will try to clean up comments for Board of Fish proposals before Mr. Stewart's time certain at 1:30.

If there's any opposition to that plan now is the time to speak.

(No opposition)

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing no opposition. The Council -- we have three more proposals that need for us to decide if we want to take a position. These three are Proposals 131, 132 and 133 in our road map and they start on the back side of the third page of that map. They're not -- they're only similar in that they all deal with a regulation that has to do with the Redoubt Bay Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Two of them, Proposal 131

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1 and 132 were both submitted by the Sitka Tribe of
2 Alaska. And the Council did have a little bit of
3 discussion on this -- on these two proposals but we
4 didn't establish a position. At that time we did not
5 have a representative from Sitka Tribe on our Council
6 to provide local input back to us.

7

8 Actually I'm mistaken, only 131 was by
9 Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

10

11 So would anybody like to make a motion
12 about whether or not we want to provide comments to
13 Board of Fish for Proposal 131 which is Redoubt Bay
14 Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. It would be
15 to modify the fishing area and hand purse seine as
16 legal gear for the Redoubt Bay and Lake subsistence
17 salmon fishery.

18

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

23

24 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, this is
25 Harvey Kitka.

26

27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you,
28 Mr.Kitka.

29

30 MR. KITKA: I move that we support
31 Proposal 131.

32

33 MR. HOWARD: Second. Albert Howard.

34

35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
36 Kitka and Mr. Howard. Mr. Kitka, I'd like to call on
37 you, this was provided by the Sitka Tribe and I was
38 wondering if you could refresh the Council on what the
39 intent of this proposal is, if you know.

40

41 MR. KITKA: I'll do my best. I sat and
42 talked with them about this and the tribe wants a
43 community seine permit for inside a closed area of one
44 of the commercial fishery we don't get to really
45 because -- when they went out with a community harvest
46 permit they weren't allowed to go inside so after about
47 three days of catching just two fish out there, it
48 wasn't worth the wait, even though there's access
49 (indiscernible - muffled) escapement, they're still
50

0258

1 having a commercial fishery out in front but it's
2 impossible for them to spend the whole day and catch
3 only one or two fish so it wasn't a conservation
4 concern that they decided to ask -- to see if they
5 could do a seine fishery in a little closer and modify
6 where they could go and where they couldn't go. They
7 were going to stay outside the snagging zone, which is
8 closer to the stream. They figured it'd be okay for a
9 seine but out where the snaggers don't -- don't try to
10 fish because you can't anchor and snag at the same
11 place. It drops off pretty fast when it gets in there.

12
13 So -- but this is -- there's a lot of
14 things -- we thought that eventually they'd just work
15 on and basically it was just for a purse seine because
16 the beaches aren't really great for beach seine, most
17 of the beach is straight up and down. So there were
18 things that needed to be worked out but they wanted to
19 try to see if the State would consider it.

20
21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
22 you, Mr. Kitka.

23
24 MR. KITKA: If there's any questions.
25 Any questions.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
30 questions for Mr. Kitka or any Council that have
31 comments on the proposal.

32
33 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, this is Jim
34 Slater.

35
36 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Slater.

37
38 MR. SLATER: Yeah, Harvey. So there's
39 no conservation concern at all on the return, like you
40 said this is only a tactical issue, not a conservation
41 issue.

42
43 MR. KITKA: Yes. This is not a
44 conservation concern here. They have an excessive
45 amount for their escapement but the problem is is that
46 the fish, they don't go back out past the marker, it's
47 a long ways out of the bay and the fish stay fairly
48 close to the stream. Once they make it past everybody
49 out there they -- they don't go back out past the line.

50

0259

1 I think they can read the signs.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. SLATER: Okay. All, right, well,
6 thank you.

7

8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
9 there any other comments from Council.

10

11 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: This is Don -- go
14 ahead, Mike.

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, Mr.
17 Douville.

18

19 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a question for
20 Harvey.

21

22 MR. KITKA: Go ahead, Mike.

23

24 MR. DOUVILLE: Harvey, I guess the
25 beach seine, the ones we use have a purse line on them,
26 we can purse them, we don't have to get on the beach,
27 I'm sure if you're talking about using a more
28 commercial type of seine or what your restrictions are,
29 but evidently there's a line you can't fish inside of,
30 or is a beach seine traditional gear for there, or
31 maybe you could clarify some of what goes on there,
32 okay.

33

34 MR. KITKA: Okay. A beach seine, yeah,
35 the traditional one wouldn't have a purse line on it.
36 This is where you pull it up on the beach. The purse
37 seine is -- and the same as a beach seine, except it's
38 got a purse seine on them and you can purse it up,
39 they're both about the same length. The commercial
40 zone is quite a ways out. The tribe is proposing that
41 we don't go into the area where the personal use people
42 are snagging for sockeyes, we're proposing to have that
43 area and not bother it but to stay outside that line.

44

45 Does that help you Mike.

46

47 MR. DOUVILLE: No, not really. I was
48 wondering, have you used beach seines there in the past
49 or was there a restriction, it sounds like there's an
50

0260

1 area where the snagging goes on, but is it otherwise
2 restricted. It sounds like you're restricted to a line
3 that the commercial boats use.

4

5 MR. KITKA: We're restricted to the
6 line the commercial boats use. We're not allowed up in
7 the bay for a seine or for anything other than
8 dipnetting and snagging.

9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah.

11

12 MR. THYNES: Madame Chair, this is Troy
13 Thynes with Fish and Game, if I can try to help provide
14 some clarification with this proposal.

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, Mr. Thynes.

17

18 MR. THYNES: Just to let you know, so
19 this proposal is specifically to do with community
20 permit. There's two different types of permits, one is
21 just your standard household subsistence personal use
22 permit, and then the other is the community permit.
23 The community permit is allowed when the escapement is
24 projected to be greater than 40,000 fish. So if the
25 sockeye escapement at Redoubt Lake is greater than
26 40,000 fish then community permits are allowed. So
27 there's no conservation concern with community permits.
28 And what this proposal would do is just increase that
29 area and make it similar, not exactly the same as the
30 individual permits, but make it similar and certainly
31 bring those boundaries much further up in the bay as it
32 signifies, within 100 years of the falls so the area
33 would be increased, and then again it would allow hand
34 purse seines. So the difference between a hand purse
35 seine and a beach seine, by Fish and Game definitions,
36 is the beach seine is deployed from the beach and
37 pulled back from the beach, whereas a hand purse seine
38 can be in open water, it doesn't necessarily need to be
39 deployed from the beach but certainly different from
40 the commercial users, the pursing would be done by
41 hand.

42

43 So I don't know if that helps at all.

44

45 So this proposal would essentially more
46 align the fishing area and techniques with the regular
47 individual household permit.

48

49 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank

50

0261

1 you for that Mr. Thynes. Mr. Douville, does that
2 clarify for you?

3

4 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah, I was just
5 curious. I know they use beach seines but, you know,
6 whether it has purse strings or not you can still purse
7 the lead line, I mean we used to do that too. So I was
8 just trying to understand what the net restriction was,
9 so it sounds like it's different for a community
10 permit. So that's all I had.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Mr.
15 Thynes, I appreciate that clarification. Could you
16 answer a quick question about how Proposal 131 may be
17 -- is it because it's a community use permit and
18 Proposal 133 is not the community use permit, is that
19 -- are those the main differences between those two
20 proposals?

21

22 MR. THYNES: That's correct. Proposal
23 131 is specific to the community permit, whereas 133 is
24 specific to the gear allowed in the household, or
25 individual permit.

26

27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
28 you for that. Are there any other comments or
29 questions from the Council regarding Proposal 131.

30

31 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, this is Calvin
32 Casipit.

33

34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Go ahead, Mr.

35 Casipit.

36

37 MR. CASIPIT: I don't have any
38 questions for Staff, I just have an observation for
39 Proposal 131. I would like to thank Mr. Thynes for his
40 summary of what 131 does, I understand what's going on
41 there. I don't think there's a conservation concern
42 because this only kicks in when there's more than
43 40,000 fish in the projected escapement. This is
44 basically, the way I read it is basically an amendment
45 to the Redoubt Bay Sockeye Management Plan and, you
46 know, that had a lot of input in the beginning and a
47 lot of work and, you know, I know the Council back then
48 supported that kind of work. This seems like a -- it's
49 just a way to make it easier for people to use the
50

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1 community harvest permit. Like I said there's no
2 conservation issues because it's only operating when
3 there's more than 40,000 fish escapement and, you know,
4 it helps subsistence users meet their needs.

5

6 So I'm in support of this and I'm going
7 to support this when I vote on it. So I just thought
8 I'd lay that out there. I don't see a big problem with
9 this.

10

11 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
12 Casipit. Are there other comments from the Council.

13

14 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville.

17

18 MR. DOUVILLE: I just had to get real
19 good clarification so if there's 40,000 fish up there,
20 I'm going to be up there helping Harvey, I'll run up in
21 my speedboat.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Understood. Are
26 there other comments from the Council.

27

28 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, Jim Slater.

29

30 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair. Excuse me
31 if I'm out of line but this is Terry Suminski.

32

33 MR. SLATER: Go ahead, Terry.

34

35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, Mr.
36 Douville, were you saying something or is that feedback
37 that I'm getting.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. Mr.
42 Suminski, you have the floor.

43

44 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 I know you're asking for Council comments but I just
46 wanted to point out that in the road map, the
47 rationale, that was not rationale from the Council,
48 that was just some notes that I put in there to think
49 about and remind, you know, maybe want to talk about.

50

0263

1 I don't think there's a big problem with this proposal.

2

3

4 The original management plan was
5 created because of gear type conflict. So having a
6 seine fishery butt right up to the snagging line where
7 people are parking their boats and anchoring and all
8 that kind of stuff could be a bit of a problem, but I
9 think it could be easily solved by just moving that --
10 you know the community harvest line out just a little
11 bit, you know, just give some space between the two
12 fisheries. But that's -- I'm sure that'll all be
13 talked about at the Board of Fish meeting.

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So thank you for allowing me to put that on. And you may want to, you know, just give a new rationale there.

MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, this is Jim Slater.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for that clarification Mr. Suminski. So for Council members that are reading this proposal, just understand that that rationale is a note from Staff so we do need to establish our position on this and make sure we have covered it. And somebody else, another Council member had a comment.

MR. SLATER: Yeah, hi, Madame Chair. Madame Chair, this is Jim Slater.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Slater.

MR. SLATER: Basically a question, as we weigh in on these different proposals, I'm wondering, if we make a decision for a specific area or support a position for a certain area, do we have to consider the effects on setting a precedent for other areas or can each individual area be viewed independently?

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Slater. So we aren't -- we are only working on whether or not this Council would like to provide comment on proposals for -- to the Board of Fish. The Board of Fish still makes the decision, based on everything they hear from the public and local ACs, but they also would take public comment from this body, so the discussion can talk about precedence but I don't think that it

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1 influences -- the proposal doesn't get changed or
2 anything at this time, necessarily, it just establishes
3 a record for us so that we know whether or not we have
4 enough support to provide comment back to the Board of
5 Fish.

6
7 MR. SLATER: And I guess what I was
8 trying to determine if they -- maybe not exactly for
9 this proposal, but as we consider something and it's
10 kind of changing a regulation in a certain area, do we
11 expect that that then will be applied to other areas as
12 well, or is that just something that's totally up to
13 the Board of Fish and that we would leave it up to them
14 and just kind of have to interpret what they do based
15 on our experience.

16
17 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I think it would
18 be totally up to the Board of Fish and whatever input
19 that they receive and their discussion as well. It
20 wouldn't automatically apply to other areas outside of
21 what's covered in the actual proposal itself. But if
22 I'm wrong on that Staff can correct me.

23
24 MR. SLATER: Okay.

25
26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Did I answer your
27 question?

28
29 MR. SLATER: Yes, that's fine.

30
31 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay.

32
33 MR. SLATER: Thank you very much.

34
35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Uh-huh. Are there
36 other comments from the Council on Proposal 131,
37 keeping in mind that we need to establish a rationale
38 as we.....

39
40 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair.

41
42 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

43
44 MR. KITKA: Yes. Part of the rationale
45 is that there is no conservation concern. This is
46 designed for community type permits and not for
47 individuals. This is also a safety concern. The run
48 to Redoubt from Sitka is considerably shorter than
49 trying to run through Hanus Bay or Klag Bay or Redfish
50

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1 Bay, either one of those are close to 70 miles away and
2 this is -- this would be in times of conservation as
3 part of how much fuel costs is important. This would
4 have no real direct effect on other users as we see it.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for that
9 Mr. Kitka. Other comments from Council.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'd like to call
14 for the question.

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, the
17 question's been called. The motion on the floor is to
18 provide support -- provide comment to the Board of Fish
19 in support of Proposal 131. Mr. Wright, would you
20 please do a roll call vote.

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Can you hear me?

23

24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, I thought I had it
27 muted. Okay.

28

29 Ian Johnson.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

32

33 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

34

35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

36

37 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

38

39 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Yes.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

46

47 MR. ROBBINS: Yes.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

4

5 MR. HOWARD: Yes.

6

7 Bob Schroeder.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

12

13 MR. SLATER: Yes.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

16

17 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: Calvin Casipit.

20

21 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah.

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: Frank votes yes. Motion

24 passed.

25

26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
27 you, Mr. Wright. Ms. Perry, do you know if Mr. Stewart
28 is available?

29

30 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair, I don't see
31 him on Teams but we should check on the phone, Forest
32 Supervisor Earl Stewart, have you dialed in yet.

33

34 MR. STEWART: Yes, ma'am, I have. I am
35 available for Madame Chair and the Committee.

36

37 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

38

39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
40 you very much, Mr. Stewart, for joining us. I
41 understand that you've asked for this time certain spot
42 to discuss some of the Forest Service updates and so
43 the floor is yours.

44

45 MR. STEWART: Madame Chair and members
46 of the Southeast Subsistence RAC, thank you for
47 allowing me time on your schedule today. I think that
48 I had several topics to cover that were requested from
49 several of the Forest management projects to a minerals
50

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1 project, can provide additional information above and
2 beyond on other projects as we move forward.

3
4 Do appreciate -- there's a few of the
5 members that I'm going to have to ask for assistance
6 with as we go through -- if we get into questions and
7 answers, because I'm not on Teams, I'm only on the
8 phone, so it's going to be a little hard to track with
9 that, so any assistance there would be sincerely
10 appreciated in transferring the question to the proper
11 party there.

12
13 In the U.S. Forest Service, we're an
14 executive branch agency under the Department of
15 Agriculture. It's important as I start off today to
16 recognize that with the change of Administrations there
17 are changes in actions. In this particular case, the
18 suspension of certain actions pending National review.
19 This does happen with pretty much any Administration
20 change and in this particular case, it's so that the
21 Presidential appointees will have time both to take
22 their seats in the new Administration, but also review
23 things to assure they're aligned with the
24 Administration's National objectives. As we work
25 through that there are several projects on the Tongass
26 National Forest that are under such review to make sure
27 that they align with the Agency -- with the
28 Administration's executive -- President Executive
29 Orders and the Administration's efforts toward climate
30 change and then concur with past Administration issues
31 on items such as the 2013 Secretary of Agriculture's
32 letter to transfer from old growth to young growth.

33
34 As I go into these projects on Forest
35 Management it's important to realize that there is no
36 decision at this time. I'm simply trying to work
37 forward and share with you all that the timing of the
38 National review may have an impact on some of the time
39 schedules, but that as would be expected and certainly
40 could impact both South Revillagigedo, Twin Mountain
41 II, and the Central Tongass Project.

42
43 My name is Earl Stewart, I'm the Forest
44 Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest. As I
45 indicated, I sincerely appreciate your time today. And
46 I'll go through and try to provide you an update on
47 each of those projects as we go forward.

48
49 For South Revillagigedo, the first one,
50

1 which is on the Ketchikan Misty Ranger District, the
2 final environmental impact statement and Draft Record
3 of Decision are pending, possibly to be released during
4 2021. At this point in time I don't know what that
5 date will be following the Administration change and
6 the National review. But once it is released it will
7 trigger the 45 day objection period. South
8 Revillagigedo is an integrated resource project to
9 improve Forest health, support community resilience and
10 provide for economic development. It is set up in a
11 range to cover a 15 year period from timber harvest to
12 restoring water sheds to enhancing and restoring
13 habitat and developing recreation opportunities.

14
15 Since the initial scoping period and
16 comments, there have been several refinements produced
17 and the refinements include a reduction in the harvest
18 acreage and volume and new road construction and
19 temporary road construction reductions as well. In
20 addition to that, a more detailed review of the timber
21 harvest design that helps clarify both how the habitat
22 and the wildlife travel corridors could be affected by
23 that and how the proposed scenery management amendment
24 would apply. The project seeks to help restore and
25 enhance habitat for fish and wildlife through in-stream
26 wood placement, riparian thinning, blasting partial
27 fish barriers, culvert replacement, and/or removal, and
28 then to enhance the recreational access to Shelter Cove
29 and Saddle Lakes area. At this point in time it's
30 projected to initially yield about 68 million board
31 feet in timber and cover roughly 6,100 acres, so it'll
32 be different varieties of (indiscernible) cultural
33 treatments and it'd be hosted over an entire 44,000
34 acre analysis area on the district there.

35
36 The next project I'll update you on
37 would be the Twin Mountain II. This location is on
38 Prince of Wales Island. Currently, the next step in
39 this process is the draft environmental impact
40 statement for Twin Mountain II being released. I don't
41 have a date, once, again, for this one being released
42 but upon release it would trigger, also, a 45 day
43 public comment period. Twin Mountain II timber sale
44 project is intended to provide resources and support
45 the viable timber industry in Southeast Alaska and
46 provide jobs and opportunities for Southeast Alaska
47 residents, while also maintaining the expertise and the
48 infrastructure of the existing timber industry during
49 transition from old growth to young growth. It does
50

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1 follow the multiple use mandate of the National Forest.
2 And at this point in time it's projected to provide
3 approximately 30 million board feet covering about
4 1,800 acres on Prince of Wales. It does involve both
5 conventional and helicopter units.

6
7 The third project of Forest Management
8 is Central Tongass. And at this point in time a
9 supplemental draft environment impact statement is
10 being prepared and will be provided once it's cleared
11 at the -- once it's cleared it'll also then be
12 responsive to public feedback that we've already
13 received. It's intended to support jobs and local
14 economy and the regional -- local and regional
15 economies and contribute to improve terrestrial and
16 aquatic conditions and support viable subsistence
17 resources and provide safe access for users. At this
18 point in time it's proposed to currently provide 67
19 miles of in-stream restoration along with 25 fisheries
20 improvements, new cabin construction and trail
21 improvements and approximately 45,000 acres of young
22 growth, pre-commercial and wildlife thinning treatments
23 in addition to trail construction and maintenance.
24 Projection on this one is just over 100 million board
25 feet for the entire project over 15 years.

26
27 The next project that I was asked to
28 provide the subcommittee -- the Committee with, an
29 update on was Hecla Greens Creek and the expansion
30 there. At this point in time it's planned to be
31 completed from the scoping that was received from last
32 year and then move forward toward a draft environmental
33 impact statement. Hecla Greens Creek and the Tongass
34 National Forest entered into an MOU to conduct a third-
35 party environmental analysis on the north extension
36 project. The project is to provide additional
37 estimated 4 to 5 million cubic yards of tailings and
38 waste rock storage while allowing for mineral
39 production at the minesite to continue well into 2030.
40 The Forest Service recognizes the importance of the
41 mineral resources to the well being of the national and
42 encourages bonafide mineral operations and exploration
43 and development as part of a multiple use mandate. At
44 this time our experts are also working towards
45 minimizing the impacts of the mining activities on
46 other resources.

47
48 That's the four projects, Madame Chair,
49 that were specifically identified. I can provide
50

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1 updates on other projects of if the Committee prefers
2 we can go to an Q and A session and project it that
3 way.

4
5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
6 you, Mr. Stewart, for that synopsis of projects
7 occurring in the Forest Service. I would like to find
8 out if any Council members have any specific questions
9 for Mr. Stewart on the projects that he covered.

10
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this
12 is Don.

13
14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
17 Cathy. Thank you, Earl, for giving us the update. I
18 did miss there at the start you said that existing -- I
19 believe that you said existing projects would be under
20 review, was that the South Revillagigedo, Twin Mountain
21 and Central Tongass Plans, are they all under review by
22 this new Administration?

23
24 MR. STEWART: Yes, sir, that is
25 correct, Mr. Herna -- or excuse me, through the Chair.
26 Yes, sir, Mr. Hernandez, that is correct. South
27 Revillagigedo, Twin Mountain II, and Central Tongass
28 are all currently under review in the new
29 Administration.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
32 Just one followup. I believe Dave Schmid told us
33 yesterday that the review of the Roadless Rule, I
34 think, was supposed to be concluded by the end of
35 March, is that the same for these other projects or do
36 they have a different timeframe?

37
38 MR. STEWART: Through the Chair for Mr.
39 Hernandez. I don't actually have a date or a timeline
40 that's been given to me so I unfortunately can't give
41 any detail. It's my understanding that the typical
42 review is a few months and so I just don't know what
43 that time clock started or when that time would end,
44 but I could certainly project that something towards
45 the end of March or April might be reasonable. I just
46 don't know how -- I don't have a specific answer for
47 you, sir.

48
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. That's
50

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1 probably close enough. Yeah, thank you very much.

2

3 MR. STEWART: Thank you, sir.

4

5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, are
6 there other comments from Council members for Mr.
7 Stewart.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: At this time I'd
12 ask if there's any other comments from Council members
13 regarding other Forest Service activities that might
14 not include these projects.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy, this is Don
17 again.

18

19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr.
20 Hernandez.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I'd like to
23 ask Mr. Stewart about the progress of this transition
24 to young growth management that he mentioned. I
25 believe you said that that was an initiative that was
26 announced back in 2013, and it sounds like we're
27 getting about eight years into that and I don't know if
28 there's any -- you know, what kind of progress has been
29 made towards this transition to young growth
30 management. And given, you know, in light of you just
31 kind of outlined some timber projects that are in the
32 works that extend, you know, 15 years into the future
33 and it seems like that kind of goes well beyond when
34 this transition was supposed to take place. I'm kind
35 of wondering what the plan is here, what's the -- you
36 know, what's the progress, what's the outlook?

37

38 MR. STEWART: In response through the
39 Chair, Mr. Hernandez. That's a wonderful question,
40 sir, thank you for bringing it up. For edification of
41 the entire Committee, the 2013 date is referencing the
42 2013 Secretary's Memo. Secretary Vilsack, and prior
43 Administration, in 2013 issued a memo to the Forest
44 Service to look at an opportunity to transition from
45 old growth to young growth. The expectations of that
46 were to meet the social, economic and ecological needs
47 of the communities in Southeast Alaska in
48 transitioning from old growth to young growth and
49 recognizing that would work through the Tongass

50

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1 Advisory Committee, another Federal Advisory Committee.
2 In working through that, that's what led to the 2016
3 Forest Plan Amendment that was signed in December 2016
4 that set out for a path of transition, recognizing that
5 it's not a complete transition from old growth to young
6 growth because there was the recognition throughout
7 that about 5 million board feet was needed on an annual
8 basis for small operators and value added products and
9 principally that would be represented by music would
10 and possibly other elements. And then, in addition to
11 that, the recognition that there should be a timeline
12 necessary to allow the young growth both to grow and
13 develop to where it was sufficient size and also for
14 the operations to actually be able to build a business
15 that could then operate off of young growth. And so
16 all of that compiled together came to the
17 acknowledgement and the recognition in the 2016 Plan
18 Amendment that that timeline was roughly 16 years out.
19 So as Mr. Hernandez notes the 2013 wasn't really the
20 starting point for that, it really became the Forest
21 Plan Amendment 2016 that recognized about a 16 year
22 transition to where old growth volumes would continue
23 to reduce and young growth volumes would increase until
24 a point in time that young growth became the
25 predominant use.

26
27 Right now we're about roughly five
28 years into that, or close to five years into that, and
29 so we're in the process now of doing what's referred to
30 as a five year review of the Forest Plan Amendment from
31 2016. That'll be conducted probably later this
32 calendar year and then that'll set the phase up -- the
33 next phase up about a pre-assessment, or an assessment
34 to determine if any additional work needs to be done,
35 if new information is available or if a change in that
36 Forest Plan Amendment would be necessary.

37
38 I hope that helps, Mr. Hernandez.

39
40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, very much so.
41 I wasn't aware that there was a five year review of
42 that Forest Plan. So I guess that leads to the
43 question of does that review involve public
44 participation or is that strictly within the agency?

45
46 MR. STEWART: It's a multi-phased
47 process but effectively the five year review would be
48 an internal review to determine where the -- is there
49 additional scientific information, or the expectations
50

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1 that were issued, or the determinations that were made,
2 were they (indiscernible - muffled) were they
3 completed, or is there additional information that's
4 necessary. So for the most part, the work in the five
5 year review toward the end of this calendar year would
6 be an internal operation. But as I progress from that,
7 then you get into a pre-assessment and an assessment
8 that could then lead into a public process, it would be
9 outgoing years and so very likely a year or two down
10 the line there would be a much more public process that
11 would then take in the new information and try to
12 incorporate the public interest, which could ultimately
13 lead to a Forest Plan revision or amendment.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
16 very much. That's new information to us and could be
17 of some interest so thank you very much.

18

19 MR. STEWART: Truly an honor, sir,
20 thank you.

21

22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there other
23 Council comments regarding the young growth transition.

24

25 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

26

27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Kitka.

28

29 MR. KITKA: I guess I have one
30 question. Are they going to provide a buffer between
31 the old growth and the next cutting, is there going to
32 be enough of a buffer there for wildlife to survive and
33 have winter protection and how long a period between
34 the cuttings?

35

36 MR. STEWART: Through the Chair. Mr.
37 Kitka, thank you for that question. I'm not able to
38 give you a very specific or detailed answer because
39 every project is independent and individual. Generally
40 speaking, there is a significant interest in providing
41 for winter habitat for deer and other species,
42 specifically winter habitat, and the need from that, to
43 be able to move forward productively. And so as we go
44 through project by project, they could provide a much
45 more detailed analysis on expectations, but generally
46 speaking at a larger scale, there is a continued
47 interest in providing wintering habitat and corridors
48 for travel along with the separating out areas, if you
49 will, into unique habitat components.

50

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1 So I don't have a detailed answer based
2 on a specific project but generally speaking, sir,
3 that's true.

4

5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
6 Stewart. Harvey, did you have any followup or is that
7 sufficient?

8

9 MR. KITKA: That was sufficient.

10

11 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are
12 there any other comments or questions from the Council
13 regarding the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment and young
14 growth transition.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

17

18 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Wright.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: Excuse my ignorance, but
21 under review means what, does it mean that they start
22 from the beginning and -- since a new Administration
23 came in you start from the beginning and throw out the
24 plan, or do you just review the plan and I was
25 wondering about when kind of exactly do we get involved
26 in making comments about it after the review is up
27 because, you know, it seems like we always get left
28 behind and then we're trying to do catch up so I'm just
29 curious what that entails, what that means, because
30 when you say under review, it means the new
31 Administration's looking it over and then what?

32

33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34

35 MR. STEWART: Through the Chair. Mr.
36 Wright, thank you for the question, sir. And it really
37 depends, if it pleases the Committee, it's kind of two
38 different processes that happen to be intertwined.
39 With an Administration change, the new Administration
40 wants to make sure that any projects that are going
41 forward meet the Administration's National interest or
42 objectives. In this particular case the Tongass has
43 several projects that we've mentioned as it relates to
44 current Executive Orders and making sure they're
45 aligned with the Administration, President's Executive
46 Orders, or climate change, or even a connectivity to
47 the 2013 Secretary of Agriculture's memo.

48

49 As to -- once that is done, there will

50

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1 either be, as I understand it, I'm not in a specialist
2 in this by any means, the projects will either by
3 authorized to go forward, they could be directed to
4 change or to reroute some aspect of it, or some
5 provision, or they could be held. I don't know what
6 the right answer is right now. But for each of those
7 three projects, if they were allowed to go forward, as
8 we indicated, like South Revillagigedo going to a draft
9 ROD standpoint, there would be a comment period then,
10 Twin Mountain II as it goes forward with a -- would
11 also have a comment period, and then the SCIS (ph)
12 would have another scoping period for Central Tongass.

13

14 If it pleases the Chair and the
15 Committee, if I learn of what the actions are and what
16 time they're going to go forward with, I would be glad
17 to submit a letter to the Southeast Subsistence RAC in
18 an effort of, I guess, transparency and openness so
19 that you're aware, as soon as I am, of activities
20 proceeding forward, if that's helpful.

21

22 And I yield back.

23

24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
25 Stewart. I think we would like correspondence back on
26 that. It's always good to keep the lines of
27 communication open and attempt to have more
28 transparency as we go through these things.

29

30 Mr. Wright, did you have a followup.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: No, I don't. Thank you,
33 Madame Chair.

34

35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Are
36 there any other Council members who have comment or
37 questions regarding the 2016 Forest Plan Amendment
38 and/or young growth transition.

39

40 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is
41 Ian.

42

43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Johnson.

44

45 MR. JOHNSON: Hello. I guess I'm kind
46 of aligned with Frank on just asking for some
47 clarification out of my own ignorance. But could you
48 review for us what has been done for South
49 Revillagigedo, Twin Mountain and Central Tongass, what
50

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1 has been done on evaluating subsistence effects within
2 those projects?

3

4

5 MR. STEWART: Yes, Mr. Johnson, thank
6 you for the question. I don't know that I can get very
7 much more detailed than what you've already heard at
8 this point in time. As I indicated like on South
9 Revillagigedo, still looking at integrated resource
10 project and waiting for approval or clearance, is what
11 it's referred to internally, to release the FEIS and
12 the Draft Record of Decision. A lot of the work in
13 recent months has been refining South Revillagigedo to
14 either use new information, such as updated field data
15 or new modeling opportunities or responding to comments
16 that were received. And then there's been some
17 significant efforts to reduce the effects across
18 resource areas from the all alternative side.

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That's the one that I probably have the
most detail on because it's at a stage that goes to,
like I said, the FEIS and Draft ROD.

Twin Mountain II, less detail could I
offer on that one because it's still at the draft
environmental impact statement stage and we haven't
even been authorized or cleared to release that, which
would then start another comment period. So I don't
have as much detail on that other than Staff, at the
local level, have worked really stridently to try to
make sure that each of the alternatives could be
realistically or operationally applied.

As you transition over to Central
Tongass, Central Tongass is literally in a much earlier
stage in a supplemental environmental impact statement
and so that one has been shifted around quite a bit
trying to figure out where areas of action should --
are needed and it's a fairly broad area because it
involves both the Petersburg Ranger District and the
Wrangell Ranger District, and so trying to determine
what those represent. As I indicated with the earlier
question with Mr. Wright, there could be changes
directed toward any of these, or expected, according to
the clearance process, that this might need to be
modified or this needs to be changed before it's
cleared so I'm really hesitant to give much detail
because I don't know that we're going to get as we go
through that clearance process.

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1 And I apologize, Mr. Johnson, I don't
2 have a whole lot more detail at this point in time than
3 that.

4
5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
6 you, Mr. Johnson.

7
8 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you.

9
10 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Did you have any
11 followup that you wanted on specifics.

12
13 MR. JOHNSON: Not at this time, thank
14 you.

15
16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Are
17 there other Council members who have comments or
18 questions for Mr. Stewart.

19
20 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
21 Frank.

22
23 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Wright.

24
25 MR. WRIGHT: Later on in your
26 presentation you mentioned Greens Creek, so, you know,
27 a lot of this area, we're always wondering about the
28 tailings runoff and stuff and we wonder about the
29 wildlife that is out there like seals and other things,
30 whales and all that kind of stuff, so is there any way
31 that, you know, the concern of everything in our
32 ecosystem is important for us, and so I was wondering
33 about, is there any kind of studies or anything like
34 that to determine the effects of all this stuff that's
35 going on in Greens Creek that would -- that we should
36 know about or anything like that?

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MR. STEWART: Through the Chair. Mr.
41 Wright. I don't have a whole lot of detail that I
42 could offer in respect to that. I know there's been a
43 number of efforts thus far and I think it's more
44 specifically the concerns or consternation associated
45 with seals and the condition of seals in that area. I
46 need to start off by offering what I would say is honor
47 and respect to those traditional users because of the
48 implications of any actions or any activity to their
49 food or life resources or cultural resources is

50

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1 significant. I don't -- I'm not aware of any specific
2 studies out there right now. I could certainly ask my
3 Staff if there are things and then I could share them
4 back to the subcommittee if there are elements but I
5 don't have enough detail at this point in time to be
6 able to offer specific studies or research outcomes to
7 be able to offer anything productive to the Committee
8 today other than I recognize that it's important
9 feature, it is critical to those communities that rely
10 on such resources in the area and I recognize that it
11 is a significant issue to the Committee and to those
12 that live in the area. And so I could followup but I
13 don't have any knowledge of specific research or
14 science projects going right now.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. It would be --
17 Madame Chair. Thank you. You know it would be nice to
18 know if there was anything going on or anything
19 affecting it. Right now the seal meat tastes pretty
20 good but I don't know what's in it. But, anyway, thank
21 you.

22

23 MR. STEWART: Yes, so I'll be glad to
24 followup with the Chair and provide any additional
25 information that I can associated with scientific
26 research or ongoing projects in that area.

27

28 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
29 Albert.

30

31 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Howard,
32 you have the floor.

33

34 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 In regards to Green Creek, I know we have it further on
36 the agenda but something that's interesting -- it's
37 interesting that we're looking for a third-party --
38 requesting for a third-party to look -- third-party
39 review, what does that mean?

40

41 MR. STEWART: Through the Chair, and in
42 response to Mr. Howard's question. A couple of things
43 are intertwined there.

44

45 The Forest Service and the -- the
46 Tongass National Forest and Hecla Greens Creek entered
47 into a memorandum of understanding to conduct the
48 environmental analysis using a third-party. In more
49 simplistic terms, it is, instead of Staff on the
50

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1 Tongass National Forest conducting the environmental
2 analysis there is a contractor that effectively is
3 doing that and then the Forest Service is providing
4 what's referred to, generally speaking, as a shadow
5 organization to make sure it's meeting all the laws,
6 regulations, and policies of the Forest Service. And
7 so that's the third-party component.

8

9 I hope that helps clarify. There was
10 another component that you mentioned, but that's what
11 the Hecla Greens Creek Project is, is it just means
12 it's using a contractor to do the environmental
13 analysis and then Forest Service is providing
14 oversight. If that's helpful, sir.

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard, do you
17 have followup or additional questions.

18

19 MR. HOWARD: Well, Madame Chair, it
20 seems like every time I ask a question it leads to
21 another question. So now I'm wondering is the third-
22 party going to complicate what the tribe and Angoon
23 Community Association, Council -- the reason I ask,
24 Madame Chair, is according to Monument language, that
25 was created by elders of Angoon, I mean I'm actually
26 old enough to know exactly who the elders are that went
27 to D.C., and talked to Jimmy Carter into signing the
28 proclamation creating Admiralty Island as a National
29 Monument. So I'm old enough to know them by name and
30 face. But it seems like a part of this process needs
31 to involve the community because even if they're not in
32 the National Monument, they're causing irreparable harm
33 to the Monument and the resource that is supposed to be
34 there for the indigenous people of the island. That
35 language is in Monument language.

36

37 The Forest Service has set precedence
38 in the past taking ownership of the pollution caused by
39 the (indiscernible) in the bottom of some of our bays
40 because of logging. I've watched the Forest Service
41 say, oh, the water's not our responsibility. The
42 decisions you're making up land and above the water
43 line is affecting what's happening in the bay, as well
44 as the rest of the island. So keep in mind that even
45 though the mine is not in the Monument, you have dust
46 articles blowing on to the Monument, you have them
47 washed on to the Monument, you have them causing
48 irreparable harm to the game and wildlife that are on
49 the Monument. It is the Forest Service's

50

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1 responsibility to maintain the Monument as it was and
2 people in this community understand the obligation the
3 Forest Service has to the National Monument.

4

5 So I'm wondering, is the third-party
6 going to come out here and talk with the tribal council
7 and see what their thoughts are. It seems like we're
8 being left out of the equation where -- I mentioned it
9 the other day, it seems like the Forest Service is now
10 a Greens Creek employee and that's how they're
11 conducting business.

12

13 So, thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MR. STEWART: If I may, Madame Chair.
16 I want to offer to Mr. Howard, community engagement is
17 something that I take very seriously so that is
18 something that occurs by the Forest Service from the
19 local line officer, generally speaking that would be
20 District Ranger Basia Trout. I was aware of the topic
21 coming up from yesterday, I have reached out to Ranger
22 Trout to try to come up with both information on past
23 conferencing with the tribe and also the transcripts
24 associated with those conversations. So I am working
25 to get that for Mr. Howard from the request yesterday.

26

27 In addition to that, I would offer that
28 the Forest Service does have a responsibility for the
29 water resources and all resources that occur on those
30 lands and it's another responsibility that we take very
31 seriously. The water quality issue is one that the
32 agency looks at very closely but we also work in
33 concert with the State Department of -- I think it's
34 Environmental Quality, I think that's the right term
35 for the State agency, but there have been a number of
36 efforts to try to make sure that water quality is at or
37 above the conditions necessary in the state of Alaska
38 before any releases occur.

39

40 And so I respect Mr. Howard's concern,
41 it's my concern too, and it's one that I take very
42 seriously. And I know that the past rangers have had a
43 lot of conversations with the members in Angoon and
44 recognize the sensitivity of that issue with Hecla
45 Greens Creek and also the honor and respect that they
46 host to the President in signing the Admiralty National
47 Monument.

48

49 I yield back.

50

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
2 Stewart. Mr. Howard, did you have any followups or
3 additional questions.

4
5 MR. HOWARD: I'll save it for the
6 agenda item. Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
9 Howard. Are there any other comments or questions for
10 Mr. Stewart.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing
15 none. Mr. Stewart, I really appreciate the time that
16 you came to talk with us today for Forest Service
17 actions. I don't know if you have anything that you
18 would like to add but just to let you know that we're
19 going to be moving on to finish some old business in
20 our agenda and our next topic will be what the Council
21 might be doing -- comments we'd be making on proposals
22 to Board of Game for Unit 2 wolf status, so I know that
23 you had a time certain spot for an hour and I'd
24 encourage you to stick with us for as long as you can.

25
26 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 I would be honored to stay on as long as I can. There
28 are a host of other topics that I can, or if the
29 Committee decided that they would like to hear from but
30 the three action items that I've heard that I'm
31 responsible for coming from this meeting is to update
32 the Southeast Subsistence RAC on any actions going
33 forward on the Forest Management Projects that we spoke
34 about. I would say I'll add the Hecla Greens Creek
35 project into that also.

36
37 Also there was a request for additional
38 information associated with research or studies or
39 scientific efforts associated with the Hecla Greens
40 Creek project. I will also supply that if I can --
41 whatever I can come up with.

42
43 And then the last one that I got was
44 kind of a carryover from yesterday, was the agency's
45 engagement with the community of Angoon.

46
47 Can I verify through the Chair that
48 each of those items should come back through the Chair
49 then be distributed to the individual member of
50

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1 interest.

2

3 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
4 Stewart. Yes, through our Council Coordinator, our
5 communications get submitted to her and she distributes
6 it to Regional Advisory Council members as appropriate.

7

8 MR. STEWART: Thank you, very much,
9 Madame Chair. And I yield back. And I look forward to
10 hanging on as you talk about GMU2 wolf. And thank you
11 to all the members on the Committee. This is a topic
12 that I take very seriously of trying to be responsive
13 and engaging to the Subsistence Committees and
14 specifically am honored to be able to be able to come
15 before the Southeast Subsistence group today. I know
16 it's a difficult process to try to work through
17 remotely and virtually, yet, I still hold a great deal
18 of honor and respect for the roles that you fill and
19 the representation that you provide and I will continue
20 to seek to do the best that I can each and every day on
21 your behalf as I manage the Tongass National Forest and
22 work with the people in Southeast Alaska, along with
23 the resources for which we're responsible.

24

25 And, with that, I yield back, Madame
26 Chair. Thank you, again, for your time, and my
27 appreciation to the Committee.

28

29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
30 you, Mr. Stewart. So we are going to move back in the
31 agenda. I feel like it's appropriate that we now take
32 some time to decide if we are going to submit comments
33 on the Board of Game proposal regarding Unit 2 wolves
34 because we do need to have that work completed probably
35 by the end of business today in order to submit it for
36 them -- in order to vote on it and have it submitted to
37 them for their proposal that they'll be discussing
38 tomorrow at their Board meeting.

39

40 Ms. Perry, can you guide me to if we
41 have any supplemental resources of what date that might
42 have been sent to us so that the Council members could
43 have that proposal to the Board of Game before them.

44

45 MS. PERRY: Yes, thank you, Madame
46 Chair. I am just going to doublecheck, I sent out an
47 agenda with some notes by email the other day and I
48 think everybody might have that but let me just
49 doublecheck which batch that was. Okay. That should

50

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1 have been by email on I believe March the 12th and I
2 will verify that real quick.

3

4

5 And I would like to let the Council
6 know that Mr. Tom Schumacher, as a follow up from his
7 presentation yesterday, did answer some questions that
8 I believe Mr. Douville had asked from yesterday and I
9 did send that out to the Council at 11:05 today. And I
10 have confirmed that the supplemental materials on wolf
11 did go out Friday the 12th. It was the Council's
12 recommendation back in 2019, our proposed -- or the
13 Board of Game current Proposal 194. Just did a little
14 digging, especially for our new Council members to
15 provide some historical references for them, so, again,
16 from 2019 we've got the proposals for both hunting and
17 trapping that this Council submitted, and then the
18 recommendation. And that was sent at 5:10 p.m., on
19 Friday the 12th, if that helps folks find it.

19

20 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
21 you for that and helping us get organized.

22

23

24 I would like to ask Mr. Douville if he
25 received the email this morning that was in response to
26 some of the questions that he had yesterday and if
27 there was anything he wanted to address on that or if
28 he would like me to put those responses into the record
29 at this point in time.

29

30 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, I am just
31 going to look at my emails at this time, okay.

32

33

34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
35 Douville. I will just share them in this form. You
36 had some questions yesterday regarding Unit 2 wolves
37 and Mr. Schumacher sent some answers to your question.

37

38 I'll just read it so that you have --
39 so everybody has it and we're all on the same page.

40

41

42 You asked how many of the Unit 2 wolves
43 reported harvested during the 2019/2020 season had also
44 been detected on Fish and Game or HCA's hair boards
45 prior to being harvested. There's some -- actually I'm
46 wondering if Mr. Schumacher would like to just speak to
47 this question specifically.

47

48

49 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair, it looks as
50 though Mr. Schumacher is on the phone and is available

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1 until 3:00 o'clock today.

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VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Schumacher, I can either read your email or somebody from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, if they want to give a more concise answer for whether or not, or how many wolves were detected, I would entertain that at this time.

MR. SCHUMACHER: Ms. Chairman, I am here looking -- oh, okay, the email that I sent to DeAnna to distribute and I'd be happy to go over it. I went over Mr. Douville's question yesterday, he asked how many of the wolves harvested during the 2019/2020 season in Unit 2 were detected at hair boards. So I went through a little bit of an explanation about that. We had 165 wolves reported harvested in Unit 2 during the 2019/2020 season. We collected tissue samples from all of them. 163 of those had DNA that was sufficient enough to get an individual identification. So two of those wolves we couldn't get an individual identification so we can't really include them in this answer for Mr. Douville. But many of those 163 wolves were reported taken outside of our study area, in other words, they were very unlikely to be detected at hair board stations. So you need to separate out the wolves that were unlikely to be detected, versus wolves that were likely to be detected. We determined the extent of our study area, so the combined Department of Fish and Game and Hydaburg Cooperative Association study area based on the movements of wolves during the fall. We estimate movement by where wolves are detected at hair board stations or where they're harvested for wolves that were previously detected at hair board stations. And then the buffer around -- hair board nodes as they're called, based on those movements, in 2019 that buffer was 20 kilometers wide, that's about 13 miles, so what that means is beyond that 13 mile limit it's unlikely that any wolf outside that area would be detected at a hair board. So wolves that were harvested outside that 20 kilometer buffer were not included in the analysis. We also left out areas from the outer islands because they're also unlikely to be detected at hair boards on Prince of Wales, you know, places like Dall or Suemez, San Fernando, Heceta, you know, it's unlikely that a wolf would swim over to get detected at a hair board. So we looked at that total of 163 wolves we found 68 that were harvested within what we consider to be our study area for the hair

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1 boards. And of those 68 wolves, 22 of them had been
2 detected at hair boards before they were harvested. So
3 roughly a third. And just for reference, in a
4 mark/recapture experiment, if you're recapturing a
5 third of animals, just that way, that's pretty good.

6
7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
8 you, Mr. Schumacher. Mr. Douville, did you have
9 comments regarding the explanation or additional
10 questions.

11
12 MR. DOUVILLE: I do not. It's
13 interesting to look at. So it looks like a third of
14 the population is getting -- giving up DNA samples but
15 I have no questions at this time.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
20 you. And thank you, again, Mr. Schumacher, for coming
21 back with information during our meeting.

22
23 So just as a reminder for Council
24 members, we have the opportunity to comment on Board of
25 Game Proposal No. 194. For those of you that are on
26 Teams it is up on the screen, and, hopefully for those
27 of you that are not on Teams you were able to find it
28 in your supplemental materials.

29
30 At this time, I would ask what the wish
31 of the Council is, would you like to provide comments,
32 and, if so, we would probably need a motion to provide
33 those comments and then have a deliberation of what
34 those comments should be.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Comments. I know
37 I've talked to, you know, Mr. Douville, about what
38 those comments might be but it probably needs a little
39 more discussion.

40
41 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Should
42 we have a motion to provide comments on Proposal 194
43 and work through it after that or would you like to
44 have that discussion right now and then decide if we
45 want to take a motion to action?

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, let me ask
48 Mike, you know, some of us have had discussions, and I
49 don't know that we can up with anything concrete yet
50

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1 unless Mike's given it some more thought but, yeah, if
2 I could kind of defer to Mr. Douville to see where he
3 wants to go with this.

4

5 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay.

6

7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thanks Mr.
8 Douville.

9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: Well, I wouldn't
11 anticipate a season longer than three weeks down the
12 road. And to me wolves are not predictable, so you
13 can't see week by week you're going to get
14 mark/recapture from any given pack. You might get a
15 sample in three weeks and you might get -- you may get
16 a sample in three weeks, it's just how wolves operate.

17

18 So the value of sealing these wolves
19 every week in comparison with the hair board hits,
20 which are, as I know, wolves are quite unpredictable at
21 times, it really doesn't have a strong value. I would
22 suggest that -- I don't know where to take it from
23 there other than, you know, I have no problem with
24 sealing wolves within a week of the end of the season,
25 but during the season, while this is a State and
26 private land proposal, on Federal land I would not want
27 to impose this same thing on a subsistence user. So
28 it's kind of two different things we will kind of have
29 to look at.

30

31 That's my thoughts at this time.

32

33 I know Tom said there was four sealers
34 on the island but the person that sealed my wolves said
35 there was only two last winter. Maybe there's four
36 right now. Or if there was more than that it was
37 unknown to her and I would think that she would
38 understand the system. The Game Troopers really don't
39 want to -- while they're capable and can seal wolves,
40 it's not their first choice of duty so there is the
41 issue of having sealers available for some of the
42 outlying areas too. So like if somebody is trapping in
43 Moreia (ph) Sound and anchors up there for 10 days or
44 somebody in Point Baker got to go way out of their way
45 to get that done but I think probably the information
46 does have some value. Just because it becomes a
47 regulation doesn't mean that everybody is going to
48 comply with it.

49

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1 So I don't know where to go from there,
2 thank you.

3
4 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
5 Douville. One thing that you mentioned that resonates
6 with me is that this is a State proposal and applies to
7 State lands, and I think dependent upon the action that
8 the Board of Game takes tomorrow at their meeting, if
9 they pass this proposal for Unit 2 wolves to be sealed
10 within seven days of harvest then we would likely see a
11 companion proposal, probably submitted by the
12 Department, I would expect, within the Federal process
13 for subsistence users. So this might be an opportunity
14 for us to provide the Board of Game our concerns with
15 that as they apply towards Federal lands and Federal
16 subsistence users now so that they can consider it in
17 their deliberations as moving forward.

18
19 And so given that, I wanted to task you
20 the question since you're a trapper, user and
21 understand, would you consider providing comment on
22 this proposal saying that we understand the need for
23 the data but that that seven day sealing after seven
24 days of harvest may pose unnecessary burden on
25 subsistence users when the season is only three weeks,
26 and that our discussion would center more around asking
27 the Board of Game to consider modifying it to seven
28 days after the end of the season.

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

31
32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, that
33 was a question directed.....

34
35 MR. DOUVILLE: Are you asking me that
36 question?

37
38 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM:to Mr.
39 Douville and then -- yeah, I am asking you that
40 question and then I'll defer to you, Mr. Wright, after
41 that.

42
43 MR. DOUVILLE: Well, that is my
44 thought. I think it's worthwhile to offer that
45 comment. I'm reluctant to take action and vote yea or
46 nay on this proposal at this point because while --
47 unless it's modified. I just cannot see the value,
48 particularly because the DNA all goes in at the same
49 time and with a short season that I predict we'll have,
50

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1 that there's just too much variable in what the wolf
2 does for it to have a tremendous amount of value to
3 impose that sort of thing on a trapper who's, you know,
4 going to have to go out of his way in some cases to
5 comply.

6
7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
8 you for that Mr. Douville. You have a question, Mr.
9 Wright.

10
11 MR. WRIGHT: Not really, Madame Chair,
12 just a point of order. If we're going to -- it's
13 potentially going to come down to a vote we probably
14 need to have a motion so that -- and it could be
15 defeated or whatever, it doesn't matter, but we need a
16 motion and a second to continue on if this discussion
17 is going to come into a vote.

18
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20
21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
22 Wright. I would entertain a motion that the Southeast
23 Regional Advisory Council provides comment in
24 opposition to Proposal 194; that's one way to put a
25 motion forward if somebody wants to make a motion such
26 as that.

27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

29
30 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Douville.

31
32 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm not making a motion
33 but I think when we do they're always made in the
34 positive so I'm not sure if Mr. Wright is correct, that
35 we cannot discuss what we may want to do without having
36 a motion on the floor. I mean we have a lot of
37 discussions that aren't necessarily involve a motion.

38
39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
40 Douville. I think what I was offering a motion in the
41 positive to provide comment and those comments would be
42 in opposition of this proposal, our body would oppose
43 the Board of Game proposal, that we would offer
44 comments that oppose the Board of Game proposal. So we
45 just took a similar motion on one of the Board of Fish
46 proposals where we put a proposal on the floor that we
47 made it on the -- put a proposal on the floor that we
48 made it in the -- we said to support the proposal and
49 then we had to decline and then go back and re-vote to
50

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1 offer comments to oppose. So I would think a motion in
2 that respect would be appropriate.

3

4 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

5

6 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Wright.

7

8 MR. WRIGHT: Under Robert Rules, you
9 know, a motion can make a motion and then a person can
10 second just for discussion but after discussion it
11 doesn't mean that you have to vote in favor of a motion
12 or against, so all it does is just puts it up for
13 discussion, it doesn't put it in a position where
14 you're in favor of a motion. So I could make a motion
15 and I could turn around after I heard discussion and
16 vote against my motion.

17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Sure, thank you,
21 Mr. Wright. Maybe it's clearer if somebody would put a
22 motion on the table to provide comment to the Alaska
23 Board of Game on Proposal 194.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this
26 is Don.

27

28 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I was working up
31 to being able to do that but I do have one
32 clarification. Did I understand that what's before the
33 Board of Game is a special action request and not
34 necessarily a wildlife proposal, is that what we're
35 looking at?

36

37 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
38 Hernandez. I would ask if there's anyone from Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game online that could answer
40 that question.

41

42 MR. SCHUMACHER: Madame Chair, this is
43 Tom Schumacher, I can answer.

44

45 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Please.

46

47 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, to Mr.
48 Hernandez' question. The proposal was submitted out of
49 cycle so we had to use what's called the agenda change

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1 request process, that's where we have sort of an
2 emergency situation or something that we feel that the
3 Board needs to hear out of cycle and we submit a
4 proposal and ask them to consider it. The Board either
5 accepts or rejects it. In this case the Board accepted
6 it out of cycle and there hasn't -- you know they're
7 listening to this proposal and a few others at their
8 short meeting tomorrow. So it is a normal Fish and
9 Game proposal to the Board of Game, just how it got
10 there is different.

11

12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.

13 Schumacher.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thanks for
16 that clarification, I just wanted to be clear when we
17 make the motion what we're dealing with.

18

19 So in the case of the proposal, I guess
20 it would be appropriate to make the motion in the
21 affirmative, as Frank pointed out, and then in the
22 course of our discussion if we, you know, decide that
23 we oppose it then that would be the appropriate vote.
24 But I wanted to be clear on that.

25

26 And however our vote may go I think,
27 you know, we may also want to provide additional
28 comment of kind of where we see this -- where we'd like
29 to see this go and that might, you know, address
30 whether or not the Council would put in a Federal
31 proposal along the same lines or perhaps something
32 different, so I think all those are possibilities.

33

34 So.....

35

36 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair. Sorry,

37 Donald, go ahead.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,

40 DeAnna, I'll standby.

41

42 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to followup
43 with what Frank said. This discussion is actually part
44 of an agenda item. The agenda item does allow for
45 discussion of the Council without a motion. This
46 particular agenda item is only an action item if the
47 Council wants it to be. So I just wanted to clarify
48 that it's not an action unless the Council wants it to
49 be so because of that we are able to discuss it without
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1 a motion, but I think we're well on our way to getting
2 to a motion. But I just wanted to clarify that for the
3 future. It is an agenda item and we can discuss it.

4

5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.
6 Perry. At this time are there any Council comments
7 regarding the agenda item and talking about the Board
8 of Game Proposal 194 with respect to changing the
9 sealing requirements on Unit 2 wolf.

10

11 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, this is
12 Harvey Kitka.

13

14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

15

16 MR. KITKA: Being an agenda item and
17 things it's still going to become public record as our
18 recordings go out to the public so I don't know if we
19 need to vote yea or nay on it or it's just a matter of
20 people are going to hear our comments and it'll be
21 decided somewhere down the line.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
26 Kitka. What is the wish of the Council.

27

28 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

29

30 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville.

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: I would take no action
33 but I would send comment which would be the course of
34 action I would take, or I would suggest. We've
35 discussed it. I don't know if a yea or nay on it is
36 appropriate but I think to make comment on it would be.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
41 Douville. Again, I would.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair.

44

45 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr.
46 Hernandez.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think Mike gave
49 us another alternative there that I hadn't considered.

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1 We could potentially make a motion that the Council
2 take no action on the proposal, which would essentially
3 just allow the Board to make the decision without our
4 recommendation, but we would certainly want to add
5 comment and I think the comment would be maybe, you
6 know, directed towards what our response would be, you
7 know, should they implement that perhaps.

8
9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
10 Hernandez.

11
12 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair.

13
14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Perry, do we
15 need.....

16
17 MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal Casipit.

18
19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM:a -- excuse
20 me -- Ms. Perry, do we need a motion, or do we have to
21 vote if we want to provide comments.

22
23 MS. PERRY: You are correct, Madame
24 Chair. Again, I think when we talk about making a
25 recommendation, again, this is not a Federal proposal
26 so that word kind of connotes what we do with Federal
27 proposals. What we're doing today is deciding whether
28 or not to provide a comment on this proposal and that
29 comment could, you know, describe the issues that Mr.
30 Douville has said on the record and some other comments
31 that we've heard. But it's not necessarily a
32 recommendation, it would just be a comment in support
33 or a comment in opposition for these reasons.

34
35 So I just wanted to clarify between
36 like a recommendation that the Council gives during a
37 Federal proposal process in which the Council has
38 deference, that's not our role with State comments. We
39 do have some weight with the State as a comment coming
40 from a Council, but it's not exact -- it's kind of
41 apples and oranges. So I just wanted to make that
42 clear.

43
44 But, yes, Madame Chair, we would need a
45 motion, a second, and a vote on whether or not we want
46 to send any type of comment to the Board of Fish -- or
47 Board of Game -- sorry, on wolf.

48
49 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.
50

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1 Perry. So, again, for the Council members I did
2 mention earlier that I would entertain a motion to
3 provide comment to the Alaska Board of Game on Proposal
4 194. That was a potential motion that could be covered
5 by this.

6
7 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
8 Albert.

9
10 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

11
12 MR. HOWARD: I move the Council sends
13 -- and then I drew a blank -- a letter supporting or
14 not supporting Proposal 194.

15
16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are you asking a
17 question or was that a motion?

18
19 MR. HOWARD: No, that's a motion,
20 Madame Chair.

21
22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
23 Howard. Is there a second.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Not hearing a
28 second, is there another potential motion that the
29 Council would like to put forward.

30
31 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, if Albert
32 could clarify his motion or reread it so I could listen
33 again.

34
35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
36 Douville. Mr. Howard, would you restate your motion
37 for clarity.

38
39 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. I'd like to
40 make a motion that the Council have an official
41 position on Proposal 194.

42
43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there a second.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, not
48 hearing a second.

49
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0294

1 MR. BEMIS: I'll go ahead.....

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

4

5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: If somebody could
6 put together a motion that states that the Southeast
7 Regional Advisory Council to provide comment on the
8 Board of Fish Proposal 194. So it don't have to say
9 what comments it is, just we'd provide it.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

14

15 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville.

16

17 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, I so move.

18

19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, is
20 there a second.

21

22 MR. KITKA: Second. Harvey.

23

24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
25 Kitka. It's been moved and seconded that the Southeast
26 Regional Advisory Council provide comment to the Board
27 of Game on Proposal 194. We've had some discussion so
28 I would ask our Staff, who is going to help us provide
29 this comment, the document that we would provide to the
30 Board of Game, to incorporate some of that discussion
31 as we move towards a vote. And at this time I would
32 ask if any other Council members have comments or
33 questions regarding Proposal 194 and then we should
34 probably have a little bit of justification of whether
35 we support or oppose that with what is being proposed
36 in 194.

37

38 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, this is
39 Harvey Kitka.

40

41 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Kitka.

42

43 MR. KITKA: I will support this motion
44 with the caveat that it would put an undue burden on
45 our subsistence users. Beings as they would have to be
46 taking off from their trapping line to take this in.
47 If they caught the wolf on the first day of the
48 trapping season then they would have to go in and get a
49 tag within seven days, that'd be an undue burden on
50

0295

1 them.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Kitka. Are there other Council comments.

7

8

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair.

9

10

11

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Hernandez.

12

13

14

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23

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: In addition to what Harvey spoke about, I think I would also include that our Council would be opposed to this proposal if it were implemented in a shortened wolf season that say would be perhaps less than a month long. We could also add that, you know, the Council would -- could possibly support a proposal that called for a shorter sealing time if the season length were longer for the reasons that Harvey stated. Just to offer that up as alternatives if they choose to look at alternatives.

24

So I would add that.

25

26

27

28

29

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Hernandez. Are there any other Council comments or discussion that you would want to include.

30

31

32

MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, this is Calvin Casipit. I had some additions to that.

33

34

35

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, Mr. Casipit, please.

36

37

38

39

40

41

MR. CASIPIT: The other things we should mention to the Board is that for this proposed regulation to be fully affective that we would have to pass a companion proposal under the Federal system and just alert them to that.

42

43

44

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Also one of the things that the Board should consider, and something that I'm going to consider if it does come before the Federal system and this was kind of eluded to by Mr. Hernandez is that I question the need for this weekly sealing if our seasons are only going to last two or three weeks. It just -- I don't see why we put the burden on our users for doing that, and then I don't see how it really

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1 improves the model. I may be wrong. I may be wrong,
2 but I just -- he already said they're already getting a
3 third recapture, that's pretty -- that's getting close
4 to that magic 40 percent that our friend, Ben VanAlen
5 always used to talk about in mark/recaptures.

6
7 But anyway that's kind of what I have.
8 It's got to go through our system for it to be fully
9 effective and then I just question the trade-off of
10 weekly sealing with a really short season on our users.

11
12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
13 you, Mr. Casipit for those precise summaries of some of
14 our discussion. Are there any other comments from the
15 Council.

16
17 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

18
19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Douville.

20
21 MR. DOUVILLE: For people that trap out
22 of a boat like I do, you know, you have kind of brief
23 little weather windows that you try to work and if
24 those aren't timed correctly you could possibly miss a
25 nice day because you might have to go seal a wolf, then
26 you might not get back out for the next three or four,
27 but it is a burden for somebody that's working out of a
28 boat and working with the kind of weather that you have
29 in the fall and winter. You know unless you're driving
30 on the road it's not near as much of an issue but there
31 is some conflict in that respect.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
36 Douville. Other Council comments.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: It sounds like we
41 are going to provide comments to the Board of Game
42 regarding this proposal in opposition to the proposal
43 for various reasons stated around if it passes there's
44 probably going to be a companion proposal which would
45 address the subsistence uses and we believe it's an
46 undue burden on subsistence users, so we're providing
47 them that feedback among other things that Council
48 members have discussed.

49
50

0297

1 Is there a call for the question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'll call for the
4 question.

5

6 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
7 you, Mr. Hernandez. Again, the motion is to provide
8 these comments to the Board of Game on Proposal 194.
9 Mr. Wright, would you please do a roll call vote.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

12

13 Calvin Casipit.

14

15 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

18

19 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

22

23 MR. SLATER: Yes.

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

30

31 MR. HOWARD: yes.

32

33 MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

36

37 MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

38

39 MR. ROBBINS: Yes.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Yes.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

46

47 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

50

0298

1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Ian Johnson.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Frank Wright votes yes.

8

Motion passed.

9

10 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
11 Wright. And for the Council's patience as we moved
12 through that procedural process.

13

14 At this time, Ms. Perry, do we have any
15 other old business that we need to take care of under
16 Old Business A, which was brought before us from the
17 Council last time or are we completely done with that
18 presentation and that agenda item.

19

20 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
21 just made a few notes for the Council to come back to
22 regarding some letters that came out of discussions
23 from yesterday from mostly public comments. So I think
24 we are through with the old business items.

25

26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
27 you very much. On agenda Item 10B, old business, which
28 is the State Board of Fisheries proposals, we did have
29 a few proposals left undone, however, in respect to our
30 time and the rest of our agenda I think the general
31 idea was to potentially pick up those at our next
32 meeting and finalize that letter to the Board of
33 Fisheries that would include all of our positions on
34 Board of Fish proposals and approve all those comments
35 at that time so we can check that agenda item off.

36

37 I see that under old business we have
38 agenda Item 10C which is an update from the National
39 Park system, individual C&T determinations. And it
40 looks like Mr. Joshua Ream would be available today.
41 Is he available at this time to address this?

42

43 MR. REAM: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
44 Josh and I am available.

45

46 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, Mr.
47 Ream.

48

49 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair, this is

50

0299

1 DeAnna.

2

3

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

4

5

MS. PERRY: I'm sorry, apologies. I
6 was getting some texts from Staff, it looks like Staff
7 has been working on the comment to the Board of Game
8 and before we moved further I just wanted to know if
9 the Council would like for us to type that up and give
10 the Council an opportunity to work at the wording
11 before we submit it or if not, that's fine, too. I
12 mean you've already voted to do the comments but I just
13 wanted to extend the courtesy to the Council to see
14 what would go forward if they would like to look it
15 over.

16

17

18

19

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21

22

23

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.
Perry. And I do believe we would have -- if that was
sent to us to look over tonight/first thing in the
morning, we would still make the deadline for it to go
to the Board of Game to be submitted before they
deliberate on their proposal.

24

25

26

27

28

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32

MS. PERRY: I would highly encourage us
to finalize that today simply because the Board of Game
starts at 9:00 o'clock and I'm not sure when they will
deliberate that. In their public notice, I know they
do have some other matters to discuss but in case they
take this proposal first we will have missed our
window. We can only submit it up to the time of
deliberation.

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
you, Ms. Perry. So I would like to have that letter --
it would be great if you could have Staff send that
letter to you to send to us by within like a half an
hour of 5:00 o'clock, or so, by 4:30 or so that we
could have a quick peak at it before we adjourn for the
day.

41

42

43

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45

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MS. PERRY: Great.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Understanding --
just so that we can take a look at the finalized work
that we're submitting before the Board of Game.

Thank you.

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

0300

1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: With that.....

2

3 MS. PERRY: Sorry for the interruption,
4 Joshua.

5

6 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: No problem, thanks
7 for keeping us on track, Ms. Perry. Mr. Ream, I would
8 like to call on you to give us our update on the NPS
9 individual C&T determinations, please.

10

11 MR. REAM: Thank you, Madame Chair, and
12 good afternoon members of the Council. For the record
13 my name is Joshua Ream, and I am the Regional
14 Subsistence Program Manager for the National Park
15 Service based out of the Anchorage Regional Office but
16 working from my home in Eagle River. I am also the
17 Park Service's representative to the InterAgency Staff
18 Committee.

19

20 Today I just want to report to you on
21 recent decisions that were made by the Federal
22 Subsistence Board at their regulatory meeting back in
23 January of this year and they did make some changes to
24 the process used for customary and traditional use
25 determinations for individuals.

26

27 To start, I want to remind everyone
28 that individual customary and traditional use
29 determinations are nothing new, you might not be as
30 familiar with them because they are quite rare. We've
31 had less than 10 people apply for them in the past 40
32 years.

33

34 The Federal Subsistence Board adopted a
35 revised version of the process for these in January.
36 And I will explain the adopted process to you here
37 following a very short introduction. No action on your
38 end is required at this time but if you ever have
39 feedback on the process we can definitely make sure to
40 deliver that back to the Board.

41

42 You might recall that Park Service
43 Staff, I believe it was me, offered a lengthy
44 presentation on this issue at your fall meeting.
45 Eligibility to hunt and trap in National Parks and
46 National Monuments is rather complex compared to other
47 Federal public lands. And almost all customary and
48 traditional use determinations across the state are for
49 communities and areas and not for individuals.

50

0301

1 In the fall we did ask all 10 of the
2 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and the seven
3 Park Subsistence Resource Commissions for feedback. We
4 incorporated this feedback into our proposed process to
5 the Board and this is what was adopted by the Board in
6 January.

7
8 The revised process includes two
9 critical recommendations made by the RACs and the
10 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

11
12 First, that there is no delegation of
13 authority to the Park Service. The Federal Subsistence
14 Board will retain the final decisionmaking authority.

15
16 Second, the process now includes a
17 formal recommendation from both the affected Regional
18 Advisory Councils and from the affected Subsistence
19 Resource Commission.

20
21 Previously it was just from the RACs.

22
23 Perhaps the biggest change is that the
24 process is no longer tied to the lengthy biennial
25 regulatory proposal cycle, instead the application
26 window is open continuously and once the RACs and the
27 Subsistence Resource Commissions have weighed in the
28 Board will take action on the request at its next
29 public meeting. This accomplishes an important goal of
30 being able to process applications in a more timely
31 manner.

32
33 Many of the RACS and the Subsistence
34 Resource Commissions voted to defer action until they
35 had more time to study the issue. While the Federal
36 Subsistence Board already took action to help improve
37 the process, the Board still welcomes any feedback that
38 you might have for further improvement, either now or
39 at any point in the future. Ultimately, the National
40 Park Service and the Federal Subsistence Board want
41 this process to be as streamlined and responsive as
42 possible.

43
44 Thank you for your time. I'm happy to
45 answer any questions that you have. And if you do have
46 feedback for the Board I'm happy to deliver that as
47 well.

48
49 Thank you.

50

0302

1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
2 Ream. Are there any questions from the Council for Mr.
3 Ream.

4
5 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

6
7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Kitka.

8
9 MR. KITKA: I have one question in
10 listening to this presentation. I didn't hear any talk
11 of consultation with the tribes, is there a reason for
12 that?

13
14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Mr.
15 Ream, do you have a response to the question.

16
17 MR. REAM: Thank you for the question.
18 Yes, I do. We do consider consultation in each of the
19 Parks when an action affects a local tribe, will
20 consult with the tribe on individual C&T request that
21 is made. We do have one before us and it's not in a
22 region that is considered to affect the Southeast
23 Council but it is the reason we started looking at this
24 process more critically. It is for the Mayo family out
25 of Healy. And they are requesting an individual C&T
26 for a family, each member of the family, there's five
27 people in the household for moose in Unit 13E in
28 Denali. And so Denali Park Staff are working through
29 that process and we did already get recommendations
30 from the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council,
31 the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council, and the
32 Denali SRC.

33
34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
35 Ream. Mr. Kitka, do you have a followup.

36
37 MR. KITKA: Yes. I was just curious do
38 you have any requests from the Hoonah Indian Community
39 realizing they had ties to the Glacier Bay area?

40
41 MR. REAM: Thank you for the question.
42 Through the Chair. This is Josh. And in response.
43 Individual C&Ts only apply in Parks and Monuments
44 managed by the Park Service where subsistence is
45 authorized. So the process would not be used for C&Ts
46 in Glacier Bay. And we have not received any requests
47 for such from anyone in Hoonah.

48
49 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

50

0303

1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
2 Ream and Mr. Kitka. Are there any other comments or
3 questions for Mr. Ream.

4
5 MR. KITKA: None at this time, thank
6 you.

7
8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
9 you. Any other comments or questions from other
10 Council members for Mr. Ream.

11
12 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is
13 Ian, just a quick question.

14
15 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Go ahead.

16
17 MR. JOHNSON: Could you -- I'm sorry,
18 just for my own notes, I live in Hoonah and I just --
19 could you repeat what hasn't been received from Hoonah
20 in regards to consultation with the Park just so I have
21 that for my own notes?

22
23 MR. REAM: Sure, I'd be happy to.
24 Through the Chair. So this process and individual
25 C&Ts, in general, only apply to Parks where subsistence
26 is authorized under ANILCA and thus it does not apply
27 to Glacier Bay. So there are no individual C&Ts in
28 Glacier Bay and the Board would not consider a request
29 for such, and we have not received a request from
30 anyone out of Hoonah either. I hope that helps.

31
32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
33 Johnson, does that help.

34
35 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.

36
37 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
38 other comments or questions from Council members for
39 Mr. Ream.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing
44 none, thank you, Mr. Ream, for providing that feedback
45 from -- the update, especially regarding the Federal
46 Subsistence Board actions on this. As you remember
47 from our last meeting we had some pretty hearty and
48 healthy discussions on the C&T determinations in Parks
49 in general and so we appreciate your time.

50

0304

1 With that, I do not believe we have any
2 other old business. So I think we can now move into
3 our new business.

4
5 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair.

6
7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Ms. Perry.

8
9 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 This is DeAnna. And in the interest of time, I know
11 usually we get a status of fish and wildlife right
12 before the Council discusses the current call, whether
13 it be for wildlife or fish so that they have a good
14 indication of what's going on throughout the region
15 before they put together proposals. However, I know
16 that we are fastly approaching the end of the day and I
17 wondered if maybe we could condense that particular
18 presentation and start with the wildlife harvest
19 summary and then go into the call for proposals because
20 that is an action item, and then if we have time later,
21 and Mr. Cross is available we could also hear about the
22 fisheries status. We do not have an action item on the
23 fisheries status. So, again, I'm just thinking of in
24 the interest of time.

25
26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.
27 Perry. We are running quite a bit behind it feels like
28 so I would like to ask Mr. Cross if that is doable for
29 his presentation, if Mr. Cross is on the line.

30
31 MR. CROSS: Yes, I'm here, Madame
32 Chair. That would be acceptable for me.

33
34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
35 you. And Mr. Cross are you providing the wildlife
36 harvest update for us?

37
38 MR. CROSS: Madame Chair, yes, that's
39 correct.

40
41 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. That
42 would be great if you could do so.

43
44 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 For the record my name is Rob Cross and I'm a Fisheries
46 Biologist for the Forest Service on the Tongass
47 National Forest. And this presentation will be on
48 Teams, it's already up on Teams, and it's also on Page
49 44 of your meeting materials.

50

0305

1 So this presentation is an overview of
2 wildlife harvest on the Southeast region through 2019.
3 The first several slides display harvest reported to
4 the State and then I'll discuss harvest under Federal
5 permits.

6
7 So on Page 45 we see the Sitka black-
8 tailed deer harvest. These harvest tables are set up
9 chronologically. So the average harvest from 2000 to
10 2011 is on the top row followed by annual harvest from
11 2012 to 2019. And then the average harvest for 2012 to
12 2019 is on the bottom row. So you can compare the
13 bottom row with the top row to get an idea of long-term
14 changes in harvest. And there will be several of these
15 charts and they're all set up the same way. The bold
16 numbers are the highest harvest in each unit from 2012
17 to 2019. On average, Units 1, 2, and 4 harvest have
18 increased. Unit 3 lengthened its seasons so it's hard
19 to determine. And Unit 5 harvest has decreased.
20 Although Unit 2 average deer harvest has increased in
21 2012 and 2015, it has declined considerably since 2017.

22
23 The next slide on Page 46 shows the
24 same thing for black bear harvest from 2013 to 2019.
25 If you compare the averages between time periods you'll
26 see that the average for the last seven years is far
27 lower than the 13 years before that. This drop in
28 harvest is related to changes in regulatory mechanisms,
29 like the non-resident hunt becoming a registration or
30 draw hunt in many areas. So black bear harvest in Unit
31 2 peaked in 2006 and 2007 and was changed to a
32 registration hunt for non-resident hunters. Black bear
33 populations are thought to be healthy in all units.

34
35 If you go to the next slide, or Page 47
36 of your books, is for brown bear harvest, which is down
37 from previous years. This is not an indication of
38 conservation issues but rather the result of a drop in
39 participating hunters and a reduction of permitted
40 guides in Unit 4. Unit 3 is not a typical brown bear
41 hunt unit and bears are taken primarily by chance in
42 this unit.

43
44 On the next slide you can see that
45 moose harvest has increased in Units 3 and 5 and
46 decreased in Unit 1. Increases in Unit 3 and 5 seem to
47 suggest improved population of moose in these areas.
48 The number of hunters and success rate has remained
49 stable in the last five years. In Unit 1 average has
50

0306

1 dropped but moose numbers in the area are thought to be
2 stable. Harvest numbers include sub-legal harvest and
3 moose harvest occurs primarily under registration
4 permits with draw permits in a few areas. Most hunts
5 fall under the spike-fork 50 rules except Unit 1A,
6 portions of 1C and Unit 5.

7
8 The next slide is on Page 49, it's
9 mountain goat harvest. Most goats are harvested under
10 registration permits. There's also a few draw permits
11 available. Harvest in Unit 1 has been fairly
12 consistent with a slight increase in annual harvest.
13 Average annual harvest in Unit 4 is considerably lower
14 recently but we're starting to see an increase. The
15 population decreased substantially about 10 years ago
16 and is currently at an all time high. So we expect to
17 see increase opportunity and harvest. Unit 5 numbers
18 are a result of low hunter effort. There is a
19 conservation concern in a small area of Unit 5.

20
21 The next slide is wolf harvest and it's
22 been stable in Units 3 and 5 and harvest has increased
23 in Units 1 and 2. Wolf harvest in Unit 2 increased
24 dramatically in 2019 due to changes to the harvest
25 management system. Unit 4 harvest occurs on Pleasant
26 Island just south of Gustavus.

27
28 The next slide on Page 51 shows elk
29 harvest from Etolin Island. They're harvested
30 primarily on draw permits with the hunt limited to a
31 bull only. Access is difficult, often limiting
32 harvest.

33
34 The next slide. Wolverine harvest
35 occurs primarily on the main lands with some taken from
36 Unit 3. More than 95 percent are taken under trapping
37 regulations.

38
39 The next slide on Page 53 lists a few
40 Federal subsistence permits available. The designated
41 hunting permit is the most popular in the Southeast
42 region. It allows qualified harvesters to harvest game
43 for other qualified harvesters. A Federal draw permit
44 for Unit 1C, Berners Bay moose was initiated in 2019.
45 This is a drawing for 25 percent of the annual moose
46 quota in Berners Bay. And on the slide is a photo of
47 the first moose harvested under the Berners Bay Federal
48 draw.

49
50

0307

1 So the next two slides show the same
2 chart over two different time periods. So it shows the
3 total percentage of permits issued by community. This
4 first slide shows permits from 2000 to 2012 and
5 Wrangell, Petersburg and Sitka are the predominant
6 communities where designated hunting permits are
7 issued, about 80 percent overall. And then the next
8 slide shows the same thing for 2013 to 2020. And we
9 see about the same results, Wrangell, Petersburg, and
10 Sitka are issued the most permits.

11
12 The next slide on Page 56. The Unit 1A
13 moose permit allows for an earlier opportunity to
14 harvest moose. Because of the remoteness of Burrows
15 Bay very few permits are issued and hunting effort is
16 often limited to property owners on the river.

17
18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20
21 MR. CROSS: Okay.

22
23 MS. PERRY: I'd like to remind
24 everybody to mute their phones. Star six to please
25 mute your phones. Thank you.

26
27 MR. CROSS: Okay. So on the next slide
28 for goats. Federal mountain goat harvest, let's see,
29 the Unit 1 goat permit allows for the harvest of a
30 second goat after a goat is harvested on a State
31 permit. And it's on the upper right, the chart on the
32 upper right. There have been a few permits issued but
33 no harvest. The Unit 5 goat permit are also seldom
34 used. There have been two goats harvested in Unit 5A
35 since 2018 and that's the chart on the bottom left.

36
37 On the next slide, on Page 58, you can
38 see the Unit 5 brown bear permits issued and -- or you
39 can see the permits that have been issued and the
40 hunting has remained consistently low.

41
42 On the next slide on Page 59 shows the
43 number of designated hunting permits issued annually.
44 A number of those permittees reporting deer or moose
45 hunting effort and the number of deer and moose
46 reported harvested. The highest numbers during this
47 period are in bold. The top row is the average from
48 2003 to 2012 and the bottom row is the average from
49 2013 to 2019. The 2020 season has 220 permits issued
50

0308

1 but harvest reporting is not completed yet. You'll
2 notice that there were less permits used to hunt deer
3 but more deer harvested. This is because designated
4 hunters are harvesting more deer per permit than they
5 used to.

6
7 Okay. And I'll end with Federal
8 designated hunter deer harvest by community on the next
9 slide. And you can compare the 2003 to 2012 average
10 with the 2013 to 2019 average. And those are on the
11 left and the right side of the chart, respectively.
12 Both of those columns are in bold. For instance, the
13 fourth row from the bottom is the Sitka harvest, and
14 you can see that the average annual harvest increased
15 from 78 to 120. The increase in harvest is mostly
16 attributed to much higher abundance of deer in Unit 4.
17 The population declined substantially during the
18 winters of 2006 to 2009 and then has since rebounded.
19 The only other notable changes from Klawock where the
20 average went from six to 19.

21
22 That concludes my presentation, Madame
23 Chair.

24
25 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
26 you, Mr. Cross. At this time I would ask if any
27 Council members have any specific questions regarding
28 wildlife harvest for Mr. Cross.

29
30 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, this is Jim
31 Slater.

32
33 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Slater.

34
35 MR. SLATER: Mr. Cross, hi, thank you
36 for coming today. A question for you regarding the
37 designated hunting permits. You apply on a per
38 community basis but then you can travel anywhere in
39 Southeast Alaska and hunt that permit, is that the way
40 it is, or do you have to apply for a permit in the area
41 you're going to be hunting?

42
43 MR. CROSS: Thank you. Through the
44 Chair. Mr. Slater. Yeah, so you apply for a
45 designated harvest permit personally and then you are
46 qualified in Units 1 through 5.

47
48 MR. SLATER: Okay. Thank you, very
49 much.

50

0309

1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Are
2 there any other questions for Mr. Cross regarding
3 wildlife harvest in the region.

4
5 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert.

6
7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

8
9 MR. HOWARD: When is there going to be
10 an update for Unit 4 bears for 2020?

11
12 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Mr.
13 Howard, I'm actually not sure of the answer to that.
14 Possibly Mr. Suminski would have a better answer for
15 that.

16
17 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Suminski,
18 would you like to tackle the question.

19
20 MR. SUMINSKI: Yes, through the Chair.
21 Mr. Howard. The spring bear hunt, I believe, just
22 ended. And I'm not sure when those hunt reports are
23 due. But I would suspect by your next meeting those
24 would be available.

25
26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
27 you.

28
29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31
32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any
33 other questions for Mr. Cross or Staff regarding
34 wildlife harvest.

35
36 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is
37 Ian, I had a couple questions.

38
39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Johnson.

40
41 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, so these are great
42 to look at. I mean I'm immediately struck by, you
43 know, wanting to leverage them in a way that allows us
44 to answer some of these persistent questions that have
45 been in discussion about user groups and out of town
46 pressure. So do we have the ability to look at this
47 harvest data more related to user groups, whether, I
48 guess local or non-local or resident and non-resident?

49
50

0310

1 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair, this
2 is Terry Suminski. I didn't catch -- was that Mr.
3 Slater?

4
5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Johnson.

6
7 MR. JOHNSON: No, this is Ian Johnson.

8
9 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Johnson. Of course
10 everyone's required to report deer harvest and those
11 can be sorted out by community and, you know, as we're
12 discussing these -- you know, there's the potential to
13 put in some proposals and we will look at that much
14 closure when we analyze any proposals that are
15 submitted but we don't have.....

16
17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19
20 REPORTER: I'm getting some really bad
21 feedback, I can't hear anybody.

22
23 MR. SUMINSKI:there's a lot
24 of.....

25
26 REPORTER: Can you remember to put your
27 phones on mute please.

28
29 MS. PERRY: Sorry, Terry, if I could
30 interrupt I'm sorry. We're getting a lot of noise and
31 we cannot hear the speakers nor can the court reporter
32 capture this. So if we could just take a moment and
33 make sure that our phones are on mute if you're not
34 speaking. Again, if you don't have a mute button just
35 press star six.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 Sorry to interrupt Terry.

40
41 MR. SUMINSKI: That was the end of my
42 comment, Madame Chair.

43
44 REPORTER: I didn't get any of the last
45 bit you said though, can you repeat it.

46
47 MR. SUMINSKI: Yeah. Mr. Johnson, the
48 deer number or deer harvest data can be sorted out,
49 especially by community, somewhat by location and

50

0311

1 that's something that we would analyze in the event
2 that we receive proposals but I don't have any sort of
3 detail at my fingertips right now.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
8 Suminski. Mr. Johnson, you indicated you might have
9 had more than one question.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I was also curious
12 if, I guess, you know, it's great looking at like gross
13 harvest numbers but I was also just interested in
14 linking that to effort some way and maybe standardizing
15 harvest more from per user standpoint. So that was
16 just a comment, or like a way that -- just like I'm
17 hesitant to look at the numbers just on a raw basis
18 without understanding effort more.

19

20 And then, yeah, I guess just as a
21 comment when numbers are compiled, not just for the
22 2020 one, not just for bears, but for deer, I guess, I
23 would definitely be thinking about the effect of
24 decreased ferry service on the harvest numbers because
25 I guess I'm expecting to see a pretty drastic change
26 based on the lack of access to some of these rural
27 areas.

28

29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you.
30 Are there any other questions from Council members for
31 Mr. Cross or Mr. Suminski regarding wildlife harvest.

32

33 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert.

34

35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: You have the
36 floor, Mr. Howard.

37

38 MR. HOWARD: Is there a place I can go
39 and research how much deer is taken out of the Chatham
40 Strait area by non-residents? I'm asking the question
41 because I know when we you go in salt water you have to
42 document everything and how much you caught and where
43 you caught it, and I'm wondering if there's a mechanism
44 like that for non-resident hunters that are allowed to
45 take deer out of Chatham Strait and if there's
46 information somewhere I can look to see if, in fact,
47 they are having an impact.

48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0312

1 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Mr.
2 Howard. This is Terry Suminski again. Yes, there is
3 some information available on the ADF&G website. And
4 if you'd like you could contact, you know, myself or
5 others and we can help you determine some of that
6 information as well.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. HOWARD: Thank you.

11

12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
13 you. Any other questions regarding wildlife harvest.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I have a question,
16 Cathy.

17

18 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, with regard
21 to the elk harvest, and there is reported harvest for
22 Etolin Island but nowhere else. Is there harvest that
23 comes off of other islands. I know Zarembo has an elk
24 population and it seems like there's some hunter effort
25 there, is there no harvest or is there no information,
26 do you know?

27

28 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Mr.
29 Hernandez. I don't have any information on elk harvest
30 outside of Etolin Island. I know that Zarembo is
31 currently closed to elk harvest though.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, I know
34 it's been open in the past though, I believe, so okay
35 we'll figure that out later.

36

37 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any
38 other questions for Staff regarding wildlife harvest.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
41 Frank.

42

43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Wright.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Do you know -- Madame
46 Chair, I was just wondering if they know of any moose
47 that's on Chichagof Island because some people have
48 said they've seen some. I've never seen them. But I
49 know there was one down by the cannery and some out the
50

0313

1 road but -- and moose droppings and stuff like that.
2 So do these wildlife people know of any moose on the
3 island because I know they could swim across.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Mr.
8 Wright. This is Terry Suminski. There have been
9 reports of moose, especially bulls, of single bulls on
10 Chichagof. I know I've seen pictures of them in Hoonah
11 Sound. But as far as I know they have not established
12 any sort of population on Chichagof. I think they
13 just come and go or come and disappear. I'm not sure
14 what happens to them.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you. I was
19 just wondering if you guys had any studies -- yes,
20 Madame Chairman, had any kind of idea what was going on
21 on Chichagof because -- but anyway, thank you.

22

23 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yep. Any other
24 questions for Staff regarding wildlife harvest.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing
29 none, I think I'd like to take a break, but before we
30 do that I just want to alert the Council to our next
31 agenda item. It is an action item. It would be a call
32 for Federal wildlife proposals. We will have a brief
33 introduction from Staff regarding this and right after
34 that I would like for us to make a semi-quick laundry
35 list of how many proposals we expect to potentially put
36 forward for the Federal subsistence wildlife cycle.
37 I'd like to get an idea of how many proposals we might
38 do so that we can determine whether or not we need to
39 do the actual work in developing those problems by work
40 group if there's a number of them, or if we can handle
41 them all sort of together on the record.

42

43 So with that, let's break until 3:30
44 and we'll come back and hear from Mr. Suminski and Ms.
45 Pippa Kenner on the presentation for the call for
46 wildlife proposals.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50

0314

1

(On record)

2

3

MS. PERRY: Frank Wright.

4

5

(No comments)

6

7

MS. PERRY: Cal Casipit.

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

MS. PERRY: Mike Douville.

12

13

MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

14

15

MS. PERRY: Thank you.

16

17

Jim Slater, I heard you just a moment

18

ago.

19

20

MR. SLATER: Yes, I'm here.

21

22

MS. PERRY: Bob Schroeder, did you ever

23

join us this afternoon.

24

25

(No comments)

26

27

MS. PERRY: Okay, just checking.

28

29

Albert Howard.

30

31

MR. HOWARD: Here.

32

33

MS. PERRY: Thank you.

34

35

Don, I just heard you.

36

37

Harold Robbins.

38

39

MR. ROBBINS: Here.

40

41

MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.

42

43

MR. KITKA: Here.

44

45

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Harvey.

46

47

Larry Bemis.

48

49

MR. BEMIS: Here.

50

0315

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

2

3 Cathy, I just heard you so I'm going to
4 go back -- Frank, did you join back with us.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. PERRY: And Cal Casipit, did you
9 call back in or rejoin us?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. PERRY: Okay, Madame Chair, we have
14 9 of your 12 Council members currently online, you do
15 have a quorum.

16

17 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
18 you, Ms. Perry. As I stated before the break we're
19 going to move into the next agenda item which is the
20 call for Federal subsistence proposals. I'm going to
21 ask Staff to give their brief presentation and
22 hopefully Council members can then give us a quick list
23 of potential proposals that we might want to consider
24 to put forward so that we can build a list and decide
25 how we want to proceed from there.

26

27 With that I'd like to ask Pippa Kenner
28 and Terry Suminski if they are ready to present.

29

30 MR. VICKERS: Well, yes, hello, my name
31 is -- hello, Ms. Chair. My name is Brent Vickers and I
32 will be speaking for Pippa Kenner. Can everyone hear
33 me?

34

35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great, thanks.

36 Yep.

37

38 MR. VICKERS: Great.

39

40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: My apologies, I
41 was reading from the agenda so I appreciate your time.

42

43 MR. VICKERS: No, that's fine. Pippa
44 just got pulled aside so I'm going to be speaking on
45 her behalf. I'm the Supervisor Anthropologist at the
46 Office of Subsistence Management.

47

48 REPORTER: Could you please spell your
49 name.

50

0316

1 MR. VICKERS: My name is spelled B-R-E-
2 N-T V as in Victory, I-C-K-E-R-S.

3
4 REPORTER: Thank you.

5
6 MR. VICKERS: I'm listed as Jonathan
7 Vickers which is on my Federal account so you might
8 want to make a note of that.

9
10 REPORTER: Thank you.

11
12 MR. VICKERS: Are you ready?

13
14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: We are ready,
15 thank you.

16
17 MR. VICKERS: Okay, thank you. The
18 materials for this presentation begin on Page 61 of
19 your Council books.

20
21 The call for proposals is now open to
22 change Federal subsistence wildlife regulations. You
23 may propose changes to Federal subsistence season
24 dates, harvest limits, methods and means of harvest and
25 customary and traditional use determinations. For the
26 public, the call for proposals will close on May 24th.
27 Proposals must be submitted in writing to the Office of
28 Subsistence Management on or before May 24th. There's
29 no form to submit your proposal. Proposals can be
30 submitted in writing, by mail, or hand delivery on the
31 web. Because this Council meeting is being
32 teleconferenced, we cannot accept proposals from the
33 public at this meeting. Any member of the public
34 wishing to submit a proposal or needing more
35 information please call me, or Pippa Kenner, at the
36 Office of Subsistence Management at (907) 786-3883. We
37 would be happy to discuss your proposal with you and
38 help you submit it.

39
40 For the Council, this meeting is your
41 opportunity to submit proposals. This is an action
42 item on your agenda if the Council wishes to submit a
43 proposal.

44
45 Thank you, Ms. Chair, and Council
46 members. Staff are on hand to answer your questions.

47
48 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
49 you, Mr. Vickers. Are there any questions regarding
50

0317

1 how to submit proposals for Mr. Vickers.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. I also
6 noticed that Mr. Suminski was on the agenda, does that
7 conclude the actual presentation for the call or does
8 Mr. Suminski have something to add.

9

10 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
11 This is Terry Suminski. I'm just available to help you
12 work through any proposals that you might choose to
13 submit.

14

15 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
16 you. All right, so are there Council members who are
17 interested in having the Southeast Regional Advisory
18 Council potentially submit a proposal to the Federal
19 Subsistence Program.

20

21 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, this is Jim
22 Slater.

23

24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Slater.

25

26 MR. SLATER: Pursuant to the testimony
27 we heard today from the Pelican and Lisianski Inlet
28 area there is a desire by the community to provide some
29 subsistence protection in Unit 4. I'm interested in
30 pursuing some sort of proposal that would accomplish
31 that for the members of that community in that area.

32

33 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
34 you, Mr. Slater. And that is Unit 4 deer, correct?

35

36 MR. SLATER: That's correct.

37

38 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Are
39 there any other Council members that have thought about
40 potential proposals to put before the Federal
41 Subsistence Program.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this
44 is Don.

45

46 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr.
47 Hernandez.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I would like to

50

0318

1 submit one possibly, two proposals that would be for
2 subsistence elk hunting.

3

4 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
5 you, Mr. Hernandez. Other -- is there a particular
6 unit or do you want to hash that out at the table?

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're going to
9 have to hash that out.

10

11 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Are
12 there other Council members that -- or are there other
13 proposals that the Council wishes for this Council to
14 deliberate on for reading the Federal Subsistence
15 Program.

16

17 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

18

19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Kitka.

20

21 MR. KITKA: I know a few years back
22 there was a subsistence permit for the artists in Sitka
23 to harvest goats but the harvest time was in the
24 falltime, so actually they'd be better off, according
25 to the artisans, it would be better to harvest them in
26 the spring when the fur that they use for their art
27 work is loose. When they hunt them in the fall they
28 have a hard time getting the fur off. So I was
29 wondering if there would be a possibility of changing
30 that time designation to the -- to add the spring time
31 to it.

32

33 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. For Unit 4,
34 is that right, yeah?

35

36 MR. KITKA: Yes, Unit 4 goat.

37

38 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. Others.

39

40 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair, would it
41 be appropriate to comment now or -- this is Terry
42 Suminski.

43

44 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Sure. If it's not
45 something -- especially if we might need to take it off
46 our list because it's not appropriate or if we just --
47 yes, sure, please, Mr. Suminski.

48

49 MR. SUMINSKI: Yeah, the cultural and

50

0319

1 educational permit that Mr. Kitka mentioned is still
2 available for the spring hunt of goats for wool. And
3 that's a different process than this process even if
4 you did want to do that. So I -- yes, I think it's
5 still available and, again, this isn't the process,
6 that's the cultural and educational permit process.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Terry.

11

12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Any
13 other potential proposals for the Federal Subsistence
14 Program for wildlife.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

17

18 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Wright.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: I was wondering about a
21 proposal to limit the hunters that are coming in to
22 Hoonah from Juneau so it's -- it's pretty wild out
23 there.

24

25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, Mr.
28 Wright, and that would be for deer?

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

31

32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any
33 other potential proposals that might be submitted by
34 this Council for the Federal Wildlife Subsistence
35 Program.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

38

39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Douville.

40

41 MR. DOUVILLE: The tribe was working on
42 a proposal for a Federal subsistence hunt for moose in
43 Unit 3. I'm not sure if that would -- how that would
44 all work. Similar to Berners Bay maybe. So a Federal
45 draw hunt. And they were talking a certain number, any
46 bull. So I don't know if that's something we could
47 take up or they should go ahead and submit that on
48 their own.

49

50

0320

1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. I added it
2 to the list so that we can decide if we want to take
3 that up. Are there any other potential proposals that
4 we can add to the list.

5
6 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
7 Albert.

8
9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Howard.

10
11 MR. HOWARD: Sitka black-tailed deer on
12 Admiralty Island for -- we want to say not to allow
13 non-resident hunters to take any off the island, and
14 they're going to use the argument that the State has
15 jurisdiction but you could also use the argument that
16 Admiralty Island is a National Monument which makes it
17 Federal land. So it's for the Council to consider.

18
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20
21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
22 you, Mr. Howard. Any other potential proposals.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: At this time I'm
27 seeing five potential proposals we might discuss
28 whether or not the Council should put forward.

29
30 Unit 4 deer.

31
32 Mr. Wright's limit deer, I believe
33 that's on Unit 4 as well for Hoonah.

34
35 Deer on Admiralty Island.

36
37 And then elk.

38
39 And potentially moose in Unit 3.

40
41 Any other proposals.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. It's
46 not a huge list which might make it a little more
47 feasible to go through these one by one and kind of
48 discuss them if we want to try to put together a
49 proposal. I think what we have to -- since this work
50

0321

1 needs to be done, the call for proposal deadline is in
2 May, by this meeting we have to decide if we want to
3 put the proposals forward as the Southeast Regional
4 Advisory Council and then we need to provide the actual
5 proposals in proposal format so that we can have that
6 submitted for us after some tweaking.

7

8 So does anyone object to going through
9 each of these one by one as a Council as a whole, the
10 alternative being we break into subgroups.

11

12 MR. SLATER: No objection from me --
13 from here, Jim Slater speaking.

14

15 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing
16 no other objection.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, Cathy.
19 I was just going to -- this is Don, I think it's
20 worthwhile going through them as an entire group.
21 There's a fair amount of overlap on what we're looking
22 for here so a lot of what one area decides kind of
23 relates to other areas so I think that'd be
24 appropriate.

25

26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
27 you. I don't hear any objections so we'll go ahead and
28 take these. It sounds like maybe we need to have a
29 broader discussion about deer overall. There's
30 potentially three different deer things so I'd like to
31 try to tackle that first while we're on this topic
32 fresh and with the goal of hopefully getting these kind
33 of established before we adjourn today.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair.

36

37 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Ms. Perry.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Sorry to interrupt. But
40 before we get into this discussion I know we were going
41 to come back to the Board of Game comment and it's
42 almost 4:00 o'clock, so before we started the wildlife
43 proposals in earnest I just wanted to see if the
44 Council would like to look at the proposed language
45 before we move forward. Again, just a check in.

46

47 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, is that
48 language -- or is that letter comments complete, and
49 ready to go?

50

0322

1 MS. PERRY: It is. And I can -- I'm
2 sending this to -- actually to Greg to put on Teams,
3 and I can read it into the records for those folks who
4 aren't on Teams. Gosh, bear with me just a second.
5 Let me make sure that Greg has this so that he can put
6 that up.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Would you be able
11 to send it to the whole Council in case there are
12 members of the Council that are not on Teams.

13
14 MS. PERRY: Yeah, and I was going to
15 read it into the record too. And for most of the
16 Staff, I know I have to kind of pick and choose from
17 the distrib list so if you'll just bear with me and
18 I'll read it and then can send it to you in just a
19 second. I just don't want to hold up the meeting.

20
21 So reading this into the record,
22 proposed language based on the conversation and the
23 vote the Council took. It's on the Alaska Board of
24 Game Proposal 194.

25
26 The Council opposes Board of Fish
27 Proposal 194 if implemented in a shortened wolf season
28 (less than one month). The Council anticipates shorter
29 seasons in the immediate future and feels that this
30 proposal designed to improve the population estimate
31 for Unit 2 wolves would provide limited value for the
32 population model and that the benefit would not
33 outweigh the burden placed on subsistence users.

34
35 The Council would support a sealing
36 requirement of seven days after the end of the season
37 if the season is longer than one month.

38
39 Additionally, there are not enough
40 sealers in Unit 2 and this would place a hardship on
41 trappers to find a sealer. For those trappers working
42 out of a boat, access and safety may be issue in bad
43 weather. This could affect the trappers ability to
44 harvest while meeting a weekly sealing requirement.

45
46 For this regulation to be effective, a
47 comparison Federal proposal should be submitted to the
48 Federal Subsistence Board and the Council would suggest
49 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game consider an
50

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1 alternative that does not require a regulation change.
2 And that would be to encourage trappers to report
3 sooner on a voluntary basis.

4
5 That's the end of our drafted language
6 and we're standing by to make any edits.

7
8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
9 you, Ms. Perry. Are there any Council members that
10 have edits or want to see changes to the comments that
11 we would forward to the Alaska Board of Game on
12 Proposal 194.

13
14 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, Mike
15 Douville.

16
17 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville.

18
19 MR. DOUVILLE: There was one towards
20 the end, there was one sentence where DeAnna said
21 report, I think that could be changed to seal earlier
22 on a voluntary basis, or anyway included somehow.

23
24 MS. PERRY: I can make that change Mr.
25 Douville. So that would say encourage trappers to seal
26 sooner on a voluntary basis, correct?

27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: That's correct.

29
30 MS. PERRY: Done.

31
32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any
33 other comments on the language put forward to Alaska
34 Board of Game Proposal 194.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing
39 none we did already vote on this so I appreciate the
40 Staff that put the language together and summarized our
41 comments and it would be great if you could forward
42 that on to the Board of Game so they can consider our
43 comments when they deliberate that proposal tomorrow at
44 their Board of Game meeting.

45
46 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is
47 Ian. Can I just jump in really quick, sorry, for
48 coming in a little late.

49
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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

2

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: I feel like the first
5 sentence doesn't quite accurately represent what was
6 discussed. I feel like maybe the word, if, should be
7 changed to especially if implemented in a shortened
8 wolf season. I know we discussed the dichotomy but I
9 feel like right now they're very directly linked.
10 Anyway, just a small change, but especially if
11 implemented in a shortened wolf season.

11

12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

13

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: I don't know what level
16 to wordsmith it to exactly. I feel like there are some
17 other changes if we wanted to get a little nitty-gritty
18 that I might do, but that's the only one I see that
19 maybe didn't, in my opinion, completely reflect what
20 was discussed.

20

21

22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
23 you for that. If nobody opposes the additional comment
24 or edit on that we can ask Ms. Perry to make that
25 change.

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VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
Casipit. I think that's a really good point. I think
even just leaving this sentence that says, the Council
would support the sealing requirement of seven days

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1 after the end of the season, period, might be more what
2 was reflected in Mr. Douville's comments when he spoke
3 to the matter, rather than having it after harvested,
4 having it after the season.

5
6 Is there any objection to taking out
7 the second half of that sentence regarding the
8 sentence, if the season is longer than one month.

9
10 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, I'm fine
11 with that. And a normal season used to be November
12 15th to March 15th.

13
14 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, that seals the
15 deal for me for sure, yeah, we need to -- yeah, just
16 take out that whole thing. I'm where Mike is, a normal
17 season is three or four months long so.

18
19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. So Ms.
20 Perry if you can strike the second half of that
21 sentence that says, if the season is longer than one
22 month.

23
24 MS. PERRY: Yes, Madame Chair. And I
25 believe we would also change the wording in the first
26 sentence, we're taking out less than one month, that
27 was gleaned from Don's testimony. So that first
28 sentence would now read:

29
30 The Council opposes Board of Fish
31 Proposal 194, especially if implemented in a shortened
32 wolf season, period.

33
34 And then the other edit we made is
35 about midway through the paragraph, the sentence now
36 reads:

37
38 The Council would support a sealing
39 requirement of seven days after the end of the season,
40 period.

41
42 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are we
43 ready to ask Ms. Perry to forward this on.

44
45 MR. JOHNSON: Sorry, this is Ian, just
46 one correction. I do see there's a typo, after
47 population model there's an extra the in there.

48
49 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I saw that too,
50

0326

1 thanks.

2

3 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Any
4 last second edits.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Going once.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Going twice.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Ms.
17 Perry if you could forward that on to the Staff at the
18 Board of Game. I also received -- if you can CC Mr.
19 Schumacher and Mr. Ryan Scott on that, they can also
20 make sure that it gets there but it does need to be
21 sent through the official channels, I understand. And
22 thanks for helping us with that housekeeping.

23

24 Now, back to the call for wildlife
25 proposals under the Federal Subsistence Program. I was
26 suggesting that we have a general broader discussion
27 about deer and start to craft potential proposals to
28 put forward regarding deer in the region. And I know
29 that we heard from some subsistence users this morning
30 and the testimony as well as Mr. Slater has indicated
31 that he is interest -- has been working with them and
32 ask this Council to put forward a proposal on their
33 behalf. So I would like to ask Mr. Slater if he would
34 like to lead the discussion, or start a discussion on
35 what you see a potential proposal looking like.

36

37 MR. SLATER: Sure, thank you, Madame
38 Chair. Well, as we tried to develop a way to both
39 protect subsistence users and try to still provide
40 access potentially for non-subsistence users who either
41 had some experience hunting in the areas we're trying
42 to protect or would like to, we -- in talking -- I
43 talked with DeAnna Perry, Terry Suminski and Justin
44 Koller, and there's a couple different dimensions in
45 which you can accomplish that. Some, I guess, prefer,
46 from a regulatory manner -- more preferred than others,
47 you can essentially change, or restrict a region, you
48 can restrict a region for a certain period of time, or
49 you can change harvest limits, or some combination of
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1 all of those.

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What we developed, and talking about, that maybe the best way was to somehow split the season between an open season and a restricted season. And we looked at trying to have the open half of the season be available to anyone, and then as you hit the second half then it would be restricted to subsistence users only. And what we looked at was in the areas of Lisianski Inlet and Lisianski Strait, all the water shed areas that fed into those areas, including Stag Bay.

So I developed a draft of that and I sent it to Justin Koller and he replied to me with that in more of a general form. I can forward that to DeAnna and she could then, I guess, put it on Teams, or she may even have a copy of it right now.

DeAnna, are you there?

MS. PERRY: Yeah. Mr. Slater, is that the latest version.

MR. SLATER: I'll send you the latest version right now.

MS. PERRY: Okay. I do have the one you sent to Justin, I just wanted to make sure that was the latest version so, yeah, go ahead and send me what you have just to make sure that we've got the latest one and I'll make sure that Greg gets it to share up on Teams and I can also send it out to the rest of the Council as well.

MR. SLATER: Okay, it's on its way.

MS. PERRY: Okay.

MR. SLATER: And this is a -- and just to make sure everyone understands, this is just a draft, it's not -- I'm looking for advice from the rest of the Council on how best to accomplish what we're trying to do here. And so this is by no means something I'm adamant on, this form of it, and I'm very open to hearing everyone's suggestions on how to proceed.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank

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1 you, Mr. Slater. Other Council comments or feedback to
2 the potential proposal put forward for in Unit 4, it
3 sounds like it's some specific areas within Unit 4 that
4 you would like the potential regulation to apply to.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this
7 is Don.

8

9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr.
10 Hernandez.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: While we're
13 waiting for the proposal to come up on the screen I
14 would like to ask Jim, is the intent of this proposal
15 to be restrictive to particularly non-resident hunters
16 or are you looking to restrict, possible restriction
17 on, you know, all non-subsistence hunters, which would
18 include, you know, people from Juneau primarily in your
19 area?

20

21 MR. SLATER: Right.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: What's the main
24 goal here, I guess.

25

26 MR. SLATER: I think non-resident
27 hunters would be at the top of the list. But we do see
28 a fair amount of pressure from people coming from in-
29 state as well and wouldn't be qualified as Federal
30 subsistence hunters. So I think -- I don't know if
31 there's a good way, you know, from my conversations
32 with Terry and Justin, there really isn't a good way to
33 distinguish between people other than saying are they
34 Federally-qualified or not Federally-qualified. And if
35 someone could either reassert that or correct me if
36 there's another way to do it, another way to classify
37 people.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair.

40

41 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Perry.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair. Yes, I would
44 like to address a carryover question from Patty
45 Phillips and it sounds like Mr. Slater has the same
46 question, and this was regarding the authority and what
47 kind of proposals we can submit as a Council. Mr.
48 Brent Vickers from Office of Subsistence Management
49 reached out to the Solicitor for an opinion, and the
50

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1 Solicitor's response to the question on the Board's
2 authority to restrict non-Alaska residents is, no, the
3 Board can only open, close or restrict non-subsistence
4 hunting or fishing. It has no authority to pick and
5 choose between non-subsistence hunters, such as
6 distinguishing between Alaska residents and non-
7 residents. That falls entirely within the State's
8 wheelhouse and scope of authority.

9

10 So I just wanted to share that as we
11 begin the discussion.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,
16 appreciate that. I am glad that somebody followed that
17 question through for this discussion. It sounds like
18 the non-resident aspect of it is off the table for this
19 potential proposal. So then it sounds like, Mr.
20 Slater, the next level that you're interested in
21 pursuing is potentially restricting non-subsistence
22 users.

23

24 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair.

25

26 MR. SLATER: That's correct, Madame
27 Chair -- oh, is there someone else.

28

29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Sorry. If Mr.
30 Slater could confirm that and then Mr. Howard after
31 that.

32

33 MR. SLATER: Yes, that's correct,
34 that's confirmed, Madame Chair.

35

36 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
37 you, Mr. Slater. Mr. Howard.

38

39 MR. HOWARD: You already covered what I
40 said so that makes sense. Restricting non-Federally-
41 qualified subsistence users, seems like we would be
42 allowed to do that, and you eliminate the non-resident.

43

44 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
45 Howard. I believe we have put proposals forward in Unit
46 2 to restrict non-Federally-qualified subsistence
47 users, but I can ask Staff to confirm that.

48

49 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Mr.

50

0330

1 Howard. Yes, we do have areas where we've restricted
2 non-Federally-qualified users.

3

4 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. So Mr.
5 Slater has submitted some potential proposal language
6 that should now be in your inbox and up on the screen
7 for Microsoft Teams.

8

9 It looks like the existing regulation
10 is for Unit 4 deer, Units 4, is six deer, however
11 female deer may be taken only from September 15th
12 through January 31st.

13

14 The proposed change that he's
15 suggesting at this time would read:

16

17 Unit 4, six deer, however female deer
18 may be taken only from September 15th through January
19 31st with the added language; Federal public lands
20 draining into Lisianski Inlet, Lisianski Strait and
21 Stag Bay south of a line from Soapstone Point and
22 Collin Point and north of a line from Point Theodore to
23 Point Euray are closed to deer hunting October 15th
24 through December 31st except by Federally-qualified
25 subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

26

27 I have a quick question. Is there C&T
28 determination for -- actually the C&T determination is
29 for all rural residents in Southeast Alaska for Unit 4,
30 correct?

31

32 MR. SLATER: Sorry, I couldn't
33 understand that.

34

35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: The question.....

36

37 MR. SLATER: No, you were breaking up,
38 I couldn't quite get that.

39

40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I have a question
41 for Staff, is the C&T determination for deer in Unit 4
42 currently at all rural residents?

43

44 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair, this is
45 Terry Suminski. The C&T determination for deer is all
46 residents of Units 1 through 5 can hunt deer in Units 1
47 through 5.

48

49 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any

50

0331

1 other questions or points of discussion regarding this
2 potential proposed regulatory language -- change in
3 regulatory language.

4
5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair.

6
7 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is
8 Ian.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair, this
11 is Don.

12
13 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Go ahead, Mr.
14 Hernandez and then Mr. Johnson.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, I
17 think this is certainly an appropriate proposal. It
18 could possibly go a little further maybe to be more
19 effective. Question for Mr. Slater, if you're trying
20 to, you know, slow down the take by non-residents, is
21 there very many non-residents that, you know, come to
22 these lodges after October 15th, would you say?

23
24 MR. SLATER: Well, there's not per se
25 deer hunting lodges at this point. There may be but
26 there are some non-residents who come up there and I
27 think there's -- in the November and December timeframe
28 we had somewhere between, you know, in the neighborhood
29 of 8 to 10 last year, I think, or somewhere in that
30 range in Lisianski Inlet.

31
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, and I
33 could see where that could increase, so, yeah. Well,
34 like I say after October 15th, that's an effective time
35 for, you know, slowing down the harvest from non-
36 residents for sure. I was just wondering if you, you
37 know, another consideration is you could also propose
38 to lower the bag limit for non-Federally-qualified,
39 that's something else that's in the tool box, instead
40 of six deer if you wanted to restrict the number of
41 deer they could take before October 15th. I don't know
42 if that's a consideration.

43
44 MR. SLATER: I think that is a
45 consideration. My only concern there is it really
46 wouldn't cut down on any of the non-resident hunting in
47 that timeframe because they're normally going to take
48 one or two based on just the cost of permits
49 themselves. They're still in the area at that time,
50

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1 you know, affecting the hunting just by being present
2 and shooting a deer and so on right in that critical
3 time right there.

4
5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
6 And the answer doesn't surprise me. I don't expect
7 that a lot of non-residents would take a lot of deer, I
8 think they have to pay, you know, a tag fee which is
9 somewhat significant.

10
11 MR. SLATER: That's correct.

12
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You're probably
14 right that one or two deer is probably the norm. So
15 you know with that in mind I guess I can see that
16 keeping the bag limit high, at six, does continue to
17 offer opportunity to some of the folks that might want
18 to come from Juneau and hunt that area before October
19 15th, could still bring home, you know, more deer if
20 they so choose. But anything after October 15th would
21 certainly slow down the take I would expect but you're
22 still allowing some opportunity so that could be a good
23 balance.

24
25 MR. SLATER: That was the intent. And
26 like I said, these are -- this is -- if anyone has any
27 strong opinions these are -- this is a draft proposal
28 but this is what we thought was a good balance.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And I think I
31 would concur with that, yeah, thank you.

32
33 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair, this is Calvin
34 Casipit.

35
36 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Casipit,
37 I'm going to ask if you could hold off if that's okay
38 because I recognized Mr. Johnson to go after Mr.
39 Hernandez.

40
41 MR. CASIPIT: Oh, okay, sorry.

42
43 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Yeah, actually a lot of my thoughts were in line with
45 what was just discussed. I feel like the merits of
46 this proposal, as it is, does seem to strike a balance
47 in regards to meeting its goal of decreasing pressure
48 during kind of critical seasons and I guess like I'm
49 thinking about particularly that October 15th deadline
50

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1 matching up with snow conditions and times when
2 subsistence hunting becomes more, you know, well, at
3 least pressure could like significantly decrease
4 subsistence opportunity when snow falls and deer are on
5 the beach. So I guess I was curious -- I think this
6 kind of answered through the discussion with Don and
7 Jim, but it's my perception would be that, you know,
8 leaving some opportunity from August forward kind of
9 provides that gap for Alpine hunting and other more
10 sport-orientated hunting and then the October 15th --
11 it just seems appropriate to me. It seems like -- I
12 see -- I mean like what I've learned through the
13 proposal process to date is that when you can strike
14 this balance you put a lot of strength in your proposal
15 and I see that balance happening here.

16
17 So that's all I have to say.

18
19 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thanks
20 for that input, Mr. Johnson. Mr. Casipit.

21
22 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you. I don't
23 disagree with anything that's been said. I think that
24 it strikes a really good balance. I like the dates.
25 That preserves the best time for subsistence users, so
26 I support all that.

27
28 The issue -- I just wanted to be --
29 maybe this needs clarification from Staff, but I know
30 under Federal regulations, yeah, the limit is six deer,
31 but I thought under State regulations for sporthunters
32 and that would be basically Juneau people, I thought it
33 was only four, am I wrong, or does it change when you
34 go across the sound.

35
36 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Mr.
37 Casipit. The harvest limit was changed by the Board of
38 Game I'm pretty sure just in the last cycle. It was
39 raised to six deer for Unit 4 remainder, the northeast
40 -- or the Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and
41 north Tenakee Inlet is three deer.

42
43 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Suminski.
44 I was unaware of that Board of Game change to the
45 remainder. I didn't realize that was in there, thank
46 you. I was aware of NECCUA limit though.

47
48 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Any other Council
49 members have comments for this potential proposed
50

0334

1 language for a proposal.

2

3 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, it's Harvey
4 Kitka.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair.

7

8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Kitka.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Harvey go first.

11

12 MR. KITKA: I didn't want to break into
13 their discussion on this. It's amazing the
14 consultations that happen with the change of time.
15 Back in the day when our people were, before contact,
16 and somebody came into our territory they were -- was
17 usually relatives or really close friends, and an elder
18 would take them out hunting and that was the extent of
19 their permission. They had to get permission from the
20 local people. And the reason the elder went with them
21 or the uncle went with them was for their safety
22 because they knew where the hunting spots were. This
23 way we use these regulations, it really complicates
24 things.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yep.

31

32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for
33 that. Mr. Hernandez, did I hear you had a question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you,
36 Cathy. I was just wondering if it's required that we
37 make a motion at some point here to accept this as a
38 proposal from the Council.

39

40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, thank you,
41 Mr. Hernandez. I want to make sure, there were some
42 other potential deer proposals in the same unit, I was
43 kind of thinking that we would discuss them to decide
44 if we were going to -- I mean this could be one
45 proposal and then we could have two separate proposals
46 for the same unit if we need to do that but I just
47 wanted to get a feel for the discussion of where it's
48 going and then we can address whether or not the
49 Council would like to put forward a proposal.

50

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1 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
2 Frank.

3
4 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Wright.
5 Mr. Wright.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: Pelican's proposal and our
8 proposal is.....

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 MR. WRIGHT:invasion of people,
14 especially when a ferry comes into town, and they have
15 an invasion of people going to their area so I'm not
16 sure if that's -- you know, I -- you know sort of go
17 with this because the similarities are the same but
18 they have -- their population and their area is smaller
19 than ours, but Hoonah gets the ferry sometimes and the
20 season starts twice a week and that's an overkill, you
21 know, you got people camping out so it's kind of like
22 -- that's all I got Madame Chair.

23
24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
25 Wright.

26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Madame Chair, is it
28 appropriate for public comment.

29
30 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Well, Ms.
31 Phillips, I would take a comment from you regarding
32 this since you have testified about the need for this
33 potential proposal.

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: This is Patricia
36 Phillips. So you have the latest draft of the proposal
37 that Mr. Slater's working on, however, there was a
38 proposal that him and I discussed where the line would
39 be at the beginning of Lisianski Inlet, and I had
40 suggested that it be from a line from Mite Cove east
41 over to Collin Point, and the reason I selected that
42 there's a marker at Mite Cove, it's on the south side,
43 southside of Mite Cove, is because of the -- you know,
44 that's across Sound that Lisianski Inlet goes out into.
45 And a lot of times those boats will go into -- if the
46 weather's too rough to go on the outside, they'll go
47 into Mite Cove or they'll go into Soapstone Cove and
48 anchor up and wait on weather to go around or whatever,
49 so they should -- I think they should be able to get a
50

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1 deer in there if they can. But that is also a comment
2 I can submit when the proposal goes out to public
3 comment. But I just wanted to make that point clear.

4

5 And I thank you for getting the
6 Solicitor's opinion on my question earlier, I
7 appreciate it. I'm done, thank you.

8

9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you,
10 Ms. Phillips.

11

12 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, this is Jim
13 Slater, could I comment on that.

14

15 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes. I was going
16 to ask while you're commenting if you could address
17 whether or not this new language that we're looking for
18 actually incorporates that.

19

20 MR. SLATER: That's fine with me.
21 Basically the language came from Justin Koller as a --
22 we originally had those -- the original lines in there
23 and I think this is -- he said this is more of a line
24 that they would propose. If we can basically edit that
25 and come up with a line that would be similar to what
26 Ms. Phillips just said, then that's fine with me, and I
27 think it accomplishes all the same things.

28

29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
30 you for that. So back to Mr. Hernandez' question. It
31 sounds like this is a potential proposal that would
32 stand in and of itself that this body could put forward
33 if we so choose. So it could now be the time that we
34 would entertain if we want this proposal to go -- be
35 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Program as a
36 proposal from the Southeast Regional Council.

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)

40

41 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

42

43 MR. SLATER: Can I make a.....

44

45 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sorry there's
46 some background noise, I wasn't sure who was calling
47 for the floor, if people could mute their phones.

48

49 MR. DOUVILLE: This is Mike Douville.

50

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Douville.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: So this is putting a
4 restriction on non-Federally-qualified users, however
5 it hasn't been made clear that there is a conservation
6 concern. So I would like to have that addressed by
7 somebody smarter than me.

8

9 MR. SLATER: Would that be part of the
10 evaluation process for this?

11

12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: It would be -- I
13 mean it probably could -- if there is an answer to the
14 question now we could ask Staff if there is, if there's
15 not then it would be part of the evaluation process.
16 So I'm sure if there's any Staff that feels that they
17 could offer an answer to that question at this time.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
20 Pippa. Can you hang on just a minute while we organize
21 ourselves.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 MS. KENNER: Terry Suminski, do you
26 have something to say to that question.

27

28 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Mr.
29 Douville. Unit 4, as a whole, does not have a
30 conservation concern at this point. I'm sure there's
31 localized areas but the Unit -- deer are managed at the
32 unit level and most of the unit is at very high deer
33 levels right now. Again -- I'll leave it at that,
34 thank you.

35

36 MS. KENNER: And Madame -- excuse me,
37 Mr. Chair, this is Pippa.

38

39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Ms. Kenner.

40

41 MS. KENNER: Oh, it is Madame Chair,
42 sorry I'm confused. Yeah, for the record this is Pippa
43 Kenner and the way the regulations read it includes two
44 items. One is for the protection of healthy
45 populations of the resource, and the other is to ensure
46 the continuation of subsistence uses. Those are the
47 two points that are covered when an analysis is done
48 for the Board.

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for
2 that, Ms. Kenner.

3
4 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair.

5
6 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

7
8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Kitka, I
9 heard you loudest and clearest.

10
11 MR. KITKA: I just wanted to make a
12 point is that if Pelican would put on their report that
13 their needs are not being met that would be helpful.

14
15 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
16 Kitka.

17
18 MR. SLATER: Do you mean on the.....

19
20 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Slater, would
21 you like to field that question sort of with your
22 knowledge of Pelican?

23
24 MR. SLATER: Sure. Do you mean why
25 this regulation should be changed and that section
26 there, to put a statement in there regarding that
27 subsistence hunters are having difficulty meeting their
28 needs? Is that what you're asking?

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MR. SLATER: Did you guys hear me okay?

33
34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Slater.
35 I heard you. You responded to Mr. Kitka's question
36 about whether or not Pelican's needs are being met for
37 deer and you said that they were not which is one of
38 the reasons why the community is working to try to
39 potentially put a proposal forward.

40
41 Was there another Council member at the
42 same time as Harvey that wishes to be recognized at
43 this time.

44
45 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, this is Cal. But
46 Harvey covered it for me already. And I wanted to
47 thank Pippa for reading that out of the regs. I know
48 that closure for healthy populations is one of the
49 reasons and I knew that continuing subsistence uses is
50

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1 also one of the reasons so I think it's important that
2 Pelican -- that we add that issue about subsistence
3 needs not being met for the residents of Pelican.

4

5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
6 Casipit.

7

8 MR. CASIPIT: And I also think, you
9 know, I -- excuse me. And then also adding to that,
10 why that regulation should be changed, what comes to
11 mind from some of the discussion yesterday and even me
12 looking out my window right now, the way the weather's
13 been in not having the snow when the deer want to move
14 to the beach and whether or not the snow is driving
15 them to the beach. You know, we'll get a dump of snow
16 and a bunch of rain for six weeks and they'll disappear
17 until the snow comes back. I mean in the future we're
18 going to have more of this. I don't think we're going
19 to get less of it and because of climate change. And I
20 think that we -- I think Pelican's on the right track
21 here, that they're trying to take proactive action
22 before something bad happens where, you know, then
23 we're in the position where we're cutting off the whole
24 season, or cutting bag limits, or that kind of thing.
25 And I think -- anyway, that's just kind of my thoughts.

26

27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
28 Casipit.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair.

31

32 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr.

33 Hernandez.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you.
36 Just for the purpose of this discussion, I don't think
37 we need to make any kind of a determination now about
38 whether or not needs are being met. That will all be
39 presented in the analysis, all the information we need
40 to determine that. All we need to put a proposal
41 forward is, you know, the testimony that we've heard
42 from the public expressing their concern and telling us
43 a problem that they see. So you know these discussions
44 of whether or not the subsistence needs are being met,
45 it's a little premature. And, you know, moving forward
46 with these other proposals we're talking about for
47 Angoon and Hoonah, like I say we don't need to go down
48 that road yet. Let's just get the proposals out there
49 based on what we're hearing from the public and let the
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1 analysis take its course.

2

3

4 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Mr.
5 Hernandez. I'd like to ask the Council if the Council
6 would like to put a proposal forward, which would
7 potentially be the language that's been presented to us
8 by Mr. Slater regarding Unit 4 deer around Lisianski
9 Inlet. I'm wondering if we can make a decision -- if
10 we're ready to make a decision of whether or not we
11 want to put this proposal in to the Federal Subsistence
12 Board.

12

13

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair.

14

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16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I would like to
make the motion that the Regional Council submit a
proposal, which outlined there, basically it would
restrict the season to non-subsistence users for
October 15th on, and later, in the area that's
designated in the proposal.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Is
there a second.

MR. WRIGHT: Second the motion.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Seconded by Mr.
Wright. All right, so the motion is whether or not the
Regional Advisory Council is going to submit this
proposal so I would like to find out if there are any
other Council comments that they'd like to make in
support of the motion, or if you're not supporting the
motion.

MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is
Ian. I have a quick clarification, I guess.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Johnson,
go ahead.

MR. JOHNSON: Which is, if we do
support going forward with this proposal, what is the
process for that in terms of our involvements crafting
the language. Like I got some -- like when do we have
other opportunities to review this.

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm going to ask
2 our Staff to give us an overview of this proposal
3 process to answer Mr. Johnson's question.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there a Staff
8 person there that wants to go over that or would you
9 like me to butcher the process.

10
11 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair. This is
12 Terry Suminski.

13
14 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

15
16 MR. SUMINSKI: I would say that the
17 wording doesn't need to be perfect but, you know, the
18 intent should be clear, and by the meeting, because
19 once your meeting's over.....

20
21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)

23
24 REPORTER: Wait, can I have whoever's
25 phone isn't on silent to mute it please.

26
27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: If you could all
28 check to make sure that your phones are on mute that
29 would be appreciated.

30
31 REPORTER: Sorry, I couldn't hear
32 anything you were saying.

33
34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Suminski, if
35 you can start over please.

36
37 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair. Mr.
38 Johnson. I think any of the edits should be done by
39 the end of this meeting, or if there's clear intent
40 that's -- that Staff could fix it up with the Chair's
41 consent afterwards, I think that is a possibility.
42 Throughout the analysis -- or throughout the regulatory
43 cycle when it comes before the Council again, you can
44 always make adjustments or, you know, changes when you
45 recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board but I think
46 ideally you would have it pretty close by the end of
47 your meeting.

48
49 Thank you.

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for that
2 Mr. Suminski.

3
4 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair.

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6 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Comments from the
7 -- yes.

8
9 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, this is Jim
10 Slater.

11
12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

13
14 MR. SLATER: I think one of the edits
15 that was identified by Ms. Phillips' comments were that
16 we did want to change the first geographic line in the
17 restricted area from -- it would be from Soapstone
18 Point to Collin Point would be changed from something
19 equivalent that would be southeast of about a quarter a
20 mile or half a mile through Mite Cove and it's directly
21 across the Inlet, or maybe that could even go to Collin
22 Point again but it would expose the harbor -- or an
23 inlet for safe mooring for anyone coming into the Inlet
24 who wanted to hunt. So I don't know if we want to make
25 those edits now or if we want to talk to Justin Koller
26 or just leave that as an item that needs to be edited
27 and give permission to the Staff to do that.

28
29 That's all I have.

30
31 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I think if the
32 Council -- yeah, if the Council's in concurrence to
33 make the edit then we can ask Staff to do that for us.

34
35 So if there's no objection to adding
36 Ms. Phillips comments to the boundaries of this
37 proposal.

38
39 (No objection)

40
41 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing
42 none, if Staff could make sure that that is
43 incorporated in that proposed language to include that,
44 that would be great.

45
46 MR. SUMINSKI: And, Madame Chair, we
47 can work with Mr. Slater to do that. Unless he has
48 some description right now, but I don't, I'm not as
49 familiar with the area as he is so -- but with your
50

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1 direction we can accomplish that.

2

3 MR. SLATER: Yeah, that sounds good.
4 I'd have to get a chart out so let's wait and do it
5 properly at a later time.

6

7 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, Harvey Kitka.

8

9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Kitka.

10

11 MR. KITKA: Yes, I just wanted to make
12 sure that the Pelican community, when they submit the
13 thing -- the Council isn't going to make the -- say at
14 this point that we're -- their needs are not being met,
15 so you got to put it on your proposal that you're
16 submitting and it should be almost -- it's so important
17 when it comes back to us the issue that your needs are
18 not being met.

19

20 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
21 Kitka.

22

23 MR. SLATER: Harvey, this is Jim. How
24 would you best see the way to do that, just put it in
25 the proposal form here where it talks about why this
26 regulation should be changed or include some testimony
27 or what would you recommend?

28

29 MR. KITKA: I'd put it in your -- why
30 the regulation should be changed, because your needs
31 are not being met. I don't know about the rest of the
32 Council but that was always our marching orders. If we
33 got a proposal from one of the communities, that their
34 needs are not being met, that was the most important
35 part.

36

37 MR. SLATER: We say that in one of the
38 sentences, roughly, we say it's been challenging for
39 subsistence hunters in Lisianski Inlet and Lisianski
40 Strait and Stag Bay to harvest sufficient deer for
41 their needs. Should we be more forthright in saying
42 that or explicit, would you recommend, or change the
43 word challenging to difficult?

44

45 MR. KITKA: I'm not sure how you want
46 to word it but I know straightforward and say our needs
47 are not being met.

48

49 MR. SLATER: Okay. Do you recommend I

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1 do that live right now?

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VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Slater, I think what we'll do is -- we do have a motion on the floor about whether or not we want to submit a proposal and I think we could probably close that out. We can let Staff tweak the language in the proposed regulation as well as add to that section that says why this regulation should be changed and we'll see a final version of it at some point tomorrow that we can approve to be forwarded on.

MR. SLATER: Okay. That sounds great to me.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: So we don't have to necessarily do it live right now.

MR. SLATER: Okay.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: The motion on the floor.....

MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair.....

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM:is that the Council will -- I'm sorry, I'm getting feedback from folks, was there somebody who was calling for the Chair.

MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal, I was just trying to get recognized. I was just trying to call for the question -- sorry.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Casipit. The question's been called. The motion is for the Southeast Regional Advisory Council to put forward a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Program wildlife cycle. Mr. Wright, can you do a roll call vote.

MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I'm here, I had to find my mute button.

VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

Ian Johnson.

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MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

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MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

4

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VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

6

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MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

12

13

(No comments)

14

15

MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

16

17

MR. BEMIS: Yes. Larry Bemis, yes.

18

19

MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

20

21

Harvey Kitka.

22

23

(No comments)

24

25

you're there.

MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka, I know

26

27

(Laughter)

28

29

MR. KITKA: Yes. I had it on mute.

30

31

MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

32

33

MR. ROBBINS: Yes.

34

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MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

36

37

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

38

39

MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

40

41

MR. HOWARD: Yes.

42

43

MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

44

45

(No comments)

46

47

MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

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5 MR. SLATER: Yes.

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

8

9 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Calvin Casipit.

12

13 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Frank Wright votes yes.

16 Motion passed.

17

18 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
19 you, Mr. Wright.

20

21 MR. SLATER: Thank you, everyone.

22

23 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: So we'll be
24 putting that proposal forward and we'll have some
25 tweaked language to look at tomorrow to make sure it
26 captures everything that we needed to capture. We had
27 a number of other potential proposals. We're getting
28 towards the end of the day. Is there another proposal
29 that might be in a place that we would be able to have
30 a discussion about whether or not we want to submit it,
31 it doesn't necessarily have to be in regulatory
32 language just yet, but whether or not we're going to
33 submit proposals on that we can potentially work on
34 between now and tomorrow to make this process go a
35 little more efficiently.

36

37 On my list I have Mr. Wright suggested
38 potentially looking at limiting deer in Unit 4 around
39 Hoonah. And Mr. Howard had a question if we could do a
40 potentially similar action regarding deer around
41 Admiralty. Are either of those potentially ready to go
42 or should we take them up fresh tomorrow.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
45 Frank.

46

47 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Wright.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Our proposal is pretty

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1 much similar to Pelican so it might be a little quicker
2 or you could take it up tomorrow.

3

4 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: If we have the time, yeah.

7

8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Do you have
9 specific language that you would potentially put
10 forward or do you want to -- do you know what you want
11 to do and it's kind of in the same intent and we can
12 just discuss it now?

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah.

15

16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, you
17 have the floor.

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to -- one of the
20 things in Hoonah is we have a ferry that comes in all
21 the way up through the hunting season and we get so
22 many people coming in and camping out and having a good
23 time instead of worrying about what they were getting
24 and shooting bambis and everything, and leaving the
25 bambis out there because they're too small and we got
26 people that want the big bucks and they go out hunting
27 for the big bucks and don't do the right thing, taking
28 everything. And then, you know, this year, like Ian
29 had said the hunting was pretty poor this year so --
30 and he's a young man that goes out so -- and I see guys
31 coming in from hunting and they -- right on Front
32 Street, so I wonder about the people coming from out of
33 town to -- especially on a ferry, you know, there was
34 one -- one time I saw a guy with a truckload and his
35 truck was down, his springs were down and everything
36 and so.....

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)

40

41 MR. WRIGHT:because of the
42 employment right now, because we don't have the right
43 to go to Costco, they can't go hunt in Costco so they
44 love the deer that they get. So my concern is that,
45 you know, this community is only 49 percent now of
46 Native people so I worry about the culture of this
47 community.

48

49 So thank you, Madame Chair.

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
2 Wright. Did you have any potential specifics about
3 locations, boundary lines, bag limits, what you'd like
4 to see in proposed Federal regulation language.

5
6 MR. WRIGHT: Well, I don't know how to
7 put it because Hoonah's, you know, got -- there's a
8 road system that runs miles, I mean miles, 20 or 30
9 miles, you know, this road system runs all the way to
10 -- everywhere, it even runs right up to Tenakee so but
11 it doesn't go into Tenakee but it's right next -- you
12 can almost see Tenakee from there so I don't know how I
13 would word it. Because there's just miles of road
14 system and that brings up -- you know, goes up to
15 Whitestone -- people park at Whitestone because of the
16 big park, so I don't know how to word the location.

17
18 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there any
19 Council members that have any suggestions of how to
20 potentially capture this proposed language that Staff
21 could put into a draft proposal for us?

22
23 MR. SLATER: Madame Chair, this is Jim
24 Slater.

25
26 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Slater.

27
28 MR. SLATER: Thank you. When I tried
29 to consider ways to do it it was difficult, especially
30 in light of the fact that really the only thing you
31 have is Federally-qualified versus non-Federally-
32 qualified people to make the first cut at deciding who
33 can hunt and who can't hunt. And after that it's only
34 dates or bag limits. So we're kind of constrained in
35 the solution set that we have. So I mean it kind of
36 starts from that point. I don't know if you have
37 thought about, you know, reduced bag limits or
38 restricted seasons. I know it's a complicated issue
39 for any community but that's the only thing I could
40 come up with.

41
42 And that's all.

43
44 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. At this
45 time did we want to just potentially consider having
46 draft proposal language drafted for a potential
47 proposal from Southeast Regional Advisory Council to
48 the Federal Subsistence Board regarding restricting
49 deer harvest to non-Federally-qualified users around
50

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1 Hoonah and then tomorrow when we look at the language
2 on the screen maybe we can tweak it with actual
3 landmarks.

4
5 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, that would be good.

6
7 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. I
8 believe Terry Suminski is taking notes on sort of your
9 discussion, Terry, do you have any specific questions
10 at this time or need more clarification?

11
12 MR. SUMINSKI: Thanks, Madame Chair,
13 this is Terry Suminski. Yeah, it's -- all I really got
14 is that want to close a portion of something around
15 Hoonah to non-Federally-qualified. I would definitely
16 need a little more detail than that and maybe we can
17 work on that tomorrow but it's a start.

18
19 Thanks.

20
21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
22 you. So hopefully Staff will have that in kind of this
23 proposal format that we can look at tomorrow as we
24 decide -- as we define it more and decide if we want to
25 submit it coming from the Southeast Regional Advisory
26 Council.

27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30
31 MR. CASIPIT: Ms. Chair.

32
33 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. So that's
34 ours.

35
36 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
37 you, Mr. Wright. Mr. Casipit, are you trying to.....

38
39 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, I'm trying to chime
40 in but there's a bunch of feedback from somewhere.

41
42 Anyway, I was wondering and I was going
43 to ask Frank this -- Mr. Wright this, as far as the
44 geographic area, maybe for Staff -- it might be easier
45 for Staff for the geographic area to just use the
46 Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area and that pretty
47 much takes in the road system around Hoonah. Would
48 that geographic area fit for you or work for you?

49
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1 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, it would. You know,
2 what we're concerned about is the people coming in on
3 the ferry and, you know, there's nothing we can do
4 about people that are coming in on the boats, but when
5 they come in on the ferry the road system runs all the
6 way down to Tenakee, so, yeah that would work.

7
8 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. So for Staff, if
9 we can make the geographic area, the NECCUA, that would
10 help. And then as far as the restriction on non-
11 Federally-qualified, we could either do a time or bag
12 limit or, you know, like Mr. Slater was doing. So I
13 guess that's something for us all to think about.

14
15 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

16
17 MR. CASIPIT: What would be best, so.

18
19 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
20 Albert.

21
22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Howard.

23
24 MR. HOWARD: I'm testing my cousins in
25 Hoonah, so we think the road system -- every road
26 system connected to Hoonah should be closed to non-
27 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

28
29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted - papers - cars)

31
32 MR. HOWARD: I'm not sure who's filing
33 papers when someone else is talking but.

34
35 REPORTER: Yes, if we could have
36 everybody just mute their phones unless they're talking
37 that would be greatly appreciated.

38
39 MR. WRIGHT: This is Frank. I don't
40 know how that would work for Federal lands around here
41 but anyway thanks for the suggestion.

42
43 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. So we
44 have two potential -- well, we have one proposal that
45 we'll submit, we have another potential proposal that
46 we're starting to hash some language out for,
47 Albert.....

48
49 (Teleconference interference -

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1 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

2

3 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM:Howard.

4

5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

7

8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: If you can mute
9 your phone, if your phones are not on mute, we're
10 getting a lot of feedback and hearing a lot of
11 conversations so if you could mute your phones please.

12

13 Mr. Howard, I was wondering, you also
14 said that you were interested in potentially looking at
15 Admiralty Island, which is also Unit 4, did you have
16 some thoughts that you wanted to put forward and ask
17 Staff to potentially start drafting up a proposal.

18

19 MR. HOWARD: I think everything west of
20 Point Retreat on Admiralty Island, west and everything
21 west of -- west side of Gardner on Admiralty Island, so
22 basically the west side of Admiralty Island closed to
23 non-Federally-qualified users unless otherwise -- as an
24 example -- and you guys can figure this part out --
25 unless they go hunting with me, Mr. Wright, or Harvey
26 Kitka mentioned in the past and I do this when I go to
27 Sitka or Hoonah, I'll hunt with my cousins in Hoonah
28 because I don't know the area. Just like when I
29 learned how to do herring eggs in Sitka, someone from
30 Sitka took me out and showed me. So there's an
31 opportunity there to address this in a unique way that
32 maybe as an example, if my brother comes home one of
33 these days I can take him out hunting and we're still
34 within regulation even though he lives in Juneau.

35

36 So thank you.

37

38 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
39 Howard. Other Council questions or comments about
40 potentially putting in a third proposal regarding Unit
41 4 deer, that may potentially limit non-Federally-
42 qualified users in and around Angoon.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair.

45

46 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, who --
47 somebody -- was that Mr. Douville, I wasn't quite sure.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Don has a

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1 question.

2

3 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Sorry. Mr.
4 Hernandez.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, just, you
9 know, thinking about the point that Albert and Harvey
10 brought up, it seems to me that in the case of -- I'm a
11 little unclear on this, but in the case of a Federal
12 closure, if a relative who is non-Federally-qualified
13 came out to your area I don't know if it's possible
14 that -- say Albert could get proxy tags for his
15 relatives to hunt under State regulation during a
16 Federal closure. I'm thinking if there's a way that --
17 I know designated hunter couldn't be used but, you
18 know, could proxy tickets possibly used. This would
19 take some investigation. So that a relative could hunt
20 under.....

21

22 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
23 Pippa Kenner.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Pippa.

26

27 MS. KENNER: Oh, are you the Chair --
28 oh, sorry, yes, okay thank you. For the record this is
29 Pippa Kenner with OSM. So if Federal public lands are
30 closed to the harvest of deer by non-Federally-
31 qualified users then the person could not legally apply
32 for a proxy tag under State regulations and hunt on
33 Federal public lands. There are private lands. But on
34 Federal public lands, Forest Service lands is basically
35 what we're talking about, a non -- a person living in a
36 non-rural area would not be able to hunt deer on
37 Federal public lands and a person wouldn't be able to
38 use a State proxy to -- or a Federal designated
39 harvester permit to hunt deer on Federal public lands.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, thank
42 you, Pippa, for answering that question. So that
43 brings up my other question for Frank, and I'm
44 wondering about there's a fairly large amount of, you
45 know, private corporation land in that NECCUA area that
46 we're talking about, both Sealaska and Hoonah Totem, I
47 believe both have large landholdings, quite a few
48 acres, I don't know what the hunting practices are
49 there. I know they are regulated by the State

50

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1 regulations and not Federal. I don't know if the
2 private land owners allow access on their lands. I
3 don't know how significant, you know, of an impact that
4 is to the local area but kind of curious about that
5 factor.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, Madame Chair.

8
9 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Wright.

10
11 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, there is a lot of
12 corporation land around here but when you got just
13 clear-cuts to go hunting on -- anyway, yeah, there is a
14 lot of corporate land but another question would be
15 when -- if they do hunt on the corporation land and
16 they're driving into town and a State Trooper stops
17 them how do they designate where they shot an animal,
18 so that's something that I thought about, too, you
19 know, so -- yeah, there's Sealaska land which runs out
20 towards Game Creek and -- but then Juneau Totem
21 Corporation is on the other side there and then
22 Sealaska is the other side, I think you saw -- you saw
23 a picture of that. Yeah. Yeah, I don't -- well, the
24 corporate land is supposed to be for corporate people
25 but no one -- no one monitors it.

26
27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28
29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
30 you for that.

31
32 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
33 Albert.

34
35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I wanted to check
36 to make sure Mr. Hernandez was complete and then Mr.
37 Howard.

38
39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah. That
40 answers my questions, thank you.

41
42 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Mr.
43 Howard.

44
45 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 My reason behind trying to do this was mainly to shut
47 down out of state bear hunters from hunting deer while
48 they're in the area. They can go hunt them somewhere
49 else if they want to but not on Admiralty. But then
50

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1 this whole thing got mixed in with other communities
2 and what they wanted. The reasons why I don't think
3 the deer should be taken for sport on this island, and
4 I mentioned earlier in Monument language, this Preserve
5 was for the well-being and protection of the indigenous
6 people of the island and it's never been -- the island
7 has never been treated that way.

8
9 We have bear hunters coming in and I'm
10 going to keep harping on it until somebody until
11 somebody gets talking about them robbing our crab pots
12 to feed their clients when the lodge I worked for had
13 to buy a crab permit and then by crab from themselves
14 to feed it to the customers, so there's a discrepancy
15 there we don't agree with.

16
17 But I think the intent of what I was
18 trying to do is to make sure the bear hunters go
19 somewhere else to get their deer and not on Admiralty
20 Island and not residents -- residents of Alaska
21 hunting, I'm more against non-residents hunting. I
22 don't know what the difference is, when they allow a
23 resident to keep king salmon and then non-residents
24 aren't allowed to retain any at all. It seems to be
25 the same. You know one's fish and one's game.

26
27 But, you know, that's just kind of my
28 thoughts but I think the west side of Admiralty can be
29 closed to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users and
30 if my brother wants to go with me he can watch and
31 since he's my older brother he does anyway, so, thank
32 you, Madame Chair.

33
34 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
35 you, Mr. Howard.

36
37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

39
40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: And I had a
41 question, do you -- yeah, I'd like to ask a question of
42 Mr. Howard, if he knows when the bear -- what the
43 overlap is between the bear hunting season and the
44 current August 1st through January 31st season for Unit
45 2 [sic] deer, do you know what that overlap might be?

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

50

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1 MR. HOWARD: We start seeing bear
2 hunters on Admiralty Island in September, not so much
3 in August because we do a lot of our stream fishing in
4 August and we wouldn't hardly see them, so most of
5 their traffic was September/October. Not so much
6 concerned about the spring season because there's no
7 hunting for deer in that time period, but that seems to
8 be when they enjoy eating our crab so.

9
10 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: So a potential
11 proposal that would address that concern could be
12 closing it to except for Federally-qualified users to a
13 time period that bear hunters.....

14
15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

17
18 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM:would be
19 present.

20
21 REPORTER: Can everybody please mute
22 their lines.

23
24 MR. HOWARD: I wanted to hear more of
25 that language, but, yeah.

26
27 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair, can I
28 offer a couple things. This is Terry Suminski.

29
30 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, please, Mr.
31 Suminski.

32
33 MR. SUMINSKI: Yeah, to answer your
34 question, I'm looking at the State regulations and the
35 fall bear hunt, if I'm not reading it wrong, is
36 September 15th to December 31st. However, I do have a
37 potential solution outside of this regulatory avenue
38 for Mr. Howard. If he is only concerned with guided
39 deer hunting, that can be controlled just -- you know,
40 the Department and the Forest Service work together to
41 control bear hunting and deer hunting as well. So
42 there's a very limited number of guides that bear hunt
43 and we have -- the Forest Service has a fair bit of
44 control over the conditions of those permits. And it
45 might be more productive if Mr. Howard only wants to
46 limit the guided aspect, to work with the District
47 Ranger, you know, for Admiralty, which is Basia Trout,
48 to talk to her about really what kind of guiding is
49 going on, how many bear hunts are allowed, how many
50

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1 deer hunts are allowed and try to potentially steer
2 those away from, you know, the places that are most
3 important to Angoon. That's just a suggestion.

4
5 Because if we go down this road to
6 closing to non-Federally-qualified, then, yes, friends
7 and family from Juneau would not be able to participate
8 in deer hunting on the west side of Admiralty during
9 those dates.

10
11 So just a suggestion that there may be
12 other options.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
17 Suminski. Mr. Howard, do you think that those
18 potential suggestions might address your concern or
19 would you still like the Council to think about
20 potentially putting forward a proposal?

21
22 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. I've
23 learned through many of these processes that if you ask
24 for the island and what you really want is just the
25 west side of the island you'll probably get it. So I
26 guess if we ask to close it to non-Federally-recognized
27 subsistence hunters and then they say well how about we
28 just close it for guided hunters then I get what I
29 want. But there's going to be negotiating in there
30 somewhere probably so I think we can start with closing
31 the whole west side to non-Federally-qualified hunters,
32 if that makes any sense.

33
34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. And,
37 Mr. Howard, would you like to put the timeframe on
38 that, overlapping with the bear hunting season. I'm
39 just trying to make sure.....

40
41 MR. HOWARD: That would be perfect.
42 Close it to non-Federally-qualified hunters.....

43
44 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay.

45
46 MR. HOWARD:from September 15th
47 to December 31st. If that's when the bear season runs.

48
49 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

50

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1 MR. HOWARD: I mean it may even -- I
2 don't see bear hunters in December so you may want to
3 be until the end of November.

4
5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
6 you. That provides some clarification and we can ask
7 Staff to put that draft language before us tomorrow so
8 that we have something a little more concise in front
9 of us to decide if we want to submit a proposal, so I
10 appreciate you answering that question.

11
12 We're getting pretty late in the day
13 and I know we had a couple of other potential proposals
14 and a couple of them came from Mr. Hernandez and one
15 was an idea from Mr. Douville. I'm wondering if it
16 would be more efficient to find out from those
17 gentlemen if we could have them put it in proposal form
18 so that we could see it before. I know I hate to ask
19 for people to do homework but it seems like these
20 conversations go a little more efficiently if we have
21 some potential language in front of us so that we can
22 decide if we want to submit a proposal and then have a
23 discussion on how to tweak it tomorrow. I wonder if
24 it's fair to ask Don Hernandez if he has a couple of
25 proposed things -- if you have them done now you could
26 ask Staff to do it if it's concise and then we can have
27 the discussion on it tomorrow, but I'd like to ask Mr.
28 Hernandez that question about the elk proposal he was
29 thinking about, and then Mr. Douville about moose.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, my two
32 proposals, one of them is fairly straightforward, the
33 other one requires probably some discussion.

34
35 The one is to reinstitute what the
36 State had in regulation up until a couple of years ago
37 for Federally-qualified users only, would be to allow
38 for the taking of any elk outside of the Etolin and
39 Zarembo Island. In other words -- they had a
40 regulation -- they didn't want the elk to spread to
41 neighboring islands and they rescinded that but I would
42 like to see that brought back for subsistence hunters
43 only.

44
45 And then the other one which requires a
46 little discussion is whether or not we'd want to do
47 something similar to what we did in Berners Bay, where
48 we have a drawing permit for elk that we institute some
49 kind of a priority for subsistence users. Now that we
50

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1 have a customary and traditional use determination for
2 elk, that's an option. And that requires a little more
3 discussion.

4
5 But they're two pretty basic ideas
6 there that just need to be fleshed out a little bit.

7
8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
9 you. I'm wondering if we can ask Staff to take those
10 two concepts and start getting them into proposal
11 format so if there's an existing regulation and then
12 what a potential proposed Federal regulation would be
13 before -- and if there's not an existing regulation,
14 kind of what that would look like, so that tomorrow
15 morning when we have these before us we can have the
16 discussion tweaking the language and then voting on if
17 we want to submit it forward.

18
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, Cathy.
20 If I could ask Staff to research that a little bit. I
21 don't have the means to go back and see what the
22 regulation was before the State rescinded it and if we
23 could -- like I say, I just want to kind of bring that
24 back and it would be a Federally-qualified user only
25 this time. So if I could ask Staff to do that before
26 we get back to it that would be great. And then the
27 other one I think we, you know, we know what we did in
28 Berners Bay, we might want to mirror something similar
29 to that for elk.

30
31 So that would be simple to do if the
32 Council thought it was something they wanted to put
33 forward.

34
35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great, thank you
36 for that, Mr. Hernandez.

37
38 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair.

39
40 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville --
41 yeah, Mr. Suminski.

42
43 MR. SUMINSKI: Yes, just before we move
44 on. Through the Chair. Mr. Hernandez. Yeah,
45 basically what you said, that could be the Federal
46 regulation, take any elk that's outside of those
47 islands, but I wanted to confirm you said Etolin and
48 Zarembo?

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I believe that was
2 the original State regulation. I think it was both
3 Etolin and Zarembo but I'm not positive on that.

4
5 MR. SUMINSKI: Okay, we can get started
6 on that. Yeah, and -- okay, got it, thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

9
10 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.
11 Suminski.

12
13 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair, this is
14 Albert.

15
16 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, Mr. Howard.

17
18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

20
21 MR. HOWARD: (Indiscernible) something
22 out of the Fish and Game's regulations.....

23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

26
27 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard, if you
28 could hold on a moment, I'd like to ask folks to mute
29 their phone we're getting another conversation at this
30 time.

31
32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

34
35 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: If you could mute
36 your phone please.

37
38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

40
41 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sure if the
42 court reporter can isolate a line and.....

43
44 REPORTER: Yeah, I can try and do that,
45 hold on just a second.

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: Whoever is talking about
48 figs.....

49
50

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1 REPORTER: Hey, whoever's speaking
2 right now about figs, we can hear you right now, you're
3 not on mute.

4
5 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, it
6 sounds like that situation has been taken care of, Mr.
7 Howard, if you'd like to proceed please.

8
9 MR. HOWARD: I guess I'm chucking
10 first, that was pretty good. I sent something that
11 might help us to DeAnna.

12
13 MS. PERRY: I have.....

14
15 MR. HOWARD: (indiscernible -
16 overlapping conversation) by Alaska Department of Fish
17 and Game. They may have already addressed it at some
18 point on relatives coming to hunt with you, I'd have to
19 look further into it, I mean.

20
21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

23
24 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. Can that be
25 incorporated.....

26
27 MS. PERRY: I just sent that to.....

28
29 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM:in our
30 discussion then tomorrow?

31
32 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair, I just sent
33 that to Greg to put up on Teams if you want to do that
34 now, and I've also sent it to Mr. Suminski, if you want
35 us to work on that and revisit it tomorrow.

36
37 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'd like to
38 capture the rest of the proposals that Staff can help
39 us with between today and tomorrow to get into
40 regulatory language so that we can see it fresh
41 tomorrow. I want to -- so if this is a proposal that
42 we've already talked about I'd like to wait until
43 tomorrow, but if it's something new then we should
44 probably look at it.

45
46 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair, just
47 really quickly. Those are from State regulations.
48 They really have no bearing on Federal proposals.

49
50

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1 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
2 you, Mr. Suminski. And thanks for providing that, Mr.
3 Howard, and we can take a look at it tomorrow when
4 we're looking at the elk proposals.

5
6 Mr. Douville, do you want to throw the
7 concept of a potential moose proposal for Unit 3 out so
8 that Staff can kind of capture it so that we'll have
9 regulatory language to look at for tomorrow.

10
11 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah. The tribe was
12 working on it, it might be easier or better for some
13 help with regulatory language. And I think what they
14 were looking for was a similar hunt as Berners Bay,
15 like a Federal draw hunt where moose in Unit 3, they
16 were looking at any bull instead of some of the
17 qualifying language the State has for bull moose. I
18 think the number was 20 but.

19
20 So that's the general idea.

21
22 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
23 you. Mr. Suminski, did you have followup questions for
24 that so that some language could be thrown together for
25 us?

26
27 MR. SUMINSKI: Madame Chair, this is
28 Terry Suminski. I guess is that 20 moose or a
29 percentage because we know that quotas go up and down,
30 or especially if we're talking about any bull. Yeah, I
31 -- I'm not sure how to quite do that but anyways, so
32 this is for all of Unit 3?

33
34 MR. DOUVILLE: I think they were
35 looking at Kupreanof and Kuiu specifically.

36
37 MR. SUMINSKI: Okay, thank you.

38
39 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville, was
40 that the number, 20 moose, or 20 percent of the
41 estimate?

42
43 MR. DOUVILLE: I believe it to be 20
44 moose but I think what you'd want is a reasonable
45 number, just to give an added opportunity for rural
46 users.

47
48 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
49 you. We'll start there and have the discussion from
50

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1 that. I just want to check to make sure that during
2 these proceedings nobody else has thought about any
3 potential additional wildlife proposals that you might
4 ask this Council to put forward in this cycle so that
5 there are no surprises tomorrow. Is there any other
6 proposals that I didn't capture on my list that we
7 haven't talked about thus far.

8

9 MR. ROBBINS: Madame Chair, this is
10 Harold.

11

12 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Robbins.

13

14 MR. ROBBINS: Yes. We've got one that
15 we may want to consider on mountain goat on -- it's
16 more or less just a housekeeping thing on how the quota
17 ratio is set up for subsistence and it's just a minor
18 change. I need to spend a little bit of time with our
19 local biologist, Susan Oehler, and work that out.

20

21 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Did
22 you want to try to do that before tomorrow morning so
23 that we could throw some potential proposed language up
24 on the screen for consideration?

25

26 MR. ROBBINS: Yes. I'll see if she
27 can't help that out, and see if we can get that put
28 together tonight.

29

30 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
31 you for that. Any other Council members proposing
32 other potential proposals.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hearing
37 none, I'm sure everyone is getting ready for dinner.
38 This was a long afternoon and I appreciate all of your
39 patience and your participation. It's officially past
40 the 5:00 o'clock hour but I think we will recess for
41 today. Just as a reminder, we do have the rest of this
42 new business on the call for Federal wildlife proposals
43 to work through tomorrow morning. We have a couple of
44 other action items under new business. And then we
45 have our slew of agency reports. So tomorrow is going
46 to be another action-packed day.

47

48 I would ask if there is any
49 announcements that Ms. Perry needed to make before we
50

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1 recess for the day.

2

3 MS. PERRY: No, Madame Chair. I'll
4 followup with the Staff on these proposals.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 VICE CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank
9 you, so much, and thank you to the Staff that's going
10 to do a little bit of homework for us in the off hours.
11 I really appreciate your time as we work through this,
12 you're amazing and always ever so helpful for us. And
13 with that we'll recess until 9:00 a.m., tomorrow
14 morning.

15

16 (Off record)

17

18 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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