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1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME III

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8  
9 Cape Fox Lodge  
10 Ketchikan, Alaska  
11 October 27, 2022  
12 8:59 a.m.  
13  
14  
15

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17  
18 Donald Hernandez, Chair  
19 Calvin Casipit  
20 Michael Douville  
21 Albert Howard  
22 Ian Johnson  
23 Harvey Kitka  
24 Cathy Needham  
25 Patricia Phillips  
26 James Slater  
27 John Smith  
28 Louie Wagner  
29 Frank Wright  
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33 Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Ketchikan, Alaska - 10/27/2022)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you everybody. Good morning. I see we're still missing one Council member and we still might be waiting for a couple folks on the telephone that are on the Council. So we'll just talk about what we're going to be doing today. The first item on the agenda for this morning is the petition to rescind the rural -- or the non-rural status for Ketchikan. We have a fair number of blue cards requesting public comment on that so we can fortunately be able to get right with that this morning, which is pretty convenient. We also have some blue cards from some other folks, different topics, so when we get to -- so the way I'm going to do this the topics that are non-agenda items which is kind of what the purpose of the 9:00 o'clock testimony is, non-agenda items, we'll get those folks up first and then we'll have a presentation from Staff on the non-rural determination status and then other than questions from the Council to that Staff member then we'll just go straight to public comments and testimony on that. So that's how we'll work it this morning.

I do want to remind the Council of a few things here now that we're into our last day and time crunch is upon us to -- let's all try and stay focused today, it's kind of that time where we have to kind of not try and get too side-tracked on things and not stretch this out too long, don't have a lot of action items yet but we do have a few. And also I want to remind the Council members to keep in mind for the course of the day we will be looking for new items to add to the annual report so keep those in mind, jot them down if you have any so we can go through those, quickly, hopefully. And also keep in mind if there's any letters that we want to generate we'll do that at the end of the meeting so keep those ideas in mind.

And, yeah, we'll get things started here. We'll look at the blue cards and start calling people up for their comments on non-agenda items. And.....

MS. PERRY: There's none in there that

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1 are non-agenda.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There isn't --  
yeah, this one is I think.

MR. HOWARD: Good morning, Mr.  
Chairman. This is Albert I'm online.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
Albert.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, we do  
have one agenda item, somebody that wanted to testify  
on that first day on our indigenous management letter.  
They were unavailable at that time so this would  
probably be a good time for me to offer Wanda Culp an  
opportunity to talk about an agenda item if she were on  
the telephone.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I don't  
hear Wanda, maybe she'll be on before we conclude this.  
So maybe I'll go to Amy Daugherty and she is  
representing the Alaska Trollers Association so come on  
up Amy.

MS. DAUGHERTY: Hi. Thank you for this  
opportunity. My name is Amy Daugherty like you said  
and I work for Alaska Trollers Association. We're the  
small boat, hook and line fishery that I'm sure most of  
you are familiar with, if not all of you.

We're here because it became apparent  
during the last Board of Fish meeting of Southeast  
region that we have a lot in common with subsistence  
folks. For one, we're a very high resident rate in our  
fishery and we also have -- we share mutual concerns  
about fisheries management in our region. You had  
Proposal 143 and 145, which we concurred with and  
Ketchikan Indian Community had 93, 147 and 234, all of  
which we agreed with. But we were very consumed with  
our own allocation which we were kind of put on the  
line with, absolutely consuming to contain that.

We're your neighbors. We appreciate  
everything that you are doing. I don't want to get too  
much in the weeds of those proposals, but I did want to  
extend our group and in effort to coordinate more in

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1 the future. Perhaps when the Board of Fish meeting  
2 gets closer we'll be able to connect more and mutually  
3 support each other when it gets closer. I think this  
4 is the time when we have to stand up together. There's  
5 some problems with our region. We have, as you pointed  
6 out in your proposals, one sector which is open-ended,  
7 which is growing that we're very concerned about. It's  
8 going to be -- it is problematic for us now and it's  
9 going to be problematic for all users, all resident  
10 users, including yourselves, before long. Yeah, I just  
11 see that.

12

13 So I'm here to make a pitch for  
14 residents to stand together and to extend our goodwill.

15

16 I'll just see if I had anything else I  
17 wanted to say.

18

19 Oh, I was also interested in your ESA  
20 situation that's coming down the pike, just because we  
21 face a very similar situation. I don't know if you  
22 guys are aware, I know some of you are, that we are  
23 dealing with an ESA situation with the southern  
24 resident killer whales and it's highly problematic. So  
25 when I hear you guys talk about the wolves and  
26 potentially having problems with that, that's another  
27 apex predator and I don't know I would be very  
28 concerned about that coming down the pike on your user  
29 group.

30

31 That's it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Amy.  
34 Any questions from the Council. Go ahead, Mike  
35 Douville.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
38 Has ATA considered residency is an issue the way it is  
39 written, or the way you qualify in the state of Alaska.  
40 If you own a home here you can claim residency even  
41 though you really don't live there. So there's among  
42 the AC's and user groups there's been talk of effort to  
43 change that and to qualify for the Perm Fund, not  
44 necessarily collecting it, but if you qualify for the  
45 Perm Fund you would be an Alaska resident, has ATA  
46 considered anything like that?

47

48 MS. DAUGHERTY: No. And I think if we  
49 could easily take that up, we have a Board meeting  
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1 towards the end of next week and I could float that  
2 idea. I think you're referring to the sector, the user  
3 group sector that I alluded to earlier and I think that  
4 would be a move in the right direction. That's just  
5 me, that's not the Board talking, but I'm pretty sure  
6 they'd back me up on that. So I could get back to you,  
7 personally, on that and let you know affirmatively.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
10 questions. Ian, go ahead.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just  
13 a clarification, you mentioned the concern of the  
14 growth in one sector but you didn't really define the  
15 sector, could you just, you know, give me a little more  
16 of what you're talking about there?

17

18 MS. DAUGHERTY: Yeah, I'm talking about  
19 the non-resident harvesters, the sportfish harvesters.  
20 You know we've been limited since the '70s. We don't  
21 even use all of our permits and we're definitely  
22 getting the squeeze because they haven't been limited,  
23 and I do know all the nuances of all of the.....

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25 (Teleconference interference -  
26 participants not muted)

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28 MS. DAUGHERTY: .....other  
29 questionably, or definitely unfair, you know, criteria  
30 that kind of surrounds that. And we would just really  
31 appreciate a level playing field in that regard.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
34 Anybody else on the Council with a question.

35

36 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 MR. HOWARD: Just a comment, Mr. Chair.

39

40 MS. NEEDHAM: I just want to let the  
41 Council know that when we were at the Board of Fish --  
42 I'm just acknowledging, you know, the Alaska Trollers  
43 Association sort of extended hand to kind of work  
44 together when I was at the Board of Fish meeting.  
45 That's when I met Amy. And we did talk a lot with some  
46 of the other local ACs as well about how we could be,  
47 before the Board of Fish, with a united front, if we  
48 can, you know, sort of -- especially on things where we  
49 agree, but even in places where we might oppose, being

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1 able to kind of try to find common ground in some of  
2 the actions that they have. So, you know, she and I  
3 talked a little bit about, well, how do we do that  
4 because we work at the table and it's kind of difficult  
5 so we're basically asking everybody else to come to us  
6 because when we leave this table we don't, you know, we  
7 don't represent the Council necessarily unless we're  
8 there on official business so there was stumbling  
9 blocks to that. But I appreciate the fact that you did  
10 come to us and remind and speak towards the whole  
11 Council, and I think that's a product of our Council  
12 sending people to these processes so voting to go to  
13 the Board of Game to carry our comments forward and  
14 build those relationships and, you know, we can't --  
15 when we're at the Board of Fish we can't speak on  
16 behalf of the Council and change any route that we're  
17 going but we can certainly explain our position better  
18 and bring in, like the conversation that we've had and  
19 I think that's extremely important.

20

21 So, you know, I'd like to see more, and  
22 I did say this to the Alaska Department of Fish and  
23 Game's Advisory Committee folks that I sat down and  
24 worked with there, where they were like we want you to  
25 budge on this and I'm like I'm not here to budge, like  
26 I can't do that, but I told them, you know, I was like  
27 we need you to come have this conversation with us  
28 early then we can talk about like some of those, if  
29 there is that room for compromise, this body can help  
30 decide that.

31

32 So I just really appreciate the fact  
33 that you followed up on that, so, thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Response, Amy, go  
36 ahead.

37

38 MS. DAUGHERTY: The way I look at it  
39 is, you know, we're at the time that we really have to  
40 stand up as much as we can in alliance because, you  
41 know, the residents of this state, we have -- according  
42 to the Fish and Game we have scarcity issues on some of  
43 these major rivers and it's just the time for residents  
44 to stand up together, yes.

45

46 (Teleconference interference -  
47 participants not muted)

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49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think maybe

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1 Albert was on the phone, Albert are you there. Albert  
2 Howard.

3

4 MR. HOWARD: I'm here, Mr. Chairman. I  
5 was just making sure you knew I was here. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
8 Thanks for being there Albert. Any other questions  
9 from the Council. Patty, go ahead.

10

11 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Thank you,  
12 Amy, for coming before us. One of the things that the  
13 RAC has proposed at the Board of Fish is reduced bag  
14 limit -- or reduced harvest limits for sport and then  
15 at the local Pelican ADF&G Advisory Committee level we  
16 supported that proposal and we actually asked for a  
17 modification to further reduce the harvest limit for  
18 sport catch on salmon species. Just how can we be more  
19 effective, because we've been bringing this forward  
20 like, I mean like multiple Board cycles, every three  
21 years, and we can't do it any sooner, and so I think  
22 like 4 cycles have gone through where we've requested,  
23 you know, harvest limit reductions and it's like we're  
24 not being heard. How can we be more effective?

25

26 Thank you, Amy.

27

28 MS. DAUGHERTY: Well, I mean honestly,  
29 politically we're kind of at a lost, Southeast is at a  
30 lost, we keep losing representation in the Legislature.  
31 That would be a good first step to get some legislation  
32 through, meaning some kind of guide, registration, or  
33 some kind of residency, you know, change. What we can  
34 do is we can all stand up together.

35

36 Last time, as some of you are aware we  
37 managed to get an alliance with Territorial Sportsmen  
38 just based on separating the residents from the non-  
39 residents. And that really worked, and believe me  
40 there was a lot of pressure on those guys, they said  
41 we're -- well, I can't quote anybody directly but they  
42 were told, we're not after you, we're after them,  
43 meaning trollers. So -- but they stood firm. I don't  
44 see, necessarily, that relationship holding even though  
45 I want it to, I mean I just can't hold my breath, but  
46 that's what it's about, it's about alliance building.  
47 At the point, in which, everybody, everybody who's  
48 speaking expect for the non-resident lodges, it would  
49 seem to me that it would be very difficult to ignore.

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1 So I do have -- I mean I worked for the Legislature in  
2 fisheries for a long time, so that's how I see it.  
3 That's the only chance we have and it's a good shot.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
6 Anybody else with a question.

7

8 Cal, you got a question.

9

10 MR. CASIPIT: I don't want to belabor  
11 the point but I was really disappointed that all we  
12 were asking for the last time was just to keep track of  
13 this use and they wouldn't even go for that. And I  
14 just -- why somebody would not want information is,  
15 that in itself, is telling. That, in itself, is  
16 telling.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MS. DAUGHERTY: If I can comment,  
21 through the Chair. Yes, it was very telling, wasn't  
22 it. And it's my understanding through my sources that  
23 there is data coming in but it is a policy of the  
24 Department, at this point in time, not to do in-season  
25 management. So in other words, the data that comes in  
26 is on the phones, through an app, there's no third-  
27 party involved, and they will never shut down, per  
28 policy, mid-season or reduce bag limits per season, so,  
29 you know, in a way that's happening, what you asked  
30 for. And that's just one of the little, you know,  
31 details that I'm aware of.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, anybody  
34 else, a question.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, guess not.  
39 Amy, thanks for coming before us here and I think it's  
40 a real good message you brought, so, yeah.

41

42 Okay, let's go for some other non-  
43 agenda item, I think this also -- yep, another  
44 fisheries issue not on our agenda, Heather Bauscher,  
45 come on up.

46

47 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning Members of  
48 the Council. Thank you, Chair Hernandez. My name is  
49 Heather Bauscher. Many of you know me through a

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1 variety of different capacities. I wanted to speak to  
2 a couple things but I know there's some other folks on  
3 the line that are going to go into things a little bit  
4 deeper so I won't talk too much about some of that.

5  
6 But a few updates with me. Thanks  
7 again, of course, for continuing to support the class  
8 and the opportunity. I always want to keep saying  
9 that.

10  
11 Another update, I'm now the Fisheries  
12 Community Engagement Specialist for the SHIP Program,  
13 which is Salmon Habitat Information Program, which is  
14 now a joint position between Sitka Conservation Society  
15 and Salmon State, so I'm now working across a variety  
16 of different groups throughout the Southeast region and  
17 beyond and on some issues now that are a little bit  
18 more than Southeast.

19  
20 I want to echo Amy's spirit of  
21 coalition building and collaboration because I think we  
22 all realize is many of these issues that we're up  
23 against on our own, we're not big enough to take these  
24 things on and the only way we stand a chance is to work  
25 together. And I also want to echo some of the  
26 conversations about the Board of Fish and thanks to  
27 Cathy and thanks to Amy and everybody working together  
28 on some of the things at that meeting because a lot can  
29 happen in that room and if we don't stand together,  
30 once, again, we don't stand a chance.

31  
32 So somebody on the phone is going to  
33 talk more about the transboundary mining issue. And  
34 I'm not sure which hat I'm going to wear, I'm also the  
35 Chair of the Sitka AC so I've been involved in a lot of  
36 things and I'm not going to speak under any of those  
37 hats, I'm just going to paint this picture right now.  
38 So we have the transboundary mines on the Canada side  
39 impacting all of our king salmon rivers. The North  
40 Pacific Fisheries Management Council met in Sitka this  
41 past June, the bycatch issue came up, there was a lot  
42 of talk about king salmon, and chum salmon, there was  
43 like two or three days of public testimony about these  
44 things. When they finally got to their motion, there  
45 was no reduction to the trawl fleet, there was no  
46 effort made to reduce that interception and they  
47 basically just told industry to get more creative and I  
48 am a champion of public process, I believe in people's  
49 ability to come forth and change things but I am  
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1 concerned with the Council and our ability to do that.  
2 I do know that there are four other RACs that have  
3 signed a joint letter on the bycatch letter. King  
4 salmon will be coming up again in December at the North  
5 Pacific Council. While what we face in Southeast is  
6 nothing to what the people out west are seeing, I mean  
7 they're not even getting subsistence fish. And another  
8 thing I realized at that meeting is NOAA's under  
9 Commerce and Commerce is not one of the agencies that  
10 deals with subsistence, subsistence is DOI and USDA.  
11 But if this issue was raised high enough, could there  
12 be a way that those folks could push latterly maybe to  
13 force Commerce to consider the subsistence impacts;  
14 that's a thought or an idea. And I know that -- it  
15 wouldn't make sense for Southeast to sign on to the  
16 letter that the folks out West did but maybe there's  
17 some sort of action that the Southeast RAC would  
18 consider taking or at least raising that issue when we  
19 get to the Federal Board so it does show there's more  
20 communities from out West to Southeast that are  
21 concerned and it's not just a regional issue, it's a  
22 statewide issue. But overall king salmon, very  
23 concerned about king salmon. If we can't deal with the  
24 bycatch issue and the transboundary mines we're going  
25 to be in as much trouble as the folks out West.

26  
27 And, additionally there was a meeting  
28 that happened with a person that sits on the Council  
29 for the Department of State and he was very generous to  
30 spend two hours with us and during that meeting I  
31 realized, oh, you're the marine conservation  
32 department, you're the Department of Marine  
33 Conservation so you deal with the Salmon Treaty and you  
34 deal with the Halibut Treaty but it's a totally  
35 different team that's dealing with the transboundary  
36 mines, and, wait, you don't know who the transboundary  
37 mine team is so that means that at the Department of  
38 State level the right hand's not talking to the left  
39 hand and we just had Amy come with the Trollers  
40 Association and the Salmon Treaty's going to be coming  
41 up in a couple years and we're going to be in big  
42 trouble because at the Council, the genetic reports  
43 showed that even with the trawl intersection of  
44 chinooks in the Gulf of Alaska, 45 percent of that was  
45 Canada fish. And they're going to say that they want  
46 more fish and they're already pointing the finger at  
47 small boat Southeast fishermen for taking their fish  
48 while they're building mines at the headwaters of our  
49 rivers.  
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1                   So I don't know what the course of  
2 action is but I really would love it if somebody could  
3 help try and get the Department of State to have the  
4 right hand talk to the left hand on this because I  
5 think we're losing in both of those rooms and if we  
6 can't connect the dots there I think we're going to be  
7 in trouble and it's going to be too late.

8  
9                   I just wanted to get some of those  
10 things on the record, that's all.

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
13 Heather. Questions from the Council.

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15                   Ian, go ahead.

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17                   MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Ms. Bauscher, do you have any idea to, I guess, so you  
19 got right hand not talking to left hand but other issue  
20 is also turnover and just kind of institutional  
21 knowledge and other things that are impacting the  
22 ability for people to interact. I mean certain -- I  
23 would assume there is, I'm just kind of looking for  
24 your insight on that.

25  
26                   MS. BAUSCHER: I would agree with you.  
27 And even the person we spoke with, while they were very  
28 generous with their time, they were pretty new in the  
29 position and I think we spent like the first hour just  
30 explaining basic salmon biology and halibut biology and  
31 I also realized, like, you know, Alaska is one of the  
32 last places with anadromous fish. And I think part of  
33 the problem is the folks in D.C., are not thinking  
34 about the link between the land and the water and  
35 they're managing it separate and they're not thinking  
36 about anadromous streams and that connection. And I  
37 was really excited at the end of the meeting but the  
38 other person that I was with had been through these a  
39 lot and she was like, he's just going to -- it'll be  
40 something else the next time and I've explained this  
41 over and over again so many times and haven't really  
42 gotten anywhere. So you're right, Ian, and thank you  
43 for that question.

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45                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
46 questions. Patty, go ahead.

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48                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. The RAC has  
49 been bringing up this transboundary river mining in the  
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1 annual letter to the Secretaries and have asked that a  
2 letter go to the Secretary of State but if the right  
3 hand is not talking to the left hand, I mean who else  
4 more should we be talking to, the Secretary of  
5 Commerce? I mean because now we're looking at sending  
6 another letter and we want it to go to the most people  
7 that we can so they understand this connection of land  
8 to water, and our resources, especially for  
9 subsistence.

10

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Thank you.

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MS. BAUSCHER: Thanks, Patty. I'm sure you're in touch with some of the others and I think there are folks online that are going to speak more specifically to the transboundary issue and asks related to that letter and the Department of State. But I think it's even within the Department of State that those teams aren't connecting. So I mean maybe you could ask the Department of State to have those teams talk to each other. I was just surprised that the guy who dealt with the Salmon Treaty and the Halibut Treaty didn't know anything about what was going on with the transboundary mine side. But I think that could somehow maybe be worked into whatever message is sent to the Department of State.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else with a question. Louie, go ahead.

MR. WAGNER: I don't have a question but just to let you know that I'm on that Indigenous Transboundary Commission and had the first meeting here a week and a half or so ago while I was attending a meeting down by Reno, Nevada by the WMAN(ph) group that's organizing on all this mining and it's starting to grow pretty fast but Guy Archibald who kind of runs everything there for the group has been collecting resolutions from -- like from me, from Metlakatla, he has that, and I think Rob Sanderson from Ketchikan is a representative on there, then we have at least two people out of Wrangell and Petersburg and Juneau that came to the meeting down there and there was a few more. But without those resolutions we can't meet with the Canadian Government, the Minister of Mines down there. So getting really close on that, was that Pandemic, we were shut down for three years on that so it's kind of good to get going on that again, so, just for your information on where that is at. Hopefully

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1 some good will come of it.

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3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Louie.  
6 Frank, I think you had your hand up and then John.

7

8 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
9 had mentioned earlier about some kind of letters from  
10 different RACs, is that right?

11

12 MS. BAUSCHER: Yes.

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: Well, I think that in our  
15 Tlingit, you know, Tlingit, we always say (In Tlingit),  
16 pulling together, so I think if at all possible this  
17 RAC should join up with other RACs to talk about this  
18 issue. And I was wondering if you, when that person  
19 you were talking to had -- didn't know anything about  
20 what was going on because, I, myself, am so worried  
21 about the king salmon. You know we hardly ever catch a  
22 20-pounder and, you know, that's -- if the trawlers are  
23 picking it all up, that's where it's at. You know, so  
24 I think that person that is in charge of the -- that  
25 you said he didn't know anything about all this stuff  
26 that was going on with us, you should ask him, why not,  
27 why didn't you know, you got a position that is  
28 involved, involves all of Southeast Alaska, all of  
29 Alaska, because I'm sure up in Bristol Bay and that  
30 area and Kuskokwim and all them, their king salmon they  
31 don't have the volume that they used to have, like we  
32 used to have, you know, so I think that we should get  
33 together and do this all together, (In Tlingit).

34

35 Gunalcheesh.

36

37 MS. BAUSCHER: Gunalcheesh, Frank.

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think what  
41 Frank might be asking for there is if the Staff could  
42 maybe get us a copy of that letter so we could look at  
43 it and see if we could -- apparently Heather kind of  
44 indicated it might have different issues than we're  
45 dealing with but we should probably see it and we might  
46 have a similar letter to write.

47

48 So, John, go ahead.

49

50

0351

1 MR. SMITH: The first day I was here I  
2 couldn't sleep because I was -- that was on my mind  
3 about the bycatch, so saying that, I just find that  
4 it's odd that they -- or ironic that, you know, the  
5 Board of Fish was meeting and transboundary and we  
6 weren't there. I truly believe anything to do with  
7 fish, and salmon and our foods from the air, sea, land,  
8 the whole works, that we're all in it together, and we  
9 should be -- every one of us should be at the table on  
10 any of those events. So I like what Frank said, (In  
11 Tlingit) all hands on.

12  
13 Gunalcheesh. Uh.

14  
15 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you, John.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Harvey did you  
18 have a question, go ahead.

19  
20 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One  
21 of the things is we don't have -- really the people  
22 that live along the Fraser River to come talk with us,  
23 we need them to come forward with us to go with the  
24 transboundary. We need the firsthand knowledge because  
25 right now we're dealing with what we call, what if this  
26 happens, what if. And it's -- you know, that's a  
27 subject they don't want to look at. They need to know  
28 what did happen. So somehow we need to get these  
29 people along the Fraser River that suffered from the  
30 subsistence to come and be part of the meeting.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.  
35 Yeah, Heather, you reminded me, I need to check the  
36 phones and see who's standing by on the telephone line  
37 that also wants to testify and maybe what topics you  
38 wanted to talk about so, maybe, if everybody's done  
39 with questions from Heather I can -- or one more from  
40 John, go ahead.

41  
42 MR. SMITH: Yeah, just -- just what I  
43 -- I pulled this up, Alaska Board of Fisheries seat  
44 remains vacant. And I know that Mr. Sanderson out here  
45 mentioned that there was a couple other seats that were  
46 -- and would definitely like to hear and see all those  
47 different seats and applications for that so we can  
48 encourage, you know, the support in those areas if  
49 those positions are not there and getting somebody  
50

0352

1 there in those positions that understand and know the  
2 knowledge. Hurrah.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good observation.  
5 So if I could go to the phone lines and.....

6

7 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....if you're  
10 standing by waiting to.....

11

12 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
15 Heather. Thanks for reminding me about the phone lines  
16 too.

17

18 MS. BAUSCHER: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So if you're  
21 standing by.

22

23 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
24 Albert.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Albert, go ahead.

27

28 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
29 Albert -- thank you Madame Chair -- or Mr. Chairman --  
30 that was from yesterday, I guess. I have a question  
31 for Heather.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry.

34

35 MR. HOWARD: .....through all your  
36 work, do you know if there's any scale samples or any  
37 type of DNA samples that can demonstrate that, in fact,  
38 our salmon or king salmon are being intercepted by the  
39 trawl fleet out in the Bering Sea? That's Part 1, Mr.  
40 Chair.

41

42 MS. BAUSCHER: To Mr. Howard's  
43 question. At the last Council meeting this past June  
44 there was a genetics report released, they were doing  
45 sampling on the king salmon that were intercepted and  
46 there was a breakdown in the percentages. I can't  
47 remember separate from -- of the overall king -- the  
48 overall king salmon take, I think their cap's around  
49 45,000 fish, I think this past year they took around  
50

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1 33,000 fish so they were operating below the cap and  
2 one of the arguments at that meeting, well, then let's  
3 lower the cap, industry is showing that they can  
4 operate at a lower level, why are we allowing them to  
5 take so much of this fully allocated resource. Anyway,  
6 in that breakdown from what I remember, and you should  
7 check this, but Gulf of Alaska, I'm pretty sure it was  
8 45 percent BC fish, 40 percent Washington fish, and  
9 about 15 percent transboundary fish, and that's also  
10 why we're going to be in trouble when it gets to the  
11 Treaty place in a couple years, you know, given the --  
12 all the things with Canada, Washington and the killer  
13 whales but, yeah, that report is available, I think, on  
14 the North Pacific Council's website probably, and we  
15 could pull that up and I could also try and help get  
16 that letter from the other RACs to you because I've  
17 been in talks with them, or help you find it before the  
18 end of the day.

19

20 And also I just wanted to say, I  
21 apologize, I didn't mean to speak harshly about the  
22 Department of State person, I mean they were pretty  
23 new, in their defense, and this is like a lot of stuff  
24 to understand so it's not like he didn't know or he  
25 wasn't trying, I mean he spent two hours with us so he  
26 was trying. And, you know, we're grateful for that.  
27 But, yeah, the turnover part is a problem and I think  
28 he was more of a budget person, not a biologist.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks for that  
31 answer. Did you have something else, Albert.

32

33 MR. HOWARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, it  
34 seems like when you talk about the Treaty, that's  
35 coming up, they don't recognize the subsistence user  
36 when it comes to an allocation on the king salmon.

37

38 MS. BAUSCHER: Yeah.

39

40 MR. HOWARD: I mean we've heard that in  
41 another meeting, they lump us in with the sportfishing  
42 part of that and it seems like that, to me, doesn't  
43 seem fair when communities throughout Southeast have  
44 been relying on king salmon forever as a way to  
45 subsidize, you know, as an example me having to go to  
46 the store and buy port chops, I'd rather go out and  
47 catch a king salmon, if I could. But sometimes they  
48 shut that down saying we've met our quota and I don't  
49 remember -- it's kind of nice to just be able to have  
50



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1 things the way they used to be where they didn't tell  
2 us we had to close something. But I think if we can  
3 work together to build a case that, in fact, the trawl  
4 fleet is catching and dumping a lot of our fish then I  
5 think we should join that fight. I talk to a lot of  
6 fishermen here in Angoon and they're wondering if  
7 that's what the problem is. I think more research into  
8 that would help us build a case.

9

10 Mr. Chair, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
13 We'll go back to the phone lines here and see who's  
14 online -- thanks, again, Heather, for coming back -- to  
15 see who else is online and wants to give some testimony  
16 this morning.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody there from  
21 transboundary mining.

22

23 MS. WALKER: Good morning, can you hear  
24 me?

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. Yeah, hear  
27 you fine.

28

29 MS. WALKER: Good morning, Council  
30 members. And -- great -- thank you so much for the  
31 opportunity to give public comments this morning. My  
32 name is Brianna Walker.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Can I -- before  
35 you get started, Brianna, could I just get an idea of  
36 who else is on there as well.

37

38 MS. WALKER: Oh, yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
41 else.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, it sounds  
46 like I don't hear anybody else, go ahead, Brianna.

47

48 MS. WALKER: Thank you so much. So as  
49 I said my name is Brianna Walker, I'm the Director for  
50

0355

1 Salmon Beyond Borders and I'm joining you today from  
2 AukeWaan and Tlingit Haa Anni, the ancestral and  
3 present homelands of the AukeWaan Tlingit people in  
4 Juneau, Alaska.

5

6 I called in to speak with all of you  
7 last year for this annual meeting and so I believe most  
8 of you are familiar with Salmon Beyond Borders. We're a  
9 community driven campaign, we work closely with  
10 commercial and sportfishermen, community leaders,  
11 tourism and recreation business owners and concerned  
12 citizens across the Alaska British Columbia to defend  
13 and sustain our transboundary rivers, jobs and our  
14 salmon way of life. You all are very familiar with the  
15 transboundary issues so I won't spend too much time  
16 giving you an update there. I just wanted to add the  
17 request that the Council consider sending another  
18 letter this year and, specifically I really wanted to  
19 thank the Council -- I know you've taken leadership on  
20 this issue, included it in many of your letters over  
21 the years, and so I thank you for that and for your  
22 continued effort to advocate for the Taku, Stikine, and  
23 Unuk and our wild salmon that we all rely on.

24

25 Specifically this year we are going to  
26 be delivering some asks to the Biden Administration  
27 that has been coming from communities across Southeast  
28 Alaska over the last year and I am sending an email to  
29 DeAnna that includes copies of these resolutions that  
30 have been passed, with a little bit more information,  
31 just for you to consider including those asks in any  
32 letter that you send. It would be immensely helpful  
33 for this Council to send a letter to the Department of  
34 Agriculture and the Department of the Interior as well  
35 as the Department of State restating your concerns  
36 around the issue of British Columbia's mines in the  
37 Taku, Stikine and Unuk, and specifically it would be  
38 great to have you include and voice support for the  
39 asks coming from Southeast Alaska which includes a call  
40 for a permanent ban on mine tailings dams in the Taku,  
41 Stikine and Unuk and an immediate pause on all new  
42 permits of BC mines in the Taku, Stikine and Unuk until  
43 there is a multi-national agreement in place that  
44 includes the voices of communities and tribes and all  
45 of us living downstream so that we ensure we have a say  
46 in the decisions about how this habitat is managed.

47

48 I'll pause there in case there are any  
49 questions.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay, are  
2 there any questions from the Council. Patty Phillips,  
3 go ahead.

4  
5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
6 apologize, but she went through the asks -- I only got  
7 No. 2, what were the other two.

8  
9 MS. WALKER: Thank you, Patty.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty, DeAnna's  
12 got them written down.

13  
14 MS. WALKER: I'm sending them also to  
15 DeAnna.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna's taking  
18 notes, she's got them.

19  
20 MS. WALKER: And I'm also sending them  
21 written via email so you will have copies to reference  
22 of the resolutions that have been passed in  
23 municipalities and then also some just suggested  
24 language for you to incorporate should you decide to  
25 include these asks in your letter.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Other  
28 questions. Ian, go ahead.

29  
30 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 This is either a question for Brianna, or just a  
32 general question to the Council a little bit, too, but  
33 like do we know what the formal response to our letter  
34 has been, like what have we received to these requests  
35 to-date?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm pretty sure I  
38 can say that we got no response on the letter that we  
39 tried to have forwarded to the State Department through  
40 the Agriculture and Interior, and if I'm mistaken on  
41 that somebody correct me, but.

42  
43 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, that is  
44 actually addressed in our annual report reply from the  
45 Board, it's No. 1. And that is where the Board  
46 suggested that we resubmit a letter so, yeah, I can  
47 detail that with you if you'd like.

48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
2 questions.

3  
4 MS. WALKER: Through the Chair, if I  
5 may.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,  
8 Brianna.

9  
10 MS. WALKER: This is Brianna. I just  
11 wanted to offer, I'm also including some additional  
12 places that you all could send the letter. I know that  
13 this Council specifically works with Department of  
14 Interior and Department of Agriculture, which is why I  
15 think those agencies have been targets in the past.  
16 Department of State, of course, is a good place to send  
17 the letter and we do have contact information for those  
18 offices there that are specifically working on the  
19 transboundary issue. But then there is also the  
20 International Joint Commission, which is the governing  
21 body of the Boundary Waters Treaty, the Treaty that  
22 says no polluted water should flow to either side of  
23 the border and that is the governing body that really  
24 has the ability to come in and put a table in place for  
25 those of us down stream to have a voice in this process  
26 because we currently don't. So I would also offer  
27 sending a letter to the International Joint Commission.  
28 There have been calls from Southeast Alaska for nearly  
29 a decade for engagement by that body and I do think  
30 that a letter coming directly from this Council  
31 expressing the concerns that these mines pose to  
32 subsistence in Southeast Alaska would be very important  
33 even though the Council doesn't directly work with IJC,  
34 I think that would be appropriate to include them on  
35 the letter.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
38 again, Brianna. And, yeah, it would probably be very  
39 helpful if you could email some of that information to  
40 our Coordinator. Then we have a question from John  
41 Smith. Go ahead, John.

42  
43 MR. SMITH: I'm the new fellow but  
44 hearing not that they didn't respond to you and I don't  
45 know if we could check and see if they did respond to  
46 us but I find that unprofessional and in our new letter  
47 to address that, why we weren't responded to. I don't  
48 know if this happens that much but if it does, I think  
49 that's a big issue. I think it's important enough that  
50

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1 they should respond to us. Just feelings is all, thank  
2 you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, point well  
5 taken. I think we'd agree on that. Any other  
6 questions for Brianna Walker, transboundary rivers.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I don't see  
11 any Brianna. Thank you very much for bringing all  
12 those things to our attention, much appreciated.

13

14 MS. WALKER: Thank you, very much. And  
15 I did just want to offer that we do hear from  
16 Department of State quite regularly and when we do we  
17 continue to hear from them that it is very important  
18 for them to hear from people on the ground in Southeast  
19 Alaska and in particular Councils such as yourselves.  
20 So for what it's worth from my perspective, a letter  
21 from you all does carry a lot of weight and I do  
22 encourage you to do what you can to raise this issue.

23

24 Thank you so very much for your time  
25 this morning.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
28 again. What, you got a question or comment, John.

29

30 MR. SMITH: So it sounded like -- I  
31 might be confused but they responded to her but they  
32 didn't respond to us, no -- no? Okay, sorry.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, right,  
35 different issue. Anybody else on the telephone wants  
36 to give public testimony on non-agenda items.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, let's go  
41 back to the blue cards. I have a card here from Tony  
42 Gallegos, and it looks like you wanted to talk about  
43 maybe a fisheries issue and then I also have a card  
44 that says you want to talk on the rural determination,  
45 and I don't know if I see Tony here right now -- okay --  
46 okay, he is here, very good. And I'm also -- just  
47 while Tony's coming up, I'm also looking for Larry  
48 Bemis, I don't think I see Larry in the room, he also  
49 has a blue card -- but, no, I don't see him. Come on

50

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1 up Tony.

2

3 MR. GALLEGOS: Hello, this is Tony  
4 Gallegos. I'm Staff with Ketchikan Indian Community,  
5 429 Deermont Street. Sorry, I was out of the room and  
6 I'm not sure if this was something I addressed  
7 yesterday or not.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm unsure. It  
10 says bead foods and shellfish, is that what it says,  
11 CTU?

12

13 MR. GALLEGOS: This would have been  
14 related to the.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, beach foods.

17

18 MR. GALLEGOS: .....statements I made  
19 yesterday concerning the customary and traditional use  
20 of the shellfish so.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, you were up  
23 for that, weren't you?

24

25 MR. GALLEGOS: I did, I think, but if  
26 there's any further questions I'm open to it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Don't think  
29 so, sorry to drag you in here, my mistake.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: The blue card  
34 didn't get put away. If Larry Bemis is not here, all  
35 the other blue cards are rural determination testimony.  
36 One last chance for anybody on the telephone.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If not we'll get  
41 -- who is it, Brent Vickers, I think you're going to  
42 give us a -- yes, an analysis on the threshold analysis  
43 for the non-rural status of Ketchikan. And as I said  
44 we'll have this presentation, we'll get any questions  
45 from the Council and then we'll have public comments on  
46 this issue.

47

48 MR. VICKERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
49 Members of the Council. For the record my name is

50

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1 Brent Vickers, Anthropology Division Supervisor at the  
2 Office of Subsistence Management. I am presenting a  
3 draft threshold assessment of non-rural determination  
4 proposal NDP25-01. You can find the draft threshold  
5 assessment on Page 119 of your Council books. This is  
6 an action item.

7  
8 First, it's important to know that  
9 unlike fisheries and wildlife regulatory proposals,  
10 which are on two year cycles, non-rural determination  
11 proposals are on a four year cycle. The process takes  
12 four years to complete.

13  
14 The second main difference is that non-  
15 rural determination proposals have a threshold  
16 assessment. Threshold assessments like this one focus  
17 on the merits of the proposal itself and not on the  
18 rural character of the proposed community. If the  
19 Board determines that the threshold requirements have  
20 been met at its upcoming winter regulatory meeting then  
21 OSM will proceed with a full analysis on the rural  
22 character of the community.

23  
24 NDP25-01 was submitted by the Ketchikan  
25 Indian Community and requests that the Federal  
26 Subsistence Board rescind the non-rural determination  
27 of Ketchikan area, which would ultimately result in a  
28 rural designation of the Ketchikan area. The purpose  
29 of this threshold assessment is to evaluate if the  
30 proposal meets the four threshold requirements  
31 necessary for a full analysis of the proposal's  
32 request.

33  
34 The first threshold requirement is that  
35 the proposal is based upon information not previously  
36 considered by the Board. The Board adopted the new  
37 policy on non-rural determinations in January 2017.  
38 Ketchikan's non-rural status has not been considered by  
39 the Board under these new regulations. Furthermore,  
40 the proponent claims that characteristics of Ketchikan  
41 area have changed since its previous non-rural  
42 determination including a reduced population level,  
43 less services and a less reliable food supply chain,  
44 likewise, the proponent reports that the community of  
45 the Ketchikan area have levels of subsistence resource  
46 harvesting and sharing similar to those of nearby rural  
47 communities. Lastly, in March 2022 the Ketchikan  
48 Indian Community tribal government declared that the  
49 Ketchikan Indians -- that the Ketchikan area was rural.  
50

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OSM conclusion is that the proposal meets this threshold requirement.

The second threshold requirement is that the proposal demonstrates that the information used and interpreted by the Board in designating the community as non-rural has changed since the original determination was made. The proponent states that there have been changes in Ketchikan since previous determinations, including a smaller population, less grocery stores and other services, inflation of fuel and non-traditional food prices and less reliability in the non-traditional food supply chain. Additionally, the proponent claims that other Federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture have expanded their definitions of rural and that Ketchikan qualifies as rural under these definitions.

The OSM conclusion is that the proposal meets this threshold requirement.

The third threshold requirement is that the proposal provides substantive rationale and supporting evidence for determining the rural status of a community or area that takes into consideration the unique quality of the region. The proponent explained that Ketchikan is inaccessible by the road system from the rest of the state of Alaska and the country, has a limited access to non-traditional foods that can be purchased through stores, has an unreliable supply chain for importing non-traditional foods that depends on privately owned and -- privately owned barges, has limited access to hospitals and other services, has a high reliance on traditional foods in the area and has active food sharing and traditional trading networks among its community members that are consistent with those of nearby rural communities such as Saxman, Metlakatla and Prince of Wales.

OSM conclusion is that the proposal meets this threshold requirement.

The final threshold requirement is that the proposal provides substantive information that meets the provided rationale that a community or area is rural instead of non-rural. The proponent provided substantive information on community boundaries, demographics, services, subsistence harvest practices and resource sharing and a declaration by the Ketchikan



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1 Indian Community tribal government that Ketchikan  
2 Indian Community is a rural territory.

3

4 OSM conclusion is that the proposal  
5 meets this threshold requirement.

6

7 In closing, OSM found that the proposal  
8 meets all four threshold requirements. This is an  
9 action item for which the Council can accept the  
10 proposal and suggest that the OSM proceed with the  
11 analysis of the rural character of the Ketchikan area.  
12 If the Board determines that the proposal has met the  
13 threshold assessment requirements at its January  
14 regulatory meeting and there is a full analysis on the  
15 rural character of -- then there will be a full  
16 analysis of the rural character of Ketchikan. The full  
17 analysis takes two years, during which OSM will hold a  
18 public meeting here in Ketchikan where people, tribes  
19 and organizations can comment on the rural character of  
20 Ketchikan. The Council will also have opportunities at  
21 its meetings to make recommendations on the analysis  
22 and the rural character of Ketchikan. The Board will  
23 take those comments and the Council recommendation into  
24 account when it make sits determination on the rural  
25 character of Ketchikan area at its 2025 regulatory  
26 meeting.

27

28 Thank you, and let me know if you have  
29 any questions.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
32 Questions from the Council. Louie Wagner, go ahead.

33

34 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
35 the rules that have been changed, what I remember the  
36 population limit was 8,000 when this rural  
37 determination was made.

38

39 MR. VICKERS: The former policy  
40 depended very much on the population level, which I  
41 believe at that time Ketchikan was sort of the baseline  
42 of what that was based -- on which they established  
43 that population level so it was around seven or 8,000,  
44 I can't remember off hand, but the new policies do not  
45 depend on population levels.

46

47 MR. WAGNER: Even when Ketchikan two or  
48 three years ago was like 17,000-plus people?

49

50

1 MR. VICKERS: The new policies do not  
2 depend on population levels.

3  
4 MR. WAGNER: Well.....

5  
6 MR. VICKERS: The new policies take  
7 into account things like population levels, take into  
8 account things like harvesting levels, dependence of  
9 the community on traditional foods, on subsistence  
10 resources, on resource sharing and other ways -- other  
11 practices that are consistent with the subsistence way  
12 of life and very heavily on the Council  
13 recommendations, tribal recommendations and  
14 recommendations from community members. So take --  
15 that all changed in 2017. There's only been one non-  
16 rural determination since then, that was for Moose Pass  
17 during the last cycle and that was -- Moose Pass was  
18 determined -- or they -- the non-rural status was  
19 rescinded so it's now -- it now has a rural status and  
20 that's been the only determination made under the new  
21 regulations.

22  
23 MR. WAGNER: And during the summer when  
24 the cruise ships are in, the town grows by five, 7,000  
25 people with four and five ships in town, which puts a  
26 lot of sportfishermen out and it -- what I'm looking  
27 at is what it's going to do to Prince of Wales for all  
28 these sportfishermen out there that's going to be  
29 taking the resources out there. And then the road  
30 system, is that thrown out, too, all these guidelines  
31 that were there?

32  
33 MR. VICKERS: The entire process was  
34 revised. And so a lot of those, sort of metrics were  
35 pushed aside and it's a much more holistic perspective  
36 that the Board takes into consideration, as I said much  
37 -- more to do with the rural character rather than  
38 these, you know, thresholds, and much more to do with  
39 Council recommendations and taking into consideration  
40 regional differences and everything else that they can.

41  
42 MR. WAGNER: And Ketchikan has Walmart,  
43 they have the airport, they have the ferry system in  
44 and out, if they want to go to Rupert in the summer, or  
45 down to Seattle, where the other villages really don't  
46 have a ferry service anymore, which is very essential.  
47 All these things should be considered. Just because  
48 you changed the number of population and the road  
49 system, you know, it's just this is really serious,  
50

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1 it's going to put a huge impact on the villages and  
2 especially Prince of Wales.

3

4 MR. VICKERS: I don't want to comment  
5 on the impacts its going to have on other communities,  
6 but I will remind you that this is actually a threshold  
7 assessment that relies on the merits of the proposal  
8 itself and whether the proposal meets these thresholds  
9 and we will get into everything that you're mentioning  
10 if we go into a full analysis of the proposal after the  
11 Board meeting -- if the Board determines that the  
12 thresholds of this proposal -- requirements have been  
13 met.

14

15 MR. WAGNER: Okay. I just think these  
16 are very important questions because this will have a  
17 huge impact in the area so.....

18

19 MR. VICKERS: Yes, these are all  
20 questions that will be considered during a full  
21 analysis when we have public meetings, et cetera, thank  
22 you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah, thank  
25 you Louie. John Smith, go ahead.

26

27 MR. SMITH: This is just a perspective  
28 of, you know, non-rural and rural, I just looked up and  
29 it's all different so maybe we need to look at what the  
30 actual definition in Alaska would be as non-rural and  
31 rural if you're not following population numbers, you  
32 just share that you don't look at it that way. We need  
33 to get all on the same page in figuring out what's  
34 rural and non-rural. Just a thought, I don't know.  
35 But it's confusing, even to me, looking it up, and then  
36 you saying that it doesn't go by numbers. So just a  
37 perspective, sorry.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.  
40 If it would be helpful, I think DeAnna has, what, you  
41 have a policy on that?

42

43 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. There is a  
44 formal non-rural determination policy which Mr. Vickers  
45 mentioned and I'll be happy to provide that to the  
46 Council. Today's action item is just on the threshold  
47 analysis as Mr. Vickers said, so we didn't want to  
48 bombard you with too much information because we kind  
49 of have to go through this first hurdle before we can  
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1 even get into that discussion. But I'll be happy to  
2 provide that to you shortly.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. In other  
7 words, specific questions kind of come later, this is  
8 more of a general discussion, I guess.

9

10 So, Harvey, you have a question.

11

12 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not  
13 really a question. But any discussion on it needs to  
14 come after we put it on the floor.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
17 Harvey. Yeah, we will have discussion on this, it is  
18 an action item. So Patty, go ahead.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Thank you,  
21 Mr. Vickers. So the, you know, KIC is asking for rural  
22 status designation for Ketchikan area, and KIC declared  
23 the Ketchikan Indian Community territory as rural. So  
24 Ketchikan Indian Community tribal government has  
25 declared the Ketchikan Indian Community territory as  
26 rural, can only tribal members have rural status in  
27 this designation of rural for subsistence? Would that  
28 be something that would be analyzed in the full  
29 analysis.

30

31 MR. VICKERS: Thank you for that  
32 question. It's always an important question that comes  
33 up. This -- the Federal Subsistence Program only looks  
34 at rural and community members, it doesn't make a  
35 distinction between tribal, Native or non-Native or  
36 anything. So anyone living within the defined area,  
37 irrespective of their other affiliations as long as  
38 they have residence in that defined area are -- fit the  
39 associated status of that area so it would be -- if  
40 this went through everyone living in Ketchikan, with a  
41 residency -- permanent residency in Ketchikan would be  
42 considered rural.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else with  
45 a question.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, because I

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1 have a couple -- oh, there's Frank. Go ahead, Frank.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
4 was just thinking here, you know, this Council deals  
5 with rural with most of our issues so Ketchikan,  
6 Juneau, all the larger communities that -- do they  
7 become rural since we, as a Council, deal with rural  
8 issues, you know, because -- I'm not -- I'm a little  
9 confused because, you know, Hoonah's rural, all of a  
10 sudden Juneau's going to be rural so they're rural and  
11 non-rural, so what becomes non-rural?

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 MR. VICKERS: Thank you for that  
16 question. Currently there are no proposals for a non-  
17 rural determination, a proposal would have to go out.  
18 So if there was a community that a proponent felt would  
19 no longer fit into the -- a category for rural they  
20 would have to put in a proposal and it would have to go  
21 through this process. There is currently also not a  
22 proposal out for rescinding non-rural determination of  
23 Juneau, there is only one just for Ketchikan area  
24 itself. Any other community would needs its own  
25 separate proposal to either change its status from  
26 rural to non-rural or to change it from non-rural to  
27 rural. I hope that answers your question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else.  
30 Followup, Frank, go ahead.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
33 Chair. Well, I'm still kind of confused but anyway --  
34 but because, you know, there was some people that  
35 argued against the Juneau -- you know a lot of the  
36 Hoonah Tlingits live in Juneau so they are considered  
37 rural so they are -- they're confused, you know,  
38 because they don't know they -- they can come hunt  
39 because they live in Juneau -- so, thank you, Mr.  
40 Chair.

41

42 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, that's a very  
43 important question. If they have -- anyone who has  
44 resi -- this all depends on residency status, the whole  
45 rural/non-rural as far as the Federal Board is  
46 concerned, it's completely on residence status. Not  
47 where they were born, not where they like to visit. If  
48 they have their permanent residency in Juneau then they  
49 do not -- they are considered to live in a non-rural  
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1 area and they are not rural residents and, therefore,  
2 they are not Federally-qualified subsistence users.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So.....

7

8 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
9 Albert.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just a second,  
12 Albert, I want to clarify that last question. So I  
13 think maybe what Frank was alluding to there, and it's  
14 kind of a question I have, so if you have tribal  
15 membership in Hoonah, that is not considered any kind  
16 of connection to a rural community, correct?

17

18 MR. VICKERS: Thank you for that  
19 question, these are great clarifying questions and you  
20 are correct. Tribal membership in any community -- the  
21 status does not rely on tribal membership, it only  
22 relies on where your residency is.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
27 Albert, do you have a question.

28

29 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 This one concerns me because we have to look at the  
31 proposal we have on the table how that will impact us  
32 in the future if this -- if this does happen and Juneau  
33 decides they want to be a part of the rural  
34 determination then they would be allowed -- and we just  
35 might as well throw all the proposals out the window if  
36 they're allowed to become Federally-qualified, you  
37 know, that means anybody can come on to Admiralty and  
38 everything we just worked on the last couple of days  
39 means nothing and I'm sure Prince of Wales would have  
40 the same issue when it comes to deer populations or  
41 anything on that island and people are showing up from  
42 Ketchikan hunting because they're Federally-qualified.  
43 We're just opening something that we may pay a price  
44 for later. There are solutions to that, I agree there  
45 are people in Ketchikan that have always lived off the  
46 resources around them and I think you can almost create  
47 a special area for places like Juneau, Sitka and  
48 Ketchikan where they are, in fact, Federally-qualified  
49 in their own boundaries, if that makes any sense, Mr.

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1 Chairman.

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there a question there, Albert, or a comment?

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MR. HOWARD: That was just a comment, Mr. Chair, and something for us to consider when we're looking at this, the impact it's going to have on us going forward.

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, and I think we are well aware of that. Mr. Douville, go ahead.

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MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that we're getting into the finer points of this thing, which we could debate that a little later, where it could be explained, this part of it is pretty simple really. But just so, if the Council isn't aware, there's mechanisms in Title VIII to protect rural users from rural users overrunning another. I mean all those things are already in place so you really shouldn't be fearful.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, you're right about that, Mike. And that is getting the cart a little bit in front of the horse here. So let's try and keep this limited to questions on this threshold analysis and not get too far into what the impacts would be if, four years down the road, you know, there's a positive finding. But -- did you have a question, Ian, was that your hand -- go ahead.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Vickers, I'm just -- the part I'm struggling with is not having the proposal before us and kind of -- or, you know, the actual KIC submission to just like sort of think about my own evaluation of it. And then also, you know, all we have is threshold met, but with no kind of description of like the process or like whether -- you know, I'm trying -- I guess my question is, can you describe more, kind of the determination of the threshold, there must be some -- like the assumption in my mind, I'm imagining, a rubric, you know, basically

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1 it's a checklist, an evaluation of the proposal, it  
2 meets these criteria, as you're evaluating the  
3 statement, the threshold requirements, it seems like  
4 there must still be like some sort of sub-points or  
5 bullets underneath that, or it's -- your evaluating the  
6 proposal just against the single statement -- or can  
7 you just describe a little bit more about how it was  
8 determined the threshold was met?

9

10 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, that's an excellent  
11 question and your latter sort of sub-question is  
12 correct, it is really just these single sentences. So  
13 really it comes down to a yes or no. Did it have --  
14 did this proposal, just the proposal itself, which is  
15 available online I believe, and much of it -- I believe  
16 in the analysis contains some of the quotes or other  
17 supporting evidence. But I did not -- for the  
18 threshold assessment did not look outside of the  
19 proposal. So I didn't go and look at the actual, you  
20 know, so harvest history or anything, because a  
21 threshold assessment is just asking does this proposal --  
22 is there enough in here for us to actually go through  
23 the big analysis, let's not start off with a big  
24 analysis, let's just make sure proponents have enough  
25 to make -- even make this suggestion that we do it.  
26 And so the four threshold requirements are just those  
27 four questions. There's not a matrix. There's not a,  
28 it needs to contain six of these, three of these to  
29 meet this. Really it just comes down to is the -- was  
30 there information not considered, does the proposal say  
31 that there was information that wasn't considered  
32 before; have there been changes since the last  
33 determination; are there evidence of -- does the  
34 proposal contain evidence that there's rural character  
35 and so really just looking through the proposal,  
36 finding those things and saying, yeah, it's here.

37

38 And then it would be up to you, the  
39 Council, to see if you actually agree with that, that  
40 the proposal does actually contain information that  
41 meet that threshold requirement.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty -- or excuse  
46 me, Cathy has a question.

47

48 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
49 just want to followup with Ian on that because -- or

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1 Ian's comment was because it was one of my comments as  
2 well. Like in this situation your recommendation is  
3 that it meets the threshold requirement. But if we had  
4 a proposal for us where you said you opposed, or that  
5 it did not meet the threshold requirement, I most  
6 certainly would want to see that proposal in front of  
7 me, because I would want to make sure, like it's a  
8 crosscheck. And so having the proposal and us  
9 understanding like how you're making that decision is  
10 helpful mainly because we haven't been through this  
11 process in Southeast before and so it's like, you're  
12 saying the threshold -- we're trusting you in the  
13 analysis that you made of the proposal, we don't get  
14 any crosscheck on that. So I don't think it's  
15 necessary for us today, in terms of making our decision  
16 but I think in the future OSM should consider including  
17 those in our proposal book when they do and ask us to  
18 make a -- like to concur with a threshold assessment on  
19 these kinds of things and it should be part of the non-  
20 rural determination policy.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. VICKERS: Thank you for that  
25 comment. This is actually only the second time we've  
26 done this under the new regulations. It did cross my  
27 mind during this, do I keep in the proposal or not, the  
28 other proposals aren't in the Council book so I edged  
29 on keeping it in consistency with how the other fishery  
30 proposals are and I tried to keep as much of it --  
31 information from the proposal in the analysis and also  
32 knowing that the proposal can be accessed online, I  
33 went with that. But hearing the comments today, next  
34 time I'm going to put the proposal in there because I  
35 do know that that's easier when you just have it right  
36 in front of you in the Council book. So I am sorry for  
37 err in judgment, kind of winging it as far as a lot of  
38 those little decisions go because we don't really have  
39 the guidelines totally written out like we do with the  
40 fisheries proposals, what goes where and everything.  
41 So that's going into my guidelines, so thank you for  
42 that suggestion.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
45 else.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, a

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1 couple questions, a couple things.....

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3 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....that I didn't  
6 hear in the proposal and.....

7

8 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....I don't know,  
11 things -- excuse me, is that Jim Slater on the line?

12

13 MR. SLATER: Yes, it was, thank you.  
14 I'd like to ask a question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Jim. Go  
17 ahead.

18

19 MR. SLATER: The -- thank you. Thank  
20 you. The proposal mentions throughout the text that  
21 the population has changed even though there's not a  
22 strict limit on the population anymore, or criteria on  
23 that, it mentions throughout that the population has  
24 changed, it mentions that there's less services, a less  
25 reliable food chain, limited access to health services,  
26 hospitals. If you could just run down the list, could  
27 you tell us about what the population change has been  
28 that they've seen, has there been any change in the  
29 ferry service or barge service, have there been any  
30 flight changes by Alaska Airlines, and how many groc --  
31 which grocery stores have changed, you know, are  
32 Walmart and Safeway still open and is the hospital  
33 reduced its size or change in any way. I would just  
34 like to hear that because it's mentioned throughout  
35 this and that doesn't seem like what I -- I hadn't  
36 heard about any of these drastic changes. I'd just  
37 like to hear what the data is behind those statements  
38 if I could.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If I could say  
41 here, I don't know those kind of questions sound a bit  
42 too detailed for me, Jim. I think Brent would probably  
43 agree those are the kind of things that they have yet  
44 to analyze. They've only looked at it broadly as  
45 whether or not they should be factors but the details,  
46 I don't think we've gotten there yet; is that correct?

47

48 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 That is correct. My interpretation of this threshold

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1 assessment was to really stick to the proposal. And  
2 the idea that they suggested that there's been these  
3 changes, to me, fit under that -- fit as the supporting  
4 evidence for the assessment and those are the details  
5 that would actually go into a full analysis, would be  
6 looked at much -- looked at comprehensively during a  
7 full analysis. But I really -- my interpretation and  
8 what has been done before with a non-rural  
9 determination proposal is sticking to the proposal and  
10 does this proponent have the information to make these  
11 claims, are the claims that they're making substantive  
12 enough that we could look into them during a full full  
13 analysis. I hope that answers your question. And I'm  
14 sorry it doesn't incorporate that kind of data but,  
15 again, this was my interpretation of how the threshold  
16 assessment should be run and how it was run during the  
17 last non-rural determination cycle.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

22

23 MR. SLATER: Well, I understand the  
24 answer there but I would say that if we're asked to  
25 make a decision on whether or not we should let this go  
26 forward, I would say that that kind of information is  
27 critical otherwise what's the point of us even  
28 evaluating this. That's my response.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do you have a  
31 response, Brent.

32

33 MR. VICKERS: My response is that's a  
34 valid point to make, this is a step in the process is  
35 all I can say. You know maybe that kind of comment  
36 could be taken in reconsideration in how this threshold  
37 -- what this threshold assessment is supposed to  
38 incorporate for the future.....

39

40 (Cell phone ringing)

41

42 MR. VICKERS: .....but right now I  
43 really stuck to what has been done and what my  
44 interpretation and it has gone through levels of review  
45 through OSM, through ISC, and we all have agreed that  
46 this is what should be incorporated in this assessment.

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48 Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

MR. SLATER: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, you know, in listening to your assessment there, one of the kind of important factors that I would want to consider, I think, in our eventual determination, I didn't hear it mentioned, is a threshold analysis and, I don't know, maybe it's in there somewhere, but just kind of economic factors of the community. You kind of mentioned a whole bunch of different stuff. But, to me, primary characteristic of a rural community is its extent of seasonal economy, you know, when a community doesn't have a core year-round industry, you know, it becomes more seasonal, that, to me, is a real characteristic of a rural community. And, I don't know, I think that's probably one of the big changes we've seen in Ketchikan here, you know, it's become as, Mr. Wagner pointed out, very much a seasonal economy now and I don't know, is that something that would be considered in this analysis, or -- I didn't hear it mentioned. I don't know if it's kind of implied somewhere.

MR. VICKERS: Thank you for that question, Mr. Chair. Basically everything will be considered dealing with the character of the Ketchikan area. The demographics, the changes, the economics, the changes over time, really and how it relates to subsistence -- use of subsistence resources, reliance on subsistence uses, practices, shar -- like I said, sharing, harvesting methods, harvesting means, anything -- anything I can collect that speaks to this I will incorporate.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Another question, just the fact that a community has a large Native population, and I know we're going to hear from a lot of those folks today, does that in and of itself become a factor, because, you know, that's a community that's traditionally been engaged in subsistence activities, so it's kind of like you need to be rural in our present system to have, you know, subsistence opportunities but yet having have lived the subsistence lifestyle for generations after generations, it seems like that ought to be a factor as

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1 well, just how many people in the community have lived  
2 that lifestyle traditionally. Is that not valid?

3

4

5 MR. VICKERS: Thank you for that  
6 question. The ethnic, racial, tribal demographics in  
7 itself is not something the Board would consider. But  
8 there are associations, as you say, and recommendations  
9 from the Council and tribes play heavily into that. If  
10 a community has a very strong presence of Native  
11 Alaskans who, as you say, traditionally practice -- or  
12 practice those traditional subsistence resourcing  
13 harvesting methods, means, sharing, then that community  
14 is -- may be considered as one that is very reliant on  
15 subsistence and subsistence practices. So while  
16 looking at a metric and saying, well, this is such and  
17 such percentage of Natives so therefore let's consider  
18 it rural is not a characteristic that the Board would  
19 look on, the amount of sharing, harvesting and  
20 everything that might be associated with a large Native  
21 population would be looked at.

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I hope that answers your question,  
thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah, that's  
very helpful, thank you. One last short question, when  
you do hold these public meetings, I guess it would be  
pretty beneficial to us, if possible, to schedule them  
at such a time that they might coincide with one of our  
Council meetings so the Council could be present for  
those public meetings. So just a thought.

MR. VICKERS: Thank you. I think the  
-- DeAnna Perry, sitting to your right side would be  
heavily involved with scheduling those meetings so  
speak to her if we move in that direction. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any  
other questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
Mr. Vickers. So I think, like I said, the Council is  
going to have a chance to weigh in on this, just  
basically approve or disapprove of their threshold  
analysis and before we do that, though, we want to hear  
from the public so let's go to the blue cards and, I  
don't know, there's a dozen or so. I guess I'm hoping

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1 that, you know, some of these won't be too lengthy. If  
2 I thought they would be lengthy I might have to start  
3 putting time limits on them but I don't want to do that  
4 prematurely so I'll just throw that out there.

5

6 Let's see the first one I have is from  
7 Trixie Bennett.

8

9 (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants not muted - dog barking)

11

12 MS. BENNETT: Good morning. (In  
13 Tlingit) Members of the Council. Mr. Chair. Madame  
14 Chair. Trixie Bennett from Ketchikan Indian Community.

15

16 (In Tlingit)

17

18 MS. BENNETT: I just said my English  
19 name is Trixie Bennett. I said I'm Tlingit. I belong  
20 to the (In Tlingit) people. We're a Raven/Frog Clan  
21 out of Wrangell but there's (In Tlingit) all over  
22 Southeast Alaska, all over Alaska. I'm Tlingit from my  
23 mom, Tahltan from my dad, and mom was -- her name was  
24 Minnie Larson and my grandma was Emma Shakes. We  
25 always, as most of you know who are indigenous, we  
26 always give recognition to our grandparents and that  
27 connection we have.

28

29 I'm here to speak in support of KIC's  
30 proposal to make Ketchikan a subsistence and hunting --  
31 a subsistence, hunting and fishing community. You  
32 heard from your Staff, we meet the thresholds for this  
33 proposal. I saw a lot of specific questions came up,  
34 we're hoping for the opportunity to answer those  
35 questions over the next couple of years. We know it's  
36 a big decision and an important decision, especially  
37 the impact that's on the, you know, our surrounding  
38 communities and our island here.

39

40 KIC's mission is to enhance and protect  
41 the interest of the tribe and its tribal citizens  
42 including upholding our cultural heritage and  
43 traditional values. Subsistence, as codified in  
44 ANILCA, helps sustain, not only the physical but the  
45 spiritual culture of Alaska Native people. Recognizing  
46 this is an important tradition for many non-Natives as  
47 well, Congress established that local rural residents  
48 be given the precedence for using fish and wildlife  
49 resources, prioritizing subsistence uses over other  
50

1 uses such as sportfishing, and hunting. That's what  
2 we're doing here today, that's what I see you doing.

3  
4 We need that here in Ketchikan. I  
5 heard one of the Council say it themselves, the demand  
6 grows greatly in the summer, we need the subsistence  
7 protections for our food and medicines. We strongly  
8 believe achieving a rural designation for Ketchikan is  
9 a giant step in the right direction in our mission of  
10 upholding our way of life. I've been in Ketchikan over  
11 30 years now, I'm the President for the tribe right  
12 now, Ketchikan Indian Community, it's one of two  
13 Federally-recognized tribes here. You heard from the  
14 Saxman President yesterday, President Joe Williams.  
15 You heard his support for our proposal. You heard  
16 there's a need to correct this imbalance that is  
17 existing on our island within our people.

18  
19 At KIC, I've seen our programs grow and  
20 the overall access to our healthcare and services  
21 greatly grow over the last, you know, 20 years or so,  
22 we're resilient people but we struggle with  
23 generational trauma as well as the trauma we see today  
24 with the opiate epidemic and our people are still  
25 struggling from high rates of diabetes, heart disease,  
26 cancer, homelessness, addiction, overdoses, too many, I  
27 couldn't even count them all just this year. With  
28 addiction is domestic violence, abuse, neglect and all  
29 that goes with that. We have 86 children in our  
30 district not set to graduate, and just as many of our  
31 Native kids in the State foster care system right now.  
32 Many of our young people are in the jails, or out on  
33 the street. Through SITC, the Southeast Indigenous  
34 Transboundary Commission and -- which I sit on their  
35 executive committee, we've done a lot of work and  
36 through other groups like Kianna Sisters, we've held  
37 plant symposiums, we're working hard to rediscover and  
38 protect our traditional food systems here on the land  
39 and in the waters, especially on the transboundary  
40 rivers as I've mentioned. What we call the sacred  
41 headwaters where our creation stories come from, where  
42 our migration stories are. The mining industry calls  
43 it the golden triangle, 80 percent of the Unuk is  
44 staked for mining. We're in trouble there. And I'm  
45 grateful to hear you all are paying attention to that  
46 as well. We need more work on that because it  
47 continues to be probably the biggest threat to salmon  
48 and our way of life, the pollution on the transboundary  
49 rivers where 80 percent of our fish come from in the  
50

0377

1 Southeast. 80 percent.

2

3

4 Recently I read about some research  
5 that show our Tlingit people used to eat over 400  
6 different types of foods and now when they look at it  
7 the average is just under 30 different types of food.  
8 Many of us don't know about all these other plants and  
9 foods that are in the woods and even in the ocean. And  
10 you'll hear from other people here today that access to  
11 the land is a real problem for us here to get our  
12 foods. There are traditional foods all over this  
13 island and the surrounding islands that in quantities  
14 sufficient to sustain our population. We hear your --  
15 the concerns, we know. In this proposal we're simply  
16 asking the Federal Subsistence Board to recognize that  
17 they must give priority access of these resources to  
18 our Ketchikan residents. And I hear some of you saying  
19 the same thing, but we need that designation for that  
20 to happen. Other similar Southeast communities are  
21 already designated as rural. Sitka is similar in size,  
22 economy and population, it has rural status. That  
23 supports our Ketchikan proposal. You'll hear more how  
24 we met up with your thresholds too from some people  
25 from our Staff and our community. In 2012 the city of  
26 Saxman and Saxman Tribe, located just two miles from  
27 here, within the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and relying  
28 on the same food chain received rural status which  
29 further supports our Ketchikan proposal. As you heard,  
30 President Joe Williams testify -- or comment yesterday,  
31 Saxman not only supports our proposal but he points to  
32 this imbalance on our island that's contributing to a  
33 loss of our culture, it's hindering our ability as  
34 Native people to thrive in a subsistence lifestyle. I  
35 heard the topic of Tlingit ceremony, Khu.eex come up a  
36 couple times, how it was used to obtain this balance.  
37 I just, less than two weeks ago, attended Khu.eex in  
38 Wrangell for our Kaach.adi Clan, to honor our people  
39 because there was an imbalance, they're gone and we  
40 need to have ceremony around this. And the very word,  
41 Khu.eex means invitation, and it's invitation to come  
42 feast and to sing to each other and they sing back, and  
43 through that ceremony you achieve balance. I felt like  
44 I should come here and sing a mourning song because I  
45 feel like we're going to be in mourning until we have  
46 this balance in our community for our people.

46

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My Tlingit name means plant leave or  
plant spirit, (In Tlingit), that name given to me  
connects me to the land, it grows my spirit, it creates



0378

1 a responsibility for me.

2

3

4 In my 20-years plus in health care  
5 administration here for the tribe I've watched and  
6 participated in the progression of our people, in our  
7 sovereignty to run our own programs, we've had to  
8 relearn our inherent right to hunt and fish and to have  
9 ceremony with the land and with each other. We're  
10 building up our capacity to co-manage on the Federal  
11 lands, some State projects, too. We've had our boots  
12 on the ground. We've been observing the returns of the  
13 eulachon on the Unuk out there counting, and the  
14 herring at the southern end of the island. We're doing  
15 habitat restoration out at Margaret Creek. We  
16 purchased Orton Ranch on the NaHa River for a place to  
17 hold culture camp and a place to share with the whole  
18 community about our way of life and our own people, of  
19 course, a place where we can prepare our foods and  
20 teach our stories and come together as community.

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So in my position with the tribe I've  
seen what's happening in the community now for almost  
three decades and we're in trouble here but we do see  
hope in a lot of the work that we're doing. We have a  
treatment center planned, a navigation center, some  
supportive housing. Somewhere near the center -- or of  
our best programs, the ones that really bring together  
hearts that have had the most healing in our community  
are the programs that get our people out on the land  
and bring us together around our foods. That's been  
the most impactful. You'll hear other people say that  
here today. And getting the foods, these are the  
activities that give that opportunity for our people to  
hold up our traditional values; I've heard you say  
those here today, (In Tlingit), you know, Haa Anni, the  
spiritual aspect of being on the land providing for  
your community is missing here for many yet we lack the  
subsistence opportunity of our neighbors, our brothers  
and sisters in Saxman just two miles away from the  
location that we sit, but if I live here I'm not  
afforded those same subsistence rights.

Another point I think it's important to  
make is Ketchikan was left out of ANCSA, we did not get  
land for the Ketchikan people so we have no access as a  
Federal subsistence user, and we were left out of  
ANCSA, we don't have access to Cape Fox land. We  
probably would if we asked. But -- and there's work  
towards that but I thought it was important to mention

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1 that, there's -- you know, so we have to go way out for  
2 our foods, we have to go far away. It's out of  
3 balance.

4  
5 A sound subsistence policy is, one  
6 solution we know would have big impacts on the health  
7 and cultural survival of the Native people of our area.  
8 We really feel like the future of Ketchikan Native  
9 people hangs in the balance of your decision.

10  
11 So, in summary, I just want to remind  
12 the Council we are a rural community, we need better  
13 access to our foods and the large indigenous population  
14 that I proudly represent, they deserve access to these  
15 foods just as our ancestors have relied upon since time  
16 immemorial. We all agree traditional foods are  
17 important to our individual and collective well-being.  
18 We need to work together to address this imbalance and  
19 change this designation to rural for the people of  
20 Ketchikan.

21  
22 So I thank you in advance for your  
23 consideration and your support. Please let me know if  
24 there is any questions that I can, or our Staff can  
25 answer.

26  
27 Gunalcheesh.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
30 Ms. Bennett. I think with the Council's indulgence and  
31 considering time constraints we have during this  
32 testimony I'm going to refrain from questions or -- I  
33 got a feeling these testimonies could probably generate  
34 a lot of comments, for sure, and maybe some questions  
35 could be answered later, but I think we'll forego that  
36 and just listen to the people that come before us.  
37 And, yeah, speaking of time crunches, I was informed  
38 that some Council members who are headed home this  
39 evening need to check out of the hotel before 11:00  
40 o'clock, so I guess we're going to have to take a short  
41 break.

42  
43 MS. BENNETT: Okay.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So I'll allow that  
46 to happen and apologize for that but, yeah, I'm afraid  
47 it's going to be necessary so everybody can take 15  
48 minutes, I guess and we'll resume with the testimony  
49 and I hope that doesn't inconvenience anybody.  
50

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1 MS. BENNETT: Gunalcheesh.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Council  
8 members are coming back from their checkouts. We got a  
9 fair number of people that are headed back to Juneau  
10 tonight, Council and Staff, so they had to check out.  
11 They asked the front desk if we could have a extension  
12 until noon but they said, no, so there we are. Sorry  
13 about that.

14

15 Okay, so let's continue on with our  
16 public testimony. We do have somebody on the  
17 phoneline, I believe, it says they're on the phone.  
18 Marcy Haines, are you there on the phone. I don't want  
19 to forget about people on the phone. Our court  
20 reporter tells me that she has everybody muted so if  
21 you are waiting to talk you do have to unmute your  
22 phone at your end, yeah, star, six, I believe, is what  
23 you have to hit.

24

25 So do we have Marcy Haines on the  
26 phone.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not yet. Well,  
31 I'll set that one aside and come back to her.

32

33 MS. HAINES: Mr. Chair, can you hear  
34 me.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, there you  
37 are. Is this Marcy, go ahead.

38

39 MS. HAINES: I guess when you're on  
40 your cell phone you can't just press the little mute  
41 button, you have to press star, six, so thank you for  
42 reminding me of that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I didn't  
45 know that either but we all learned something. Go  
46 ahead.

47

48 MS. HAINES: Okay. Thank you for  
49 having me, Council, and Mr. Chair. I'll start out with  
50

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1 my introduction. As a Haida person, you know, we  
2 always introduce our mothers and our grandmothers. So  
3 (Indiscernible - cuts out - garbled) (In Tlingit)

4  
5 I just introduced my grandmother is  
6 Paulene Peratrovich and my mother is Barbara Fields,  
7 and my Indian name is (In Tlingit) my English name is  
8 Marcy. I sit on the Ketchikan Indian Tribal Council  
9 and I also operate a commercial fishing business here  
10 in Ketchikan and I'm here today in support of the  
11 proposal NDP25-01.

12  
13 I wholeheartedly believe when Alaskan  
14 people live in a rural and subsistence way, they lead a  
15 more active and healthy lifestyle. And I won't get too  
16 much into the details today and I know you are on a  
17 time crunch and I did send in my letter so I won't  
18 reread the whole thing.

19  
20 You know Alaskan people expect our  
21 government leaders to hold up promises of the Alaska  
22 Native Settlement Act of 1971 and also Alaska National  
23 Interest Land Conservation of 1980 and making Ketchikan  
24 a rural status will create more trust with our  
25 government leaders such as yourselves.

26  
27 Rural status affects me and my family  
28 pretty greatly. I grew up on Prince of Wales Island as  
29 a child and so I enjoyed that type of life. In  
30 Ketchikan we find it very restrictive to live that kind  
31 of life and I can tell you, a mother of four, we run  
32 out of food at the end of every winter. We have about  
33 25 miles or road and a couple back roads, which are  
34 mostly privately owned. And as you know I grew up on  
35 Prince of Wales Island and we have hundreds upon  
36 hundreds of logging roads so hunting was very  
37 different. Here in Ketchikan, you know, I have two  
38 sons, one that is an active hunter and a fisherman and  
39 also works on our commercial fishing vessel, and I  
40 bought him his first skiff at 10 and he has to travel  
41 great distances to harvest the foods that I grew up  
42 eating and I am teaching my sons to harvest and eat as  
43 well as my step-daughter. Alaska Native subsisting  
44 lifestyle is very important and it will be beneficial  
45 to us in this community as most of us feel like it is a  
46 rural community. And I know this is about the  
47 threshold analysis and we're talking about evidence of  
48 rural character. We may have two grocery stores, we  
49 lost our (indiscernible) grocery store, and our two  
50

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1 grocery stores really have a hard time staying stocked  
2 and we're very limited on what we can buy and most of  
3 it is very processed food and when we do get vegetables  
4 they rot within a few days and, you know, the meat is  
5 sometimes not quality. And I don't want to be  
6 offensive to our grocery store people but that's the  
7 truth of it. And the prices of the foods are so  
8 expensive and to be honest I didn't grow up eating any  
9 beef. In fact, my grandmother didn't allow us to eat  
10 beef or drink milk and I still carry that on with my  
11 children. So it's very important I have an appropriate  
12 amount of food for my family, even started some gardens  
13 to get fresher vegetables.

14  
15                   The cost of gas is so expensive and the  
16 cost of anything we need to, you know, harvest, is  
17 pretty expensive and we have to travel pretty far to  
18 get the foods we need. With a population of about  
19 8,000 our grocery stores are packed and we're  
20 constantly fighting with other consumers, we need to  
21 get there first so we can buy things. I'm in the habit  
22 of buying five or six items at once because I know  
23 they'll run out. I know that our ferry schedule has  
24 gone down quite a bit. Anything cargoed in, whether it  
25 be an airplane, a ferry, or a barge, the prices are  
26 skyrocketing and with a family of four, including me  
27 and my husband, that is really hard to keep up with.  
28 Not to mention that my family, you know, that lives in  
29 the city, like Anchorage, you know, trying to share  
30 food with them because it's important my nieces and  
31 nephews also have food.

32  
33                   Let's see, you know, I was thinking  
34 about Sitka being a very similar city in size and  
35 population and that they enjoy rural status and that we  
36 are an island and we are very isolated, and our  
37 neighbors of Metlakatla and our neighbor Saxman and our  
38 neighbor, Prince of Wales, which is where most of my  
39 extended family live all enjoy rural status. So I just  
40 wanted to express to you, you know, that we have a  
41 really high population of Native people living on this  
42 island and not only that, we have a lot of Alaskans  
43 living on this island and they want to eat their foods  
44 that mean the most to them and our grocery stores  
45 cannot sustain us at the moment.

46  
47                   And I hope that you are in favor in  
48 supporting this proposal.

49  
50

0383

1 Thank you. Howaa. I am finished.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
4 Marcy. Go back to somebody who is probably here in the  
5 room, Judith McCreary.

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She couldn't stay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry to hear  
10 that. Apologies. How about Naomi Nickleson.

11

12 MS. (In Tlingit) Good morning. Good  
13 morning members of the Council. (In Tlingit) My  
14 Tlingit name is (In Tlingit), it was my grandmother's  
15 name. I am Eagle, Wooshkitaan from the Shark House.  
16 Although I originally come -- my family comes from the  
17 Berners Bay Juneau area, I raised my children here for  
18 the last 30 years, my five children, here in the  
19 beautiful of the Saanya Kwaan and Taanta Kwaan peoples.  
20 I have nine grandchildren and I'm here as a KIC member --  
21 tribal member and also as a grandmother. I am also  
22 here in support of the proposal from KIC for rural  
23 status.

24

25 As indigenous peoples of Alaska, we are  
26 on a journey of healing. Lack of truthful and  
27 culturally appropriate education and narratives around  
28 our Alaska Native peoples, the land, the foods, and the  
29 plants have harmed us by attempting to destroy our  
30 identity. Continued limits to accessing our lands and  
31 foods through policies and institutionalized racism  
32 still threaten the health, well-being, stability and  
33 growth for our indigenous communities, and ultimately  
34 all people, yet we are reestablishing ourselves in our  
35 homelands by remembering who we are.

36

37 We are stewards of the land and it is  
38 our responsibility to take care of the land. Alaska  
39 Native peoples have respectfully used these foods for  
40 uncounted millennia. Our lands are so generous to us  
41 in providing us with abundance. These foods have  
42 always been here and we have taken care of them, and  
43 they, in turn take care of us. It is important for our  
44 community, our society to recognize this and ground  
45 ourselves again in the connectedness of eating this way  
46 by season, from the land and from the wild. Elevating  
47 the value of our own knowledge, foods and food wisdom  
48 creates a healing space and starting point for future  
49 and meaningful dialogue to address many of these issues

50

0384

1 that we all face today.

2

3

4 Bringing together community is key to  
5 preserving indigenous wisdom of all types and it is  
6 integral to realizing food security and sovereignty.  
7 We live in a time of great change and we can see that.  
8 I can attest to what Marcy was saying a little bit ago  
9 and Trixie as well, is the difficulty in accessing our  
10 foods, the grocery stores no longer have our -- a major  
11 store that's out in the south part of time, and so we  
12 have two grocery stores and it has been hard to get the  
13 -- you know, we haven't had a reliable ferry system and  
14 the barge lines and all of those things have been  
15 affected in the last -- especially in the last two  
16 years.

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Throughout -- I've also been able to be  
a part of bringing back some of the plant medicines and  
the foods and have been able to help support plant and  
food symposiums here in Ketchikan, Southeast Summit,  
that was for Southeast Alaska and also one in Juneau  
this June, and what I see is just really beautiful.  
Just amazing. You would think that it was just a chance  
to get around and learn about what our land has to  
offer us. And as Trixie mentioned there are over 400  
foods and plants that we use here on Tlingit Haa Anni  
and so some of us don't remember those things and  
there's a reason why, because many of our parents were,  
you know the story of being taken to boarding school  
and separated and disconnected from this land, our  
languages, our songs, our dances, each other. And so  
when we come together, and we've been able to bring  
foods that -- 20 different berries that many of us  
didn't know about, all the different foods and plants  
and medicines that we have that are the best foods that  
we can put into our bodies and it makes kale, some of  
our best greens and spinach look bad when we bring in  
our own foods. And so we know that this is going to  
help us spiritually, physically, emotionally and it  
really is beautiful. And what I've seen people say  
when we bring these foods together and we come together  
and learn about them, we're learning the Native  
languages, the names of these foods, how to harvest  
them respectfully, sustainably, how to prepare them,  
how to preserve them and how to share them because in  
our culture we shared. And we took care of each other,  
it was not about ourselves, it was about our opposites.  
A good leader took care of the community and was not  
about what he had or she had, it was about what they

1 gave and the community was happy and healthy. And so  
2 you have the opportunity to help our community because  
3 as Trixie mentioned earlier we suffer from the highest  
4 rates of these social ills that we do not want, we all  
5 want to be happy and healthy and you have the  
6 opportunity to help us in this community to really  
7 strengthen us to grow and to remember who we are as --  
8 especially as KIC represents, you know, all different  
9 nations, but here on Tlingit Haa Anni, our southern  
10 language is lost, there -- we don't -- everybody is  
11 learning, starting to learn now the northern Tlingit  
12 dialogue, dialect because we, unfortunately lost our  
13 (In Tlingit) and some of our last speakers, Clara, in  
14 Klawock, Peratrovich, and so you find that when we lose  
15 our foods, the more language that is lost, the further  
16 away we are from being healthy and so to help us to  
17 grow and to strengthen ourselves so that not -- so that  
18 we can learn to take care of this place together and I  
19 think you see that in the world it's really going to be  
20 difficult and challenging and there's not a lot of  
21 time, and two years is a long time to wait but it's  
22 really very important to us, to our children and to  
23 your grandchildren and to all of our peoples here.

24  
25 I strongly support this proposal. We  
26 are all connected. So whether we live in Prince of  
27 Wales, where I grew up part of my life, whether you're  
28 from Hoonah, where my family's father's side is from,  
29 Juneau, where my ancestors come from, or this beautiful  
30 place here in Tlingit Haa Anni and the home of the  
31 Saanya Kwaan and Taanta Kwaan, we know we have  
32 everything that we need. If we have abundance -- but  
33 we haven't learned how to take care of those things and  
34 to share them and I think this helps our children with  
35 their cultural identity. You know, you've probably  
36 seen a lot on the news around being Native enough, or  
37 not too much -- or not enough Native and those are the  
38 struggles that our children have because they're not  
39 connected and so I've seen eyes light up and even  
40 elders say at these symposiums that we've had,  
41 gatherings that I'm 72 years old and this is the best  
42 day of my life, or elders might say thank you for  
43 bringing this back to us, we've been waiting. And when  
44 young boy -- a young boy came with his grandmother and  
45 said, I don't know why grandma said I had to come today  
46 but I'm really glad I did and just a young mother said  
47 this is powerful, I belong here and really we all  
48 belong here but we don't have access to our food like  
49 we should. Our children need access, we need to learn  
50



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1 about them so we can take care of them and protect  
2 them.

3

4

5 I would like to just end on -- it's a  
6 quote from one of my mentors that I love what she says  
7 and it's true, and we're all related in these  
8 indigenous relatives but this is from Valerie Seagrest  
9 and she says:

10

11 Food is a gift. Elders remind us that  
12 true wealth is having access to Native foods along with  
13 the knowledge of how to gather, prepare and serve them.  
14 Our values and food traditions are a living legacy that  
15 links us to the past , present and future generations.  
16 Several times a day we encounter opportunities to  
17 reflect on what we eat and how our choices change our  
18 world. When we harvest Native foods and incorporate  
19 them into our modern lifestyle we strengthen our  
20 cultural identity, our relationship to the land and  
21 tribal sovereignty. It will take all of us to feed the  
22 next seven generations.

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Gunalcheesh. And thank you for  
allowing me the time to speak today.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. How  
about Guiea Benning. Guiea Benning.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She's not here.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not here, okay.  
Sorry if people had to leave because we got delayed  
here. How about Steve Hartford.

MR. HARTFORD: Yes, I'm here. Good  
morning, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. Thank you  
for giving us the opportunity to speak. My name is  
Steve Hartford and I am honored and privileged to be  
able to serve as the tribal attorney and general  
counsel for Ketchikan Indian Community. I was part of  
the team that put together the proposal before the  
Federal Subsistence Board more than half a year ago  
now, so we're more than half a year into the four year  
process. But we look forward to working with you  
throughout this process and I just want to let you know  
a couple of points of numbers.

Ketchikan Indian Community represents  
over 6,400 members, about half of those members live

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1 here in Ketchikan Borough, so over 3,000 Alaska Natives  
2 that we represent. We firmly believe local reliance on  
3 fish, game and plants is common to Ketchikan, to  
4 everyone within Ketchikan, we especially want to point  
5 out the importance of that and as you've heard by the  
6 prior people that's -- the prior speakers how  
7 important that is to our Native culture and the culture  
8 of our citizens.

9

10 So really the main point that I want to  
11 make is that we want a fair -- we want fair  
12 consideration of our proposal. We would like a fair  
13 hearing. This is only the first step. As your Staff  
14 pointed out, we meet the thresholds, the recommendation  
15 is that we meet the four key thresholds, we have  
16 asserted or stated facts and submitted data that allows  
17 the Federal Subsistence Board and their Staff to move  
18 forward in the process. It opens the door to a full  
19 review of our proposal, that's all we're asking. We're  
20 just asking for a full and fair review. So by you  
21 voting yes today, you're saying we accept the proposal  
22 as presented and we will allow it to be fully and  
23 fairly reviewed, and that also means by this Council,  
24 you're going to have multiple meetings on this  
25 proposal, there's going to be more public hearings on  
26 this proposal, the Staff is going to come back to you  
27 with additional data for your consideration so that you  
28 can have the best and most current data upon which you  
29 can ultimately make a decision as to whether you  
30 recommend the approval or the denial of the proposal to  
31 the Federal Subsistence Board. As part of that, and  
32 you'll hear more about this from our cultural resources  
33 director, we are developing additional and more up to  
34 date data based on current subsistence uses of people  
35 who live in Ketchikan, all people who live in Ketchikan  
36 as well as historic uses of residents and their  
37 families.

38

39 And as far as the thresholds, we did  
40 lay out, and, you know, you've heard a lot of it  
41 already but we laid out where -- what the changes have  
42 been in our access to goods and services, the rural  
43 nature of our community, the other changes to our  
44 comparability to other rural communities including  
45 Sitka, Kodiak, Bethel, that all enjoy rural status and  
46 how our -- no one community -- no communities are  
47 identical but how our community is comparable in terms  
48 of its rural nature. Probably the single biggest  
49 change is the Federal standard that was adopted in 2015

50

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1 by the Federal Subsistence Board that took away the --  
2 that the decision should only be based on population,  
3 that has now changed, and so this Council and the  
4 Federal Subsistence Board can consider the other unique  
5 rural characteristics of the community that's making a  
6 proposal and in this case, Ketchikan so that is key and  
7 that is important.

8  
9 Another point that we make is since the  
10 last time Ketchikan was considered, in the interim,  
11 Saxman, which is wholly within Ketchikan, it's a very  
12 small hamlet, if you don't know it's a small hamlet  
13 that's surrounded by the rest of the Ketchikan  
14 Community so at some point the Federal Subsistence  
15 Board in the last -- about 10 -- in the last 10 years  
16 determined that they should have access to subsistence  
17 resources and they have identical access to  
18 transportation, other goods and services that the rest  
19 of the residents of the borough have, they have the  
20 same access, it's no different. And by the way it's  
21 not just Ketchikan Indian Community that says that we  
22 think that our community should be fairly determined to  
23 be rural so that all of our residents can have access  
24 to subsistence resources, it's the other three key  
25 representative governments within the borough. It's  
26 Ketchikan Borough Assembly, the Ketchikan City Council,  
27 and the elected tribal Council of the Organized Village  
28 of Saxman. And to that point I want to submit for the  
29 record, a letter from the city council in support of  
30 this determination, a resolution adopted by Ketchikan  
31 Gateway Borough Assembly, as well as the resolution  
32 adopted by the Organized Village of Saxman. I'd like  
33 to submit those for the record at this point, Mr.  
34 Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you  
37 very much. We'll consider that done. Do you have  
38 anything else.

39  
40 MR. HARTFORD: Yes. Just a cou -- I'll  
41 be as quick as I can, sir. With respect to -- so I  
42 think the importance of the uniminity within the  
43 community on the importance of access, the need for  
44 access to subsistence services, the importance of the  
45 uniminity goes to the heart of what ANILCA talks about  
46 when it talks about subsistence resources, the intent  
47 of all Federal subsistence regulations is to accord  
48 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands a  
49 priority over the taking of fish and wildlife for other  
50

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1 purposes. So I really want to underscore that everyone  
2 in the community, the Borough, the City, the Organized  
3 Village of Saxman and the Ketchikan Indian Community  
4 are in uniminity that local users of subsistence  
5 resources should be given priority over other users.  
6 That's the first time, to our knowledge, that we have  
7 been unanimous as a community on that point.

8  
9 And let's see, as far as the -- I noted  
10 that there were some preliminary concerns raised by  
11 members about the impacts on other communities and I  
12 think those are valid concerns but I want to point out  
13 that under Section .804 of ANILCA limits for impacts on  
14 local communities can be placed and so this can all be  
15 managed and is currently managed, the use of these  
16 resources are managed based on not only the stock but  
17 also the amount of users in the region, so those things  
18 will all be taken into consideration ultimately if it's  
19 determined that Ketchikan residents and members of  
20 Ketchikan Indian Community should be given access to  
21 subsistence resources.

22  
23 And, again, we are looking for a full  
24 and fair consideration of our proposal at this point,  
25 that's what we're asking for. We're not saying that  
26 we're absolutely right, we want everyone to look at all  
27 of the data and to weigh all of that. If it was just a  
28 simple numbers game we wouldn't be here and this  
29 Council or even the Federal Subsistence Board wouldn't  
30 have any role, because it would just be let's look at  
31 the census numbers and that would make the decision.  
32 By the way our numbers have gone down, our 2020 numbers  
33 are about 14,000 in the entire Borough which is like  
34 two people per square mile if you look at it that way  
35 on Revillagigedo Island as far as density but it's gone  
36 down consistently since 2010 and that's one of the  
37 factors that we listed, one of the 12 factors that were  
38 listed that were considered in the threshold analysis.

39  
40 And, again, thank you for your time and  
41 we look forward to a favorable decision on whether we  
42 meet the threshold analysis.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
47 Steven. How about Keenan Sanderson.

48  
49 MR. SANDERSON: Mr. Chair. We were  
50

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1 supposed to have another person come in to testify and  
2 they were not able to come in today, is it okay if I  
3 read their short testimony for the record?

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure, go ahead.

6

7 MR. SANDERSON: Okay. It's brief, and  
8 then I'll get to my testimony, if I can pull it up --  
9 excuse me.

10

11 So, and this is word for word what they  
12 sent me. Hello. My name is Jessie. I am the wellness  
13 manager at the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Health  
14 Clinic. I hold a bachelor's degree in psychology and a  
15 bachelor's degree in diabetics. I am a diabetic  
16 student in the nutrition and diabetes program through  
17 the University of Alaska-Anchorage. I would like to  
18 take a moment to communicate the importance of  
19 traditional foods in the health of our community.  
20 Traditional food consumption increases the health of  
21 the community in three different ways. First, increase  
22 in food security which translates to better health.  
23 Two, increase in vegetable, fruits and meats with  
24 healthy fats and whole foods. And, three, increase in  
25 physical activity. Research has shown an increase in  
26 traditional foods reflects an increase in diet quality.  
27 Those that consume more traditional foods compared to  
28 the standard American diet consume more vitamins,  
29 minerals, essential fatty acids, omega-3s and fiber.  
30 Conversely traditional foods contain less sugar,  
31 saturated and trans fats, which can contribute to this  
32 disease, which she refers to diabetes. A good example  
33 is saturated fat in deer versus beef, 3 ounces of deer  
34 contains one gram of saturated fat whereas 3 ounces of  
35 beef contains 5 grams of saturated fat, but the same 3  
36 ounces of deer contains 26 grams of protein and beef  
37 only contains 22 grams.

38

39 I'm going to skip this part.

40

41 This last part, refers to increased  
42 physical activity. As you know many of the -- you  
43 know, when you go out and harvest traditional foods,  
44 whether it's deer, salmon or moose, whatever it may be  
45 in our area, it promotes a healthy lifestyle and that's  
46 kind of the point that Jessie would have made to you if  
47 she were here today, is that this -- and this all  
48 relates, I should say to the rural status application  
49 that KIC put forward, but the tribal government through  
50

50

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1 the Ketchikan Indian Community is doing everything they  
2 can to promote healthy lifestyles through all of their  
3 tribal citizens and this would be the same for people  
4 who are not tribal as well.

5

6 I don't know the entirety of the extent  
7 of the wellness program that they have but they have a  
8 number of different diabetes prevention programs going  
9 on through the inclusion of a new recreational center  
10 and a number of things going on between the health care  
11 providers and the wellness department.

12

13 So that was kind of the summation of  
14 what she would have said today.

15

16 With that, I'm going to go on to what  
17 I'm up here for today. I'll keep it as brief as I  
18 possibly can, I know we're on a time crunch, or get to  
19 the point as much as I can.

20

21 For those of you who don't know my, my  
22 name is Keenan Sanderson, I wear a number of hats now  
23 days. I'm the Vice President of the Ketchikan Gateway  
24 Borough School District. I am the President of the  
25 Ketchikan Tlingit and Haida Community Council. I am  
26 the head coach for the Academic Ocean Science team  
27 here. And I am a brother, a son, a partner and a  
28 community advocate. For the purpose of this testimony  
29 today I kind of have to tow between whether I'm going  
30 to be wearing my hat as the Indigenous Food Sovereignty  
31 Specialist for the tribe and as well as my personal  
32 comments as well so if there's any clarification on  
33 what hat I'm wearing depending on what comment I'm  
34 making, happy to answer those questions.

35

36 So I think, and I think it's been  
37 pretty well described so far in previous public  
38 testimony but I really think it needs to be hammered  
39 home on what this votethat you guys are going to be  
40 taking up is. This vote is not whether the Council  
41 agrees that Ketchikan should be rural today, this vote  
42 that is before you today is whether we meet -- on Page  
43 120 and 121 in your packet, if our proposal, meets  
44 these four questions that was reviewed by the Office of  
45 Subsistence Management. There's been a lot of  
46 discussion that in my personal opinion isn't relevant  
47 on whether or not we've met these requirements, so I  
48 would ask -- this is a personal comment, not my at  
49 through the tribe, my personal opinion, that your vote  
50

1 should reflect whether you agree with this and not this  
2 application. That is my big ask for you guys today.

3

4 I have a couple other notes I would  
5 like to say, or touch on. What the Ketchikan Indian  
6 Community is doing is in relation to a big web of other  
7 things that are going on, but this application is an  
8 act of self-determination and tribal sovereignty. And  
9 I understand that you, as a Board, can't necessarily  
10 differentiate between indigenous and non-indigenous and  
11 tribal and non-tribal, but I think it is really  
12 important to clarify that what KIC is doing is tribal  
13 sovereignty.

14

15 One other thing that I'd like to bring  
16 up and I'm not an expert in high level law, myself.  
17 I'm thankful that KIC has an attorney that can help  
18 dumb things down for me, but one thing I want to bring  
19 to the attention -- it's not even relevant to this  
20 conversation but it's been brought up through questions  
21 prior. It is very clear in Section .804 of ANILCA that  
22 gives local resident priority over traditional resource  
23 -- excuse me -- resources in that area. I'm not sure  
24 if I'm explaining it so I'm going to give an example.  
25 So if Prince of Wales, which has been brought up a lot  
26 because we're near Prince of Wales, if Prince of Wales  
27 is experiencing a reduced number of deer that would  
28 potentially if we were to go on to a normal harvest  
29 throughout a year and everybody was included it would  
30 do huge damages to that deer population, however,  
31 through Section .804 of ANILCA if Federal managers  
32 think that sustained harvest pressure at that reduced  
33 number they can, and in my opinion, should exclude  
34 people who are not from that area to harvest. That's  
35 not even in your guys decision, that is in Federal  
36 statute. So I understand the concern that, you know,  
37 Prince of Wales tribes and community members, they  
38 don't want deer populations to decline because of a  
39 potential change in rural status, but because of  
40 Section .804 that should alleviate a lot of the concern  
41 related to that.

42

43 It's a huge thing. It's not relevant  
44 because the question you guys are on is whether you  
45 agree with this, but I wanted to make that clear for  
46 the record for future conversations.

47

48 Another thing that I heard about  
49 Ketchikan area, again, not even relevant, but I want to  
50

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1 make sure it's clear for the record, is that, yes we  
2 get cruise ships here. It's a fact of the matter.  
3 I've heard things that our population jumps by 5,000  
4 during the summer. Those are non-residents coming to  
5 work in our community, those non-residents are not  
6 Federally-qualified subsistence users because they are  
7 not residents. That, again, should alleviate that  
8 question.

9

10 A couple other things that was brought  
11 up, or maybe not brought up but something that I  
12 thought during other people's public testimony. One  
13 thing I should say, reiterate too, Sitka is a  
14 comparable size to us, as I believe our attorney had  
15 said, and he's lived there too by the way. Roughly the  
16 same school -- or not school, but just community  
17 structure, they have an airport, they have two and a  
18 half high schools there, they have most -- pretty much  
19 the same thing we have here in Ketchikan. I mean I'm  
20 not from Sitka, there's probably some people who know  
21 more about Sitka than I do but everything I know about  
22 Sitka it's roughly the same as Ketchikan. And also to  
23 that point, and I'm not sure if you've heard in the  
24 news -- and I should that's nothing to take away from  
25 Sitka, we agree with Sitka's rural status, they are  
26 just as rural as we are in my opinion.

27

28 And another thing that would come up,  
29 and this is not meant to potentially take away from any  
30 other community but it's been in the news recently that  
31 Klawock is going to be getting cruise ships in, I think  
32 as early as next year. Is a cruise ship a single  
33 determination of whether a community should be rural or  
34 not rural, I would, in my opinion just because Klawock  
35 is getting a source of income during a particular part  
36 of the year, I don't think that should make them non-  
37 rural.

38

39 Again, not relevant to the conversation  
40 but I just wanted to address those points because they  
41 were brought up.

42

43 One thing that I will close with though  
44 that is relevant to the conversation. We understand  
45 that OSM is going to be doing a lot of data analysis  
46 and community outreach to determine -- to provide data  
47 to this Board and the Federal Subsistence Board, the  
48 Ketchikan Indian Community is going to be doing the  
49 same. We are putting a lot of resources in the next  
50



1 two to three years or whenever the vote's going to be  
2 coming up, I don't know the exact date, to provide you  
3 the most data that we can, the most accurate data that  
4 we can so that you can make the best decision possible  
5 for whether you determine whether you agree with this  
6 application or not but that's three years down the  
7 road.

8

9 So there's definitely a lot more I  
10 could say but I think I will leave it at that. And if  
11 you have any more questions, in particular, with this  
12 application, there is a team of us that wrote this. I  
13 would say that I probably -- at least the initial leg  
14 work I probably wrote 95 percent of this, so if you  
15 have any questions about this I'm more than happy to  
16 answer any of those at this time or any time down the  
17 road.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
20 Keenan. Tony Gallegos, you're up next.

21

22 MR. GALLEGOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23 Council. My name's Tony Gallegos as was stated. I am  
24 the Cultural Resources Director for the Ketchikan  
25 Indian Community and my testimony is basically from  
26 that perspective. Again, happy to work with the team,  
27 Keenana and Steve and others trying to prepare the  
28 proposal that showed that we could meet the threshold  
29 analysis, and I am hoping that you guys will support  
30 and let us move forward for a thorough hearing on this  
31 particular matter. A decision will not be made until  
32 January 2025 according to the calendar so this is --  
33 we'll have lots of opportunity to further discuss these  
34 issues in public forums and with the Council and we  
35 will also, again, as has been stated, to gather some  
36 additional information.

37

38 With the additional information in mind  
39 that needs to be developed, let me point out one thing  
40 that's been mentioned, and I want to thank Glenn Chen,  
41 who's here with the BIA Office of Subsistence Branch  
42 who has helped us secure about \$93,000 which we will  
43 soon have to move forward with starting this damage,  
44 mining and data collection and developing a household  
45 survey where we can collect information, again, to  
46 provide to you and provide to us as we analyze the  
47 level of use of our natural resources that's done  
48 within our community.

49

50

1 I have been appalled that that  
2 information does not exist, very much so. I would  
3 direct your attention to a section of your handout  
4 where we were talking about shellfish status for  
5 customary and traditional use, and there were many  
6 pages, several pages or tables within that showing the  
7 different types of shellfish and utilization throughout  
8 the communities, look back at that, there is no  
9 information as far as use in Ketchikan because we are a  
10 non-subsistence area, and so data has not been  
11 collected by the Federal agencies and the same thing on  
12 the State side, the State considers us a non-  
13 subsistence area. That data has not been regularly  
14 collected. And so when your Staff is going to review  
15 that data that exists, they're going to have a harder  
16 time finding what has been going on in Ketchikan  
17 because that data has not been collected over the  
18 years. So, again, there will be some holes in the  
19 data, just so you're aware of that, because it has not  
20 been collected, and I think that's been a disservice to  
21 the communities that have been utilizing the resources  
22 but we cannot have good documentation to that effect  
23 because the data has not been collected by the agencies  
24 in the past.

25  
26 One of the strategic priorities that  
27 the tribe has had for a few years and it's helped me  
28 build my program area is trying to improve their access  
29 to traditional foods. And there are a lot of positive  
30 ways to go ahead and encourage a more traditional way  
31 of life and promote that and that's happening  
32 throughout many of our departments. One of the things  
33 that we recognize, however, and in my department we are  
34 very much involved in how can we remove any barriers to  
35 our access to these resources, and one of the largest  
36 barriers that is kind of a domino that affects many  
37 other barriers is the fact that we have been considered  
38 non-Federally-recognized users and that's because,  
39 unfortunately, of the status of being considered an  
40 urban area. So to address that within the regulatory  
41 framework and systems now we are going through this  
42 process. This is not the first time that Ketchikan  
43 has made this request for reconsideration, we have  
44 never self-identified as urban, it has been a label  
45 that has been placed upon our community inappropriately  
46 since its inception. So we want a through review of  
47 this and this unfortunate label that has classified as  
48 non-Federally-recognized subsistence users and limited  
49 our tribal members' ability and other community  
50

1 members' ability that want to practice a lifestyle that  
2 they've come here and lived and practiced for, and in  
3 the case of tribal members since millennia.

4

5                   So this is a barrier that needs to be  
6 addressed. Maybe there is one more than way to address  
7 this. If this barrier cannot be removed there may have  
8 to be other solutions sought but the tribe wants to  
9 exercise their sovereignty and have fuller access to  
10 the traditional resources in their territory, and you  
11 will help us tremendously if we could be recognized as  
12 Federally-recognized subsistence users by this change  
13 in status. So, again, the status change, the final  
14 decision will be made after a lot more information is  
15 shared and gathered, a lot of discussion but we ask for  
16 a thorough hearing and I think it's worthy to proceed  
17 through a thorough review of the status. It will help  
18 to protect our rights.

19

20                   Right now Federal agencies are  
21 represented on this Board, and Federal agencies have a  
22 trust responsibility to the tribes that they are not  
23 fulfilling for our tribe because of the policies that  
24 have been put in place right now that prevent us from  
25 having access so we are moving forward, again, as a  
26 whole community. You might be interested to know it  
27 hasn't been mentioned yet, but the footprint of  
28 Ketchikan Indian Community is the exact same footprint  
29 as the Borough, minus about one square mile of the  
30 Organized Village of Saxman, take that out, those are  
31 the same footprints, we are applying for this rural  
32 status change for the area that represents both our  
33 tribal and non-tribal community. And there are many  
34 citizens here in the community that are non-tribal,  
35 that are here because of the lifestyle that this  
36 community allows. So you'll hear from them as time  
37 goes on.

38

39                   And I just hope that you would  
40 positively move forward with a thorough consideration  
41 at this point.

42

43                   I'm going to go ahead and take just a  
44 moment, just to mention one thing, because the eulachon  
45 fishing and monitoring was brought up earlier in this  
46 meeting and that monitoring is something that I'm very  
47 happy to say that the tribe has helped to instigate and  
48 expand and work with, especially U.S. Forest Service  
49 but also U.S. Geological Service and BIA to do some

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1 more monitoring on the Unuk River. We've taken that  
2 initiative and pushed for that additional work to be  
3 done. We've just secured a almost a \$600,000 grant to  
4 do the environmental DNA work and water quality work,  
5 it was just earlier this month that we were doing our  
6 water quality sampling for that project. So the tribe  
7 has been very, very involved in that. We wrote the  
8 proposals to allow for a eulachon fishery to open  
9 again, at a small level, it has been closed for over 15  
10 years in the Unuk River and we are losing that  
11 resource, and we're losing the connection of our  
12 citizens to that resource. What does eulachon taste  
13 like, we're losing that, and that connection, and so  
14 we're trying to open that up. But even though the  
15 fishery has been opened, we are not Federally-  
16 recognized subsistence users so that fishery is open  
17 and the citizens of the Organized Village of Saxman can  
18 go there, citizens from Prince of Wales can go there  
19 and harvest eulachon with those regulations, but  
20 Ketchikan Indian Community citizens, or residents  
21 within Ketchikan Gateway Borough cannot. That is a  
22 problem. And that's just one example of how we're  
23 restricted from our access to our traditional foods by  
24 this designation.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Tony.  
29 Let's see it looks like Wayne Weiling -- Wayne Weiling  
30 -- no Wayne, okay, we'll move on. How about Jerry  
31 Holderman.

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's not here.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No Jerry  
36 Holderman, okay. Judy Weis -- Weis Guthrie -- excuse  
37 me.

38

39 MS. GUTHERIE: (In Tlingit) Good  
40 morning, Chair and Board members. My name is Judy  
41 Lees-Guthrie. I'm a member of the Ketchikan Indian  
42 Community and I'm also on the tribal council for KIC.

43

44 I'm here to speak in support of KIC's  
45 proposal to make Ketchikan a subsistence hunting and  
46 fishing community. Rural status will allow Ketchikan  
47 citizens to start harvesting in Federally-managed  
48 waters, a traditional food source for Ketchikan's  
49 Native peoples. Residents in remote and rural  
50

1 communities such as Ketchikan need to be able to rely  
2 upon locally sourced foods to supplement the food  
3 available for purchased locally. Economically  
4 Ketchikan does have large amounts of money flowing  
5 through it each year, however, not all of that money  
6 stays in Ketchikan or ends up in the pockets of local  
7 people so they can purchase the high priced food they  
8 need to feed themselves and their families. This is  
9 why local access is -- to locally harvested foods is so  
10 important, not only to our way of life, but to our  
11 local economy.

12

13 I was lucky enough to be able to be  
14 raised in Metlakatla where I lived for the first 13  
15 years of my life, and then again as an adult, now I  
16 live in Ketchikan, I've been here for about 14 years.  
17 And a little bit about me, I am married, I have four  
18 kids and seven grandkids and something that I have been  
19 used to having my whole life is access to salmon, to  
20 shellfish, to deer, and so are my kids, and I want them  
21 to continue to have that access. It's very important  
22 to us. It might take a lot of work to be able to go  
23 out and harvest these things and it might not cost any  
24 money but it's a lot of work, it sometimes a lot of  
25 days away from our families but at the same time it  
26 means that we don't have to go to Safeway and buy meat  
27 or fish. That way of life is very important to us.  
28 And I think that this application, when you think about  
29 who it's going to affect, it's going to affect all of  
30 the residents of Ketchikan, not just the Native  
31 community.

32

33 And so I want my remarks to be really  
34 short but I also want to reiterate that this proposal  
35 has been supported by the city of Ketchikan, the  
36 Borough of Ketchikan and the Organized Village of  
37 Saxman, that's how important this application is and we  
38 realize it's going to be three years, and maybe a long  
39 three years, but it's something that we will continue  
40 to pursue.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Judy.  
45 So those are all the blue cards that I have from people  
46 that say they wanted to testify on the non-  
47 determination process, unless there's anybody in the  
48 room I missed.

49

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0399

1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Apparently not,  
but I still have another card from yesterday.

MS. PERRY: Okay, Mr. Chair, we do have  
two emailed comments. One that Mr. Vickers mentioned  
earlier and one that was just sent to us and so we'd  
like to go ahead and take care of those as well.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, yeah,  
thank you.

MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
For the record this is Brent Vickers and I will be  
reading the public comments that were emailed to us  
before my presentation.

The first public comment is from Jeremy  
Bynum, he's a Ketchikan Borough Assembly member,  
electrical utility manager, State House candidate and  
Ketchikan resident. And he writes:

Speaking on behalf of myself, I  
strongly support rescinding Ketchikan's non-rural  
determination. This is an important issue that impacts  
our community's ability to be food secure and self-  
sustaining. We, as a community, will continue ensure  
wise use of our resources to benefit our families and  
communities as a whole.

With a unanimous consent, Ketchikan  
Gateway Borough's Resolution 2968 supports this change  
and the Ketchikan City Council voted unanimously to  
provide a letter of support. We are all well-served by  
the efforts of the Ketchikan Indian Community, KIC, in  
their efforts to bring positive change for our  
community by advocating on our behalf a change in the  
non-rural determination.

Thank you for your consideration in  
this important manner. Jerry Bynum.

The other email comment was from Marcy  
Haines of the Ketchikan Indian Tribal Council. She  
actually gave a verbal testimony earlier and referring  
to it, would you like me to read her emailed comment as

0400

1 well.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

4

5

MR. VICKERS: Thank you. She writes:

6

7

8 Good afternoon, my name is Marcy Haines  
9 and I sit on Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Council. I  
10 I'm here today to talk to you as a fellow Alaskan. I  
11 wholeheartedly believe when Alaskan people live a rural  
12 and subsistence way they lead a more active and healthy  
13 lifestyle. When a community can harvest local food  
14 sources in a traditional way they strengthen  
15 relationships with a community and transmit cultural  
16 values and love of place. Our neighbors in Sitka are  
17 similar in size and the community is able to enjoy  
18 rural status on the Federal and State lands, we are  
19 asking for the same treatment. Alaska Native people  
20 expect our government leaders to uphold promises of the  
21 Alaska Native Settlement Act of 1971 and Alaska  
22 National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.  
23 Making Ketchikan rural status will create trust with  
24 our government leaders and ensure strong and healthy  
25 relationship of community. This will affect me and my  
26 family and friends greatly. I will be able to more  
27 safely harvest food by not spending a ton of money to  
28 travel to harvest. We will also be able to eat more  
29 traditional and local food sources instead of buying  
30 overpriced processed foods from our two poorly stocked  
31 grocery stores in Ketchikan.

31

32

I humbly ask you to support our way of  
33 life in Ketchikan by passing rural status.

34

35

Thank you for your time, Marcy Haines.

36

37

38

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And those  
39 were the only two you've got, right.

39

40

MR. VICKERS: (Nods affirmatively)

41

42

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

43

44

MR. VICKERS: Yes, for the record.

45

Thank you.

46

47

48

49

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
Like I say, I don't have any other blue cards on this  
topic but we do have one other and that would be from

50

0401

1 Larry Bemis who I called earlier and I see he's in the  
2 room now, so Larry do you have something for us.

3

4 MR. BEMIS: I think that was.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry we moved on  
7 -- no, yeah, I was reminded that, you know, we went  
8 through the opportunities for public comment this  
9 morning and you weren't in the room and then we moved  
10 on in the agenda and now we're actually on an action  
11 item and this testimony wasn't actually addressing this  
12 action item so we really need to stay on this topic,  
13 I'm sorry, we can't just switch gears like that.

14

15 Yeah, so that we've had all the input  
16 necessary for the Council to make a decision so it's  
17 time for the Council to deliberate and to do that we'll  
18 need a motion.

19

20 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
21 move to support the OSM conclusion that Proposal NDP25-  
22 01 meets the threshold analysis.

23

24 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And now is  
27 the opportunity for the Council to make comments and  
28 deliberate and then we have a vote. I see Patty  
29 Phillips and Harvey did you have your hand up -- no --  
30 okay, Patty Phillips.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
33 Hernandez. I will be voting in support of the non-  
34 rural determination proposal, NDP25-01 Ketchikan  
35 threshold requirement assessment and support  
36 recommending proceeding with a full analysis.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Harvey  
41 Kitka, go ahead.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
44 will also support this proposal. I really think that  
45 this is just a small baby step and it's going to take a  
46 long time for it to come about. I realize even though  
47 this was part of the Alaska Native Land Claims  
48 Settlement Act, that when they threw in rural status,  
49 it kind of threw a real wrench in the works. The

50



0402

1 reason it was was supposed to be for Natives and we  
2 wouldn't be here on this if it was still that way. But  
3 we have to deal with this now and I would like to see  
4 it go its full cycle.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.

9 Cal Casipit.

10

11 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
12 will be voting in support of this as well. I think  
13 it's really important that we develop the information  
14 through the Staff analysis and see the new information  
15 that comes from KIC. I take to heart the issue about  
16 household surveys not being conducted very often in  
17 Ketchikan, I'm trying to think the last time that I  
18 remember one being done and I'm having troubles, I  
19 think maybe the mid'80s is probably the most recent  
20 household surveys but I'm not sure on that. But,  
21 anyway, I do support it, I do think developing this  
22 information is going to be really important and looking  
23 forward to seeing the completed analysis.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.

26 Any other Council members want to make a comment.

27 Okay, I see Mike Douville and then Frank Wright.

28

29 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
30 will support this proposal. We've struggled with this  
31 issue since 2007 several times in Saxman, there's been  
32 a long history and we've always encouraged Ketchikan to  
33 have rural status. I believe Title VIII protects all  
34 users so nobody should fear that. And hopefully that  
35 will all come out in an analysis. So would be happy to  
36 see it move forward.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Frank.

39 Frank Wright.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I,  
42 too, will be in support of this proposal. You know I  
43 listened to some of the people talk and I can feel the  
44 pain in them not being able to harvest foods that they  
45 get. And I always said, well, what comes off the  
46 beach, what comes out of the Forest, is my identity,  
47 that's who I am. So I feel that this proposal has got  
48 to move forward so that a Tlingit can be a Tlingit.

49

50

0403

1 Gunalcheesh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.

4 Louie Wagner, go ahead.

5

6 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 I'll support it, listening to the senior Council here.

8 But I am still very concerned with the large number of

9 the non-Natives here. If it was just our people it

10 would be simple for me. I am out there every day and I

11 see all the boats out there, everyday, from all summer

12 and then in the fall hunting and if you don't get out

13 there early with the rest of them to hunt you're just

14 too late and that's one of the problems they're having

15 on Prince of Wales. But I'll support the -- thank you,

16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Louie.

19 Any other Council members want to make a comment. John

20 Smith.

21

22 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I'm in support and

23 also of the data. And just information that Naomi

24 shared about how our foods are very healing and I hear

25 that Ketchikan, just from testimony, that they need

26 this healing. So I really believe this is really

27 important. It's like you -- like Frank was saying,

28 it's a connection to the land, the air, the sea, the

29 respect too so I'm in support of, and, really the data

30 and what Cal was saying, it would be cool -- and even

31 what Ian was sharing about -- of the data -- it would

32 be cool to see us going door to door and actually

33 hearing local testimony from them and hearing their

34 words even a digital, on the computer, kind of, where

35 people can get on there and actually share their

36 feelings and that we all see that.

37

38 Gunalcheesh. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any

41 other Council members.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Just kind

46 of like to give my opinion on this.....

47

48 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair.

49

50

0404

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:   .....as well --  
2 oh, sorry, yeah, we got people on the phone, Jim Slater  
3 and then I'll ask if Albert has anything to say.....

4  
5                   MR. SLATER:   Yeah, hi.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:   .....as well.  Go  
8 ahead, Jim.

9  
10                  MR. SLATER:   Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 Yeah, hi, when I first read this in preparation for the  
12 meeting, I was somewhat conflicted on it, sharing  
13 concerns of Louie that as we make more and more people  
14 rural and, you know, if the fact that everyone becomes  
15 rural then no one's rural essentially.  But after  
16 hearing the heartfelt testimony it really resonated  
17 with me about the same feelings I have and especially  
18 taking into consideration the historical perspective.  
19 I feel like I would support this with the hope that  
20 conflicts will be able to be taken care of or handled  
21 by Section VIII, as Mike Douville was mentioning, and  
22 that it wouldn't be a long drawn out process for that  
23 type of resolution to take place.

24  
25                  Thank you, that's what I have.

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:   Thank you, Jim.  
28 Albert, did you have anything to add.  Albert Howard.

29  
30                  (No comments)

31  
32                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:   Okay, don't hear  
33 anything from Albert.  So just for my own comments on  
34 this, I'm also going to be in support of the threshold  
35 analysis and I'm one of the two Council members on the  
36 Council from Prince of Wales and, you know, we would  
37 definitely be impacted with this as well as our member  
38 from Metlakatla, see some immediate impacts, changes  
39 would have to be made, I think that's obvious.  And I'm  
40 confident that that can happen and I was really glad to  
41 hear that some of the testifiers from Ketchikan  
42 recognize that as well, that gives us a good  
43 understanding I think of where we would be.  I feel  
44 good about that.  And all things considered, if this  
45 proposal were to go through the process and be approved  
46 and Ketchikan were to be determined a rural community  
47 and I know that this Council also has a lot of input  
48 into that decision and should that be the case I would  
49 consider it to be a justified decision, I think justice  
50

0405

1 will have been done. So, yeah, we'll just see where it  
2 goes from here but we'll move forward.

3

4 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
5 Albert.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, there's  
8 Albert. Albert Howard, go ahead.

9

10 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 I appreciate Mr. Douville's comments after mine, and  
12 after I voiced my concerns and then I also appreciate  
13 hearing from the testimony from a lot of people in  
14 Ketchikan so I'll be supporting this after that. So,  
15 thank you, Mr. Chair. I apologize, I had to do the  
16 star, six, and unmute my phone.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
21 Harvey, you had something else to add.

22

23 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
24 like to call for the question on this.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
27 Harvey. I think we've heard from almost every Council  
28 member in support so maybe I could just go ahead and do  
29 a voice vote on this. All in favor of the motion to  
30 approve OSM's conclusion that the threshold analysis  
31 has been met, I think that's the proper terminology,  
32 signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
37 opposed. Albert, did I hear you, I heard Jim.

38

39 MR. HOWARD: Yes, I said, yes, Mr.  
40 Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
43 Anybody opposed, say no.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, motion  
48 passes, we're good. Okay, I think we can take a recess  
49 for lunch. Let's come back -- it's after noon, so

50

0406

1 let's come back at 1:30 and we still have a number of  
2 action items. About five action items to go through  
3 and then correspondence so keep that in mind.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Council  
10 members, if you're in the room or within earshot let's  
11 come back to the table and get going here.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So while we were  
16 out -- okay, I shouldn't say while we were out to  
17 lunch, but while we were out to lunch we got a couple  
18 of things distributed to us. We have another draft  
19 copy of our proposed letter on co-management,  
20 indigenous management. We'll be finalizing that so if  
21 you get an opportunity, look that over again. And then  
22 we also got a copy of a letter that was sent --  
23 referred to earlier from the -- I think it was four  
24 other RACs up north that they sent to the North Pacific  
25 Fishery Management Council so if we want to generate a  
26 letter to the Council as well we could use probably  
27 some of the same points that they made, however, you  
28 know, they do have some different issues up there so we  
29 should probably generate our own letter geared toward  
30 our region but there are some overlapping concerns so  
31 we have that to look through as well when it comes time  
32 for letter writing.

33

34 Okay.

35

36 But starting off, next item up on the  
37 agenda is Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
38 Priority Information Needs, and Brent Vickers will give  
39 us that presentation again.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I was just going  
44 to ask, is there a PowerPoint with this Brent.

45

46 MR. VICKERS: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, so we have  
49 to move again.

50

0407

1 (Pause)

2

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If you need time to set that up we could maybe move on to the next item or if you need DeAnna here to.....

MR. VICKERS: Yeah, sure.

(Pause)

MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair, this is Brent Vickers. We can go ahead and -- I can go ahead and do the next item which is the call for Partners.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure, that's a related topic.

MR. VICKERS: Fisheries Monitoring.....

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, let's go to there while we get the PowerPoint set up.

MR. VICKERS: Okay. It won't take very long, but it'll suck up a little time.

Okay. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. For the record I am Brent Vickers, Anthropology Division Supervisor at OSM. I'm giving a brief update on the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. Now, members of the Council please turn to Page 128 of your books.

Last week the Office of Subsistence Management posted a notice of funding opportunity for Partners of Fisheries Monitoring Program in grants.gov. This is a competitive grant for Alaska Native and rural non-profit organizations. The intent of the program is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural involvement in the Federal Subsistence Management by providing salary funds to organizations so they can hire professional biologists, social scientists or educator. The grant also provides funds for science and culture camps and paid student internships. More information on the funding opportunity will be posted to our website. You can also contact Karen Hyer via email or phone. Her contact information is on Page 128 just above that picture.

Thank you, and that concludes my

0408

1 presentation. Let me know if you have any questions,  
2 although Karen Hyer is definitely the best person to  
3 reach out to for those.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
6 Brent. So you're just informing us of this opportunity  
7 to pass on to organizations we might be familiar with,  
8 right?

9

10 MR. VICKERS: Yes, that's the intent of  
11 the presentation, thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, thank  
14 you. Are there any questions. Harvey, go ahead.

15

16 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is  
17 there any time limits on this?

18

19 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Kitka, I'm going to  
20 have to check on that. This is something that's  
21 largely out of my hands and is usually presented by  
22 Karen herself who is somewhere else in another region  
23 right now. So I can find that out and get back to you.  
24 There is going to be a time limit and I don't know  
25 exactly when it is so I'll make sure to find out for  
26 you.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else with  
31 a question.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you  
36 for that information Brent. Do we have the PowerPoint  
37 ready.

38

39 MR. VICKERS: (Thumbs up)

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I see a thumb's  
42 up. Okay, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program  
43 Priority Needs Information.

44

45 MR. VICKERS: You can sit for a moment  
46 because I'll give a brief presentation while we figure  
47 this out as well. Again, for the record this is Brent  
48 Vickers. I am the Anthropology Division Supervisor at  
49 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm here today, or  
50

0409

1 now with Rob Cross who is the U.S. Forest Service  
2 Tongass Subsistence Coordinator. Materials relevant to  
3 this presentation start on Page 127 of your Council  
4 books. This is an action item. At the end of this  
5 presentation with Rob, we will ask the Council to  
6 approve the list of priority information needs for the  
7 Southeast Alaska region.

8

9                   The Office of Subsistence Management  
10 administers the Monitoring Program which funds research  
11 and monitoring projects that help manage subsistence  
12 fisheries in Federal public waters of Alaska. The  
13 Monitoring Program is also directed at supporting  
14 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by  
15 Alaska Native and rural organizations and promoting  
16 collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native and  
17 local organizations. The Office of Subsistence  
18 Management will announce the 2024 notice of funding  
19 opportunity for the Monitoring Program later this  
20 winter.

21

22                   The first step in the funding process  
23 is for the Regional Advisory Councils to identify  
24 priority information needs for each region. Priority  
25 information needs identify issues of local concern and  
26 knowledge gaps related to subsistence fisheries. In  
27 addition, they guide the Monitoring Program by  
28 determining the type of projects that are submitted for  
29 funding and providing a framework for evaluating and  
30 selecting project proposals.

31

32                   Again, this is an action item. We are  
33 requesting that the Council approve a list of priority  
34 information needs for the Southeast region.

35

36                   That concludes this part of the  
37 presentation, and I will standing by with Rob Cross as  
38 he reads the priority information needs. Rob, and any  
39 others present in the room or phone can answer  
40 questions that help you to discuss priority information  
41 needs in your region.

42

43                   Thank you.

44

45                   MR. CROSS: Thank you. For the record,  
46 again, my name is Rob Cross and I'm the Tongass  
47 Subsistence Coordinator for the Forest Service. And,  
48 yeah, sorry about the technical difficulties a second  
49 ago. So, again, these priority information needs are  
50



0410

1 used to identify local concerns and gaps in fisheries  
2 knowledge based on the information that you have about  
3 your communities and others. And I'll provide really  
4 quick a rough overview of the process and how these  
5 priority information needs fit into the overall FRMP  
6 process.

7

8                   So after information needs are  
9 identified, the Office of Subsistence Management will  
10 call for project proposals that addressed the needs  
11 identified by this Council. So those are sort of the  
12 sideboards for what proposals can be put in. And I'd  
13 like to make folks aware that our Staff, the Forest  
14 Service or OSM can assist anybody in developing a  
15 proposal. It's a pretty onerous process. So the Staff  
16 has gone through it several times and we're happy to  
17 assist with that and get down to the project proposal  
18 that you'd like.

19

20                   So the next steps in the process. Once  
21 proposals are received by the Office of Subsistence  
22 Management then they're reviewed by a panel of  
23 fisheries and anthropology experts called the Technical  
24 Review Committee and that's made up of Staff from the  
25 five Federal agencies, as well as ADF&G and it can also  
26 include experts from other agencies as well. So as a  
27 reminder, I'm sure a lot of you folks know the funding  
28 for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Projects  
29 is competitive so each proposal is evaluated for its  
30 technical merit, ability of the researchers to complete  
31 the proposed work, partnership development which is a  
32 really important one, capacity building and local  
33 support and then a cost benefit analysis. And then the  
34 next step, after projects are evaluated and ranked, the  
35 Office of Subsistence Management develops a monitoring  
36 plan that contains the analysis of all of these  
37 projects and then they are ranked based on the criteria  
38 listed before.

39

40                   So I will read the priority information  
41 needs, these are from the last cycle developed by this  
42 Regional Advisory Council. It's just a good starting  
43 point. And then I'll go to -- after I read the  
44 priority information needs I'll go to a map that shows  
45 some of the most important systems around the area and  
46 then I'll go back to the priority information needs for  
47 the action item so that the Council can go through and  
48 make changes as they see fit.

49

50

0411

1                   So the priority needs previously  
2 identified by the Council are up on the screen and they  
3 are:

4  
5                   Reliable estimates of sockeye salmon  
6 escapement and in-season harvest and estimates of  
7 stream discharge in the following systems: Kanalku,  
8 Klawock, Hetta, Falls, Sarkar, Kook, Neva, Karta,  
9 Hatchery, Eek, Kah Sheets, Klag, Gut, Kutlaku, Salmon  
10 Bay, Sitkoh, Hoktaheen, Alex Creek, Lake Eva and Lake  
11 Leo.

12  
13                   Escapement indexes for eulachon on the  
14 Unuk River and Yakutat Forelands.

15  
16                   Population estimate for eulachon for  
17 northern Southeast Alaska.

18  
19                   Traditional ecological knowledge of how  
20 each community distributes harvest been sockeye salmon  
21 systems available to them.

22  
23                   Reliable estimates of salmon  
24 populations and harvest in the sport and subsistence  
25 fisheries at Kah Sheets and Alex Creek.

26  
27                   Ethnographic study of the Yakutat  
28 subsistence salmon fishery.

29  
30                   Reliable estimates of subsistence  
31 sockeye salmon harvest in the Klawock River drainage.

32  
33                   Develop escapement goals for sockeye  
34 salmon systems with long-term escapement data sets.

35  
36                   And, finally, update community  
37 household fish harvest surveys.

38  
39                   So, again, those are the priority  
40 information needs that were identified by this Council  
41 in the last cycle. So up here on this admittedly very  
42 tiny map, I apologize about that, are -- it's an effort  
43 to try to capture important fisheries across the  
44 Forest. And I understand that these are not all of the  
45 important systems or all of the systems that are  
46 important to every community and that's what this  
47 process is for. So if, as a Council member, you see  
48 the absence of a system that's important to your  
49 community or another community, this is the time to add  
50

0412

1 it to this list, whether it be a sockeye system or  
2 eulachon or any of the priority information needs that  
3 were listed above can be modified.

4

5 So just for some quick history, in the  
6 last Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program cycle, we  
7 monitored Gut Bay, Falls Lake, Klag, Neva, Sitkoh, Eek  
8 and Hetta Lakes for sockeye. And then in the current  
9 cycle that's happening right now, the 2022 to 2025  
10 cycle we've funded seven monitoring projects and those  
11 are listed on the right side of the screen. And those  
12 are the northern Southeast eulachon population dynamics  
13 monitoring, updating Icy Strait community household  
14 subsistence harvest surveys, Neva Lake sockeye salmon  
15 stock assessment, Klag Lake sockeye salmon stock  
16 assessment, Sitkoh Lake sockeye salmon stock  
17 assessment, estimating in-season harvest of Klawock  
18 River salmon subsistence fishery and then finally the  
19 Hetta Lake sockeye salmon stock assessment.

20

21 And then I guess one final thing I  
22 should note is the Unuk River eulachon is up there and  
23 that has been funded by the FRMP process in the past,  
24 right now in cooperation with KIC and those folks, the  
25 Forest Service and KIC are doing monitoring but it's  
26 not currently part of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
27 Program funding.

28

29 So I will put up the priority  
30 information needs again for your review and for your  
31 discussion. Thank you, very much.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Council have  
34 questions on this action item. Ian, go ahead.

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I  
37 don't have a suggestion on location, I'm looking at the  
38 second to last item, the development of escapement  
39 goals for sockeye salmon systems...and thinking about  
40 the co-management discussions that were earlier on and  
41 the letter that is back before us again, but it would  
42 be nice to develop some kind of language in there that  
43 creates -- develop escapement goals, you know, a co-  
44 decision, or a decisionmaking space to be made amongst  
45 the partners too, you know, something that helps create  
46 that co-management atmosphere as these FRMP projects  
47 are rolled out. I'm not sure exactly how that looks  
48 right now but these projects have kind of been listed  
49 as -- thought about as a co-management sort of  
50

0413

1 opportunity, a budding opportunity right now and we  
2 could strengthen the language in there to create that  
3 decisionmaking space for local stakeholders.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
8 else with a question or a comment on this. John, go  
9 ahead.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Yeah, can you repeat the  
12 rivers and the community that you were sharing that  
13 wasn't on the data, like I -- I'm thinking of like  
14 Klukwan and Haines for eulachon.

15

16 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
17 Smith. Sorry, can you restate the question.

18

19 MR. SMITH: I'm just -- there was a few  
20 like Klukwan and Haines and Yaku -- or Skagway, were  
21 those on that list for testing and observing the  
22 eulachon? So I don't know, can you share the  
23 communities -- you just shared there was a few  
24 community that weren't on your data that you didn't  
25 have on your information and I could be confused too,  
26 sorry, I don't hear very good.

27

28 MR. CROSS: Thank you. Through the  
29 Chair. Member Smith. Yeah, that's part of this  
30 exercise is to identify systems that aren't on this  
31 list. I mean I could probably spend all day listing  
32 systems that aren't on here but, you know, as far as  
33 the eulachon goes there is a current project going on  
34 the northern Southeast eulachon project and I'm sorry I  
35 don't have the list of systems that they're looking at,  
36 it's quite extensive. All the way from Haines, Skagway  
37 down to the northern Juneau area as well and they're  
38 using environmental DNA, along with some other sampling  
39 techniques to try to estimate escapement for the  
40 eulachon and identify different systems that they're  
41 in. And I can get you the list of systems that they're  
42 looking at. This was their first year and, yeah, I  
43 apologize I don't have the list of all of them.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else with  
46 a question or a comment.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0414

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Apparently not.  
2 So just out -- oh, wait a minute, Harvey fist. Go  
3 ahead, Harvey.

4  
5                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
6 for what I'm thinking, will this interfere with -- or  
7 will this change the money and the things that are  
8 going to the tribes, will they have to resubmit or is  
9 this all new?

10

11                   MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
12 Kitka. That's a great question. I don't believe that  
13 any of this funding will interfere with the tribes and,  
14 honestly, maybe I didn't emphasize enough, when a  
15 proposal is put in, if it doesn't have a tribal  
16 cooperator or tribal support or a local cooperator then  
17 it has very little chance of making it through the  
18 vetting process. So each one of -- I'll go back to  
19 that slide -- each one of the projects that's listed  
20 over to the right has at least one tribal cooperator.  
21 For example the northern Southeast eulachon project it  
22 has the -- and I apologize if I pronounce this  
23 incorrectly, the Taskshoonk Watershed Council, the  
24 Chilkoot Indian Association, Skagway Traditional  
25 Council and then the Oregon State University are all  
26 partners on that project, and that's just one example.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else with  
29 a question.

30

31                   (No comments)

32

33                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody on the  
34 phones with a question.

35

36                   (No comments)

37

38                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No. Okay, so  
39 maybe you could juts briefly outline again what our  
40 action encompasses on this, what are you looking for.

41

42                   MR. CROSS: Yes. Mr. Chair. We are  
43 looking for any additions or subtractions from this  
44 list of priority information needs.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you also  
47 looking for an approval of this list, would you say?

48

49                   MR. CROSS: (Nods affirmatively)

50

0415

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay.  
2 Additions, subtractions and then approve it.

3  
4                   MR. CROSS: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So maybe I  
7 don't know if we need more discussion before we have a  
8 motion, I don't know if anybody has suggestions on this  
9 but at some point we have to have a motion. So John  
10 Smith, go ahead.

11  
12                   MR. SMITH: Just a question, because  
13 of, you know, Haines, Klukwan, Skagway not being on  
14 there, is that -- can that be something that we suggest  
15 to put on the table to, you know, we're talking about  
16 co-management and working together.

17  
18                   (In Tlingit)

19  
20                   MR. VICKERS: Council Member Smith.  
21 Yes. Having whatever you want looked at, specific  
22 systems, specific surveys, specific species is very  
23 important because the TRC, the Technical Review  
24 Committee, when they evaluate proposals, they make sure  
25 it addresses a priority information need. And they --  
26 so if someone puts in a proposal to look at something  
27 in Haines and the Technical Review Committee says,  
28 either Haines isn't listed here at all, it's not a  
29 priority information -- they're not addressing a  
30 priority information need, or if Haines is listed, then  
31 they say, okay, this is addressing a priority  
32 information need, something that the Regional Council  
33 has decided is important for the community of Haines.  
34 So if there's something specific you want on there, get  
35 it -- discuss putting it on there.

36  
37                   Thank you.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Harvey, go  
40 ahead.

41  
42                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
43 can't see very well but is like habitat, the spawning  
44 grounds of the streams, is that -- I realize that's an  
45 important thing because a lot of the streams, the  
46 habitat has changed with the logging that took place,  
47 and some of the spawning grounds aren't what they used  
48 to be. Could that be put on the list?

49  
50

0416

1 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
2 Kitka. I'll have to look into that specifically. It's  
3 my belief that the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
4 Program can't do any habitat restoration or that's not  
5 the goal of it, it's simply -- or its primary focus is  
6 to gather information, whether it be on subsistence  
7 users or systems or species that are important to  
8 subsistence fisheries in order to guide management  
9 actions and to provide information for this Council to  
10 make management decisions.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
13 else.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, maybe it's  
18 time to make a motion. I think before we start making  
19 any suggested additions or changes that should be in  
20 the form of a motion so let's think about that.

21  
22 Cathy Needham.

23  
24 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
25 move to support the priority information -- the 2024  
26 priority information needs as identified by this RAC.

27  
28 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
31 Cathy. Now I think it would be appropriate if you  
32 wanted to add anything to that list or make any changes  
33 we can address that.

34  
35 MS. NEEDHAM: I would support Ian's  
36 suggestion that if we could strengthen any one of these  
37 things, specifically he said the development of  
38 escapement goals for sockeye salmon systems in terms of  
39 the co-management. That is something that is typically  
40 and specifically done mainly by the Alaska Department  
41 of Fish and Game in a lot of respects and so it would  
42 be really great if -- I know that when we put this  
43 particular item on this priority information needs in  
44 the past, we talked about, well, that looks -- there'll  
45 be a proposal coming from the State most likely, but  
46 they would need a tribal partner in order for the  
47 project to kind of -- that's one of the thresholds, as  
48 well evaluation criteria and stuff, and so I think Ian  
49 is right, if we can actually put co-management into it  
50

0417

1 maybe that would encourage a tribe to engage with the  
2 State and having an escapement goal met. And I can  
3 think specifically like Hetta Lake has a long-term  
4 escapement data set and the tribe there could  
5 potentially put in a proposal to develop an escapement  
6 goal for sort of co-management of that population at  
7 this point in time. That would be a good example.

8  
9 So if we could strengthen that. I  
10 don't want to say that it's limited to that one system,  
11 but if we could actually put that co-management piece  
12 into it I think it would be a good addition.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
15 Cathy. So I think the way this should work, and so we  
16 have a suggested addition, I'll ask the Council if they  
17 have any comments on that, if for some reason somebody  
18 thinks, you know, maybe it shouldn't be on there, we  
19 could discuss that, but if it's been suggested and  
20 there's no opposition, it's just part of the motion and  
21 would be approved in a final vote. So that's what I  
22 see.

23  
24 Patty Phillips, did you have anything  
25 to add.

26  
27 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
28 Hernandez. I just want to support what Ian brought up  
29 and what Cathy brought up. And sometimes it'll take a  
30 pilot project to do what we're suggesting, or a pilot  
31 projects and within systems that we've already  
32 supported in the past is a good area to choose from.

33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
37 Patty. Any other Council members have any suggested  
38 additions or changes.

39  
40 John Smith, go ahead.

41  
42 MR. SMITH: Can we -- or the committee  
43 have a conversation about Haines, Klukwan and Skagway  
44 and what your thoughts are of that, just to see if that  
45 might be an addition but I'm not sure.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I mean  
48 that's the procedure, we're having a discussion now,  
49 it's kind of.....

50



0418

1 MR. SMITH: And the reason I say.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....deliberation  
4 on the.....

5

6 MR. SMITH: .....is that's where a lot  
7 of my family harvests and I've noticed a lot of changes  
8 in returns and I know a lot of things happen in the  
9 river and it changes quite often so I don't know what  
10 the up to date data is in that area but I know from my  
11 own personal that it's slowed down a little bit.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
16 John. Cathy, do you have something in relation to what  
17 John was saying or something new.

18

19 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, I would ask Member  
20 Smith the question, putting a community in but what is  
21 the data collect, what data would they collect, are you  
22 speaking specifically regarding eulachon or are you  
23 thinking of some other fishery for data collection?

24

25 MR. SMITH: Data collection, yeah, for  
26 sure. I mean basically what they're doing in all the  
27 other rivers, you know, to identify how the return is,  
28 the numbers are, how many females, how many males,  
29 what, you know, the timeline, you know, those kind of  
30 things. So, you know, I'm just trying to connect to  
31 doing the same thing what they're doing with the other  
32 eulachon studies. But I'm just throwing it on the  
33 Board, I don't know, I'm the new person here so I'm  
34 learning a lot here today so I'm kind of leaning on you  
35 guys to think of that. But I know that I didn't see  
36 them on the table and that's why I'm -- and that's a  
37 really important place and there's a lot of importance  
38 there and history, culture.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
41 understand that. I think Cathy has another followup on  
42 that. Go ahead, Cathy.

43

44 MS. NEEDHAM: I understand that and I'm  
45 not against putting like naming them specifically, but  
46 it's a different type of project if you're doing an  
47 eulachon assessment or a sockeye assessment or a king  
48 salmon assessment and so we need to make it successful  
49 for the people putting in a proposal, we can't just say  
50

0419

1 any data collection on fisheries that come out of  
2 Haines, and so I'm just looking to -- if we're going to  
3 add a bullet, I think it needs to be a little more  
4 specific than that and I'll point out bullet point No.  
5 3., is a population assessment for eulachon for  
6 northern Southeast Alaska which does include those  
7 communities, it just doesn't list them separately. So  
8 if that covers it, that's great. And then if there's  
9 another resource that we need information on that could  
10 be priority information need that we need for them to  
11 collect in order to help manage the resource then we  
12 should identify it along with listing the communities.

13

14 I just don't know of any at this time.  
15 Like I don't know if they need sockeye counts, or if  
16 they need coho counts or anything at this point so.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cal.

19

20 MR. CASIPIT: One of the other concerns  
21 that I would have and before we would go -- you know,  
22 add specific projects or communities is that I know we  
23 need to make sure that those places are within our  
24 jurisdiction. And I know that there's a bunch of  
25 country up there near Haines that's not even within the  
26 exterior boundary of the Tongass and, therefore,  
27 outside our jurisdiction and we won't get approval to  
28 spend money there. Anyway as far as adding  
29 communities, that last one up there about community  
30 household harvest surveys, I think maybe that's what  
31 you're getting at, I'm not sure. I mean I -- you know,  
32 I'm not sure when the last set of community household  
33 surveys were done in Haines, Klukwan and Skagway but  
34 Staff could probably figure that out for us.

35

36 You know, I know if -- I know Ketchikan  
37 is in a serious situation because their last community  
38 harvest surveys were the last century.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. CASIPIT: So anyway, that's kind of  
43 where I'm coming from on that.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
46 Cal. Before we get to Louie Wagner, Mr. Risdahl here  
47 has maybe some help on this.

48

49 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0420

1 Members of the Council. Just to help those members  
2 understand a little bit more about the process, this  
3 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program process.

4  
5                   Essentially you're looking to fund  
6 projects based on stock, status, trends, and  
7 traditional ecological knowledge. So we don't  
8 necessarily pick out specific communities. What you do  
9 is you're throwing a broad group of ideas out for where  
10 you believe research needs to take place on stock,  
11 status, trends or traditional ecological knowledge and  
12 that includes such things as household surveys. So as  
13 you've seen from the bullets that were selected back in  
14 2020 there's a lot of different areas, locations,  
15 streams and species that have been selected. Now, you  
16 don't -- in this process you don't pick the partners.  
17 When people submit proposals, researchers submit  
18 proposals to do research then a group of individuals,  
19 experts from all five Federal agencies plus other  
20 Federal agencies go through and score and rank all of  
21 the projects based on some criteria like do they fit  
22 with the PINS first of all, and do they provide  
23 capacity building opportunities, do they provide  
24 partnerships of any kind. Do the researchers have the  
25 experience to prove that they can get the job done,  
26 things like that. Is the cost to benefit for doing  
27 these projects, is it a reasonable cost. So those are  
28 the kinds of things that are looked at -- those are the  
29 criteria that are used for selecting projects.

30  
31                   So what you guys do is you just  
32 determine where you really need the most, the research  
33 the worst, you know, what communities have not been  
34 looked at for a long time, and where do you really need  
35 that information from.

36  
37                   For example, today, Ketchikan is a  
38 perfect example. Apparently there, I think it was  
39 according to Cal, there hasn't been any kind of  
40 household surveys done since the 1980s, maybe that's  
41 something that would be important. Or if there's other  
42 areas that you know of, like John you're suggesting,  
43 hey, maybe there's areas that, you know, or communities  
44 in my area that need some of this sort of thing done.

45  
46                   So that's what you're looking at,  
47 you're looking at stock, status, trends or traditional  
48 ecological knowledge studies and then the researchers,  
49 whoever they may be submit proposals and they get  
50

0421

1 reviewed and ranked and scored as to which ones are the  
2 most likely to be, you know, successful.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Greg.  
7 Yeah, Louie Wagner, you had a question or comment.

8

9

MR. WAGNER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
10 Chair. So if I was to apply for the Unuk River there,  
11 since I have close to 60 years on that river I know it  
12 quite well, what would I have to do to apply? That's  
13 what you're looking at here, am I right?

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Wagner, through the  
16 Chair. Yeah, so if you or your community has the  
17 ability to submit a proposal, you know, you got a  
18 natural resources group and they would look at it --  
19 and they -- you submit your application and your  
20 application would try to hit on all the points  
21 necessary to make for a project that would score high  
22 in this process. Like I said there's a number of  
23 things. It looks like Rob has a -- go ahead, Rob.

24

25

26

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So -- and directly to your question,  
Member Wright [sic], I'm happy to work with you on  
developing maybe a more robust application. We've been  
working with KIC and I feel like we have a very good  
application and a good chance of getting funded in this  
next cycle but the more cooperators we have the more  
support that we have from local communities and tribes  
and your 60 years of knowledge on that system will only  
help to bolster that proposal and hopefully will get  
through. But to the exercise, I would just make sure  
that, again, if you have a proposal in mind or a  
project that you're thinking about, I would make sure  
at this point that these priority information needs

0422

1 capture that project and -- because we're not allowed --  
2 researchers or proponents of a proposal can't submit a  
3 proposal or it won't go very far if it doesn't address  
4 one of these priority information needs.

5

6 MR. WAGNER: It would be on the  
7 eulachons, especially the survey and the size and when  
8 they come in, when they leave, because nobody's been  
9 doing that. We've been getting up there too late and  
10 what not, and it would be nice to get this done so we  
11 can bring home fish again, you know, I mean the people  
12 are passing away without their last meal of eulachon  
13 and it's been too hard on communities and haven't been  
14 able to make the eulachon grease. We make it, my whole  
15 family knows how to make it, I have my big cooker right  
16 in the back of the yard there so it's very handy. So  
17 to me it's really important if we could do that and  
18 bring some good numbers back so we can get back to  
19 harvesting again for at least some of the people.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. CROSS: Yes, Mr. Wright -- or  
24 Member Wright [sic] -- oh, sorry.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mr. Wagner.

27

28 MR. CROSS: Sorry, Mr. Wagner, I  
29 apologize. Yes, so that is captured in one of the  
30 priority -- or in multiple of the priority information  
31 needs and that is part of the proposal that's been  
32 submitted. But, again, for this cycle that's coming up  
33 I would highly encourage you to work with myself and  
34 also KIC and help to develop a proposal that has a  
35 better chance of getting funded.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Patty, do  
38 you.....

39

40 MR. WAGNER: Okay. What about going  
41 through my own community to do this. We have our own,  
42 you know, town secretary, and we have a grant writer,  
43 we have our natural resource committee, everything's  
44 all set up. We have our own fisheries there, we have a  
45 real good Staff on the fisheries. You know, we have  
46 our own cabin up there, we have the boats to get around  
47 that river, we know how to find the eulachons where a  
48 lot of people really don't know how to find them. We  
49 had fishermen come up behind us and they would leave  
50

0423

1 because they couldn't find the fish. There's times  
2 when I wouldn't fish because they would have just  
3 followed me and worked where I was working so we'd just  
4 wait and they would leave and then we would fish. But  
5 they are hard to spot up there. Most of them are, you  
6 know, they're spread out all over, so it would be good  
7 to get a good survey on the amount.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. CROSS: Yes.

12

13 MR. WAGNER: So we'd just have to  
14 contact you, even like have the secretary contact you  
15 -- hopefully she's feeling better.

16

17 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
18 Wagner. Yes, that's correct. So it doesn't -- you can  
19 submit your own proposal. You can work with the Forest  
20 Service or with the Office of Subsistence Management or  
21 you can have your own Staff submit a proposal. And,  
22 again, to this exercise that's captured by multiple  
23 priority information needs so that would be an  
24 appropriate proposal to submit during this process.

25

26 MR. WAGNER: Okay. I'd be happy to  
27 work with you and it would get done a lot faster if it  
28 was going to go anywhere. Thank you.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty Phillips, go  
33 ahead.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Mr. Wagner,  
36 tribal support for a project really helps move a  
37 project of a selection list just so you're aware.

38

39 But on the escapement index for  
40 eulachon at Unuk and Yakutat Forelands, does that index  
41 escapement index include a population assessment or  
42 should we add that to make it more specific?

43

44 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
45 Phillips. I don't think that it would hurt to add  
46 that. It's my understanding that a population index  
47 would encapsulate escapement as well but I don't think  
48 that it hurts to add that on there.

49

50

0424

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other  
4 suggestions from the Council.

5

6 MR. VICKERS: Mr. Chair. I have some  
7 information if you would like it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Who was that?

10

11 MR. VICKERS: Over here, Brent Vickers,  
12 sorry.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, Brent, okay.

15

16 MR. VICKERS: Since it was brought --  
17 the question came out about updating community  
18 household harvest surveys and I quickly just tried to  
19 look through the State's ADF&G Division of Subsistence  
20 community harvest data, there has not been a  
21 comprehensive or any subsistence survey in this region  
22 within the past five years. There's been several  
23 communities, maybe about eight total in the region that  
24 have been done in the last six to 10 years, including  
25 Hydaburg, Whale Pass, Sitka, Angoon and Haines and  
26 Klukwan. The rest have not been -- the last time -- if  
27 they have been surveyed, the last time was over 10  
28 years ago. That's all, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, once  
31 again any other additions, questions from the Council  
32 before we take a vote on this.

33

34 Harvey, go ahead.

35

36 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
37 like a copy of the priority information needs. I can't  
38 seem to find it in any of my paperwork. I just was  
39 hoping that -- I asked about a timeline earlier, I'd  
40 like to take it back to our tribe and see what they  
41 have to say.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. Member  
44 Kitka. We actually do have that list printed in your  
45 meeting book, your main meeting book, it's on Page 127,  
46 and that's the whole list that we've been discussing.  
47 You should have that in your book, if you don't -- it's  
48 in the main book, not the supplemental, so just  
49 checking. Did you find that Mr. Kitka?

50

0425

1 MR. KITKA: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MS. PERRY: Okay, great. Thank you,  
4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else  
7 before we kind of review what we've done and take a  
8 vote.

9

10 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair, this is Jim.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mr. Slater, go  
13 ahead.

14

15 MR. SLATER: Yes. Maybe because I'm on  
16 the phone it's hard to follow some of the aspects of  
17 this. Could you -- or could someone tell me what the  
18 criteria are for selecting a good river system, I mean  
19 is it for a local area of subsistence use or is it for  
20 a barometer for the fishery in general? I'm just --  
21 what is a good candidate to be on this list, what are  
22 the components of making a good candidate?

23

24 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
25 Slater. Again, for the record my name is Robert Cross.  
26 I would say all the above that were mentioned listed  
27 for the call for proposals, it shows that in addition  
28 to the priority information needs, it needs to show  
29 Federal jurisdiction, and a direct subsistence  
30 fisheries management implications as well.

31

32 MR. SLATER: Okay. So for example, a  
33 local river system to like say Lisianski Inlet, where  
34 there was some subsistence needs, or not a really good  
35 understanding of what the -- what it is for a coho run  
36 -- what the coho run was as far as size so what the  
37 potential impacts were and the level of subsistence  
38 fishing and sportfishing were, that would be a valid  
39 candidate?

40

41 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
42 Slater. I'm looking at the priority information needs  
43 right now and that is a possible gap and then for the  
44 Regional Advisory Council to consider, in that, it's  
45 very heavily weighted towards sockeye salmon and I  
46 believe that you mentioned coho salmon.

47

48 MR. SLATER: Right, okay, I got it.  
49 Okay. All right, that answers the question for me,

50



0426

1 thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mr. Kitka, go

4 ahead.

5

6

MR. KITKA: Realizing that this is all  
7 mostly about sockeye and eulachon, but the Federal  
8 waters of Makhnati Island where the herring used to  
9 spawn and they're just barely starting to come back but  
10 it would be nice to maybe have a study on that too.

11

12

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any further  
13 discussion on that.

14

15

(No comments)

16

17

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Want to make sure  
18 that's a project that could be added to the list, it  
19 sounds like it is Federal waters, although mostly we  
20 talk about stream assessments and stuff, but those are  
21 Federal waters. Any other discussion.

22

23

(No comments)

24

25

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So let me  
26 know when you're ready to take a vote unless there's  
27 anything else to add.

28

29

(No comments)

30

31

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And as I said, we  
32 had suggested additions so we have an original motion  
33 to approve the list and we added to the list so that  
34 motion would cover any new additions as well.

35

36

So, Patty, go ahead.

37

38

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 Perhaps we should have a separate bullet about, you  
40 know, establish with local partnership decisionmaking  
41 rather just on this one that's for sockeye salmon  
42 systems. We want that kind of insert, or that sort of  
43 indigenous management within the whole FIS if possible.  
44 And the reason I'm saying that is if we include  
45 Makhnati Island herring then there's a possibility of,  
46 you know, developing the stock assessment and possible  
47 partnership and decisionmaking with the tribe rather  
48 than having it just on sockeye salmon streams. I don't  
49 know.

50

0427

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, any  
2 discussion on that.

3  
4                   (No comments)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If that's  
7 something the Council is interested in I guess we could  
8 work up some wording on that. I guess probably for a  
9 lot of this we might have to go back through  
10 transcripts or something and, you know, see exactly  
11 what people wanted, but, yeah.

12  
13                   Cathy, go ahead.

14  
15                   MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
16 guess my question would be does it preclude a project  
17 that doesn't have that from being funded?

18  
19                   MS. PHILLIPS: It's trying to  
20 encourage.

21  
22                   MS. NEEDHAM: No -- yeah, okay, thank  
23 you.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Is that  
26 Frank, go ahead, Frank.

27  
28                   MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29 Since we're talking different species, you know, there  
30 was a time when I was able to get a community permit  
31 for my seine boat to go over to Excursion Inlet and  
32 make a set for chum because the river in Excursion  
33 Inlet used to be a huge producer and now they don't  
34 even open it up over there so I don't even bother about  
35 going over there anymore because -- for the community --  
36 would it be possible to do some kind of survey on that  
37 river in Excursion Inlet to -- I know the Department of  
38 Fish and Game does it, but they never say anything.  
39 Last time -- there was a time when we used to fill our  
40 boat up every time but, you know, now it's not there  
41 anymore. And, you know, that -- the people in Hoonah  
42 used to really enjoy when I came in with 700 fish to  
43 distribute to the communities and right now they don't  
44 even open it up anymore. So with the rivers running  
45 and -- I don't know the reason why chum salmon quit  
46 going there or only thing I know is that the -- I think  
47 the Department -- I think the Department of Fish and  
48 Game had taken some chum eggs out of there and ever  
49 since then we haven't been to really harvest there.

50

0428

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.  
4 Other comments on addition of -- I don't know the name  
5 of the stream there but stock assessment on chum salmon  
6 stream in Excursion Inlet.

7

8 Yeah, John, go ahead.

9

10 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I was a fisherman too  
11 at -- when I was a young man, about 14 years old I was  
12 a skiff man on the Donna Ann, I used to love leaving  
13 there and I used to hang out in the front of the bow  
14 and put my hands there and you would just see the dog  
15 salmon for miles all the way until we got home almost,  
16 that's how much dog salmon was in the water and now, of  
17 course, like you say don't see that anymore.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
20 Sounds like that's been added to the list. Anybody  
21 else. Patty.

22

23 MS. PHILLIPS: So could we have the  
24 additions, could we have the list of the additions,  
25 please.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: At some point  
28 we're going to have to have that. I don't know who's  
29 been taking notes but like I say we haven't had any  
30 objections to any additions so if we don't have a good  
31 list being generated then it could be gotten off the  
32 transcripts as well, so we know the suggestions, it  
33 might be helpful. So go ahead, Patty.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: So I'm a little bit  
36 confused. So we had add population assessment and  
37 escapement index for eulachon at Unuk River and Yakutat  
38 Forelands, study at Makhnati Island herring stock,  
39 Lisianski River coho stock population assessment,  
40 developing escapement goals for sockeye salmon  
41 established with local partnership decisionmaking, and  
42 I don't know -- those are what was talked about but are  
43 we adding them all to the list, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That was my  
46 understanding unless there was some objection to adding  
47 those to the list, that they would be added to the list  
48 and they would be included in our vote to approve the  
49 list.

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0429

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Cathy.

MS. NEEDHAM: I would support adding them all to the list, this is an inclusive -- we can be as inclusive as possible, and it's all a matter of whether or not somebody then subsequently submits a proposal for it. So just because we're adding it to the list doesn't mean that somebody's going to submit a proposal but it at least allows them to so I think the more inclusive we can be the better.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Patty, you have something.

MS. PHILLIPS: And chum stock assessment at Excursion Inlet.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So just so everybody understands, let's call it a wish list at this point.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And then in order for that to happen some organization would have to come forward and say, yes, I think I could do that and they'd put in a proposal and how they'd go about it and then it all gets evaluated and, yeah, so just because you put it on the list doesn't mean it's going to happen, somebody has to want to do it and have the ability to do it, but if you don't put it on the list it won't happen. So there you go.

So go ahead, John.

MR. SMITH: So the Chilkoot and Chilkat areas for population assessment and escapement, we're not going to do that?

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Put it on the list and.....

MR. SMITH: Like you just said, you said I'll just put it on there and then somebody has to step up, but just a thought.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, yeah, you

0430

1 could put it on the list, like I say, Cal Casipit did  
2 point out that those may not be Federal waters.

3

4 MR. CASIPIT: Right.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So, you  
7 know, depending on -- I'm not sure about that myself,  
8 but yeah it'd be a criteria so get it evaluated and put  
9 it on the list, sure.

10

11 Rob, you had something to include  
12 there.

13

14 MR. CROSS: Yes, Mr. Chair. So I have  
15 been taking notes and I can put up the suggested edits  
16 on there. Just as a note, so I have added something  
17 along the lines of development of strategies to  
18 incorporate indigenous co-management or incorporate the  
19 use of indigenous co-management and you can edit the  
20 language as you see fit. I just wanted to reiterate  
21 that that's actually a criteria for submitting a  
22 proposal, is capacity building with local support,  
23 partnership development, things like that, so some of  
24 that -- maybe not co-management, partnership with  
25 tribal organizations and different communities is both  
26 a ranking criteria and a necessity for having one of  
27 these funded. And then, finally, these priority  
28 information needs don't need to name every system that  
29 could be looked at. In the past it's my understanding  
30 that the Regional Advisory Council put the priority  
31 sockeye systems on that list as sort of a way to focus  
32 any proposals that were to come in, it's not an  
33 exhaustive list, so I would suggest, you know, as far  
34 as chum salmon or coho salmon or different stocks to  
35 look at, maybe coming up with a bullet point that  
36 incorporates that such as escapement indexes or  
37 escapement estimates and harvest of subsistence salmon  
38 stocks versus naming each stock, but that's totally up  
39 to the Regional Advisory Council.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do you have a  
42 comment on that Patty. Go ahead.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 That's a very good suggestion, thank you, Rob.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. What's the  
48 Council's wishes on this, are we satisfied that we have  
49 a good list. Like I say, it sounds like Patty was

50

0431

1 keeping pretty good track there and Rob's got a list  
2 and so -- is it going to go up on the screen, oh, okay  
3 that'd be helpful if we do that.

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Council, we  
8 got the list up there. Rob will read through it. My  
9 suggestion would be, you know, kind of make sure that  
10 it kind of encapsulates the ideas that you had in mind  
11 and I'm pretty confident that, you know, when this all  
12 goes on to the next level, if there's any questions  
13 about what the intents were Staff could probably go  
14 back to the transcripts and listen to what you had to  
15 say and flesh it out, right, so let's just get the list  
16 up there and make sure it's all inclusive, we didn't  
17 miss anything.

18

19 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
20 hopefully I captured all the suggestions.

21

22 So the first one that I have is -- or  
23 that was suggested was reliable estimates of salmon  
24 escapement and in-season harvest of subsistence salmon  
25 systems. And this was in response to the desire to  
26 have monitoring for both chum salmon and coho salmon  
27 that were not previously captured by the priority  
28 information needs.

29

30 Do you want me to just keep going?

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: (Nods  
33 affirmatively)

34

35 MR. CROSS: Okay. The second one that  
36 I have per the discussion with Member Phillips was  
37 adding or estimates of escapement to the priority  
38 information need that says escapement indexes for  
39 eulachon on the Unuk River and Yakutat Forelands, so  
40 now it would read escapement indexes or estimates of  
41 escapement for eulachon at the Unuk River and Yakutat  
42 Forelands.

43

44 And I apologize, I did my best to try  
45 to capture these ones but the next one is incorporate  
46 the use of indigenous co-management to develop  
47 escapement goals for sockeye salmon systems with long-  
48 term escapement data sets. Followed by development of  
49 strategies to incorporate indigenous co-management.

50

0432

1 And that language needs to be work-shopped a little  
2 bit.

3

4 And then finally assessment of Makhnati  
5 Island herring stock.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think --  
8 did we miss a couple, did we miss Lisianski and  
9 Excursion Inlet -- oh, are they up there.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Does that  
14 look good to everybody now.

15

16 MS. PHILLIPS: Where's the herring.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Makhnati Island.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just let me know  
23 when you're ready to take a vote.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: Call for the question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
28 Question's been called for on this list of priority  
29 information needs. So all in favor of approving the  
30 list as we've discussed say aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
35 Anybody opposed, say no.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we have  
40 approval of the list of priority information needs. It  
41 is important stuff, too, hopefully a lot of them will  
42 get funded, you just never know.

43

44 Okay, let me just see if we skipped  
45 anything on the agenda here, priority information  
46 needs, Partners. We have an action item, Wrangell-St.  
47 Elias SRC appointment, and.....

48

49 MS. NEEDHAM: Barbara Cellarius.

50

0433

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:   .....yeah, for  
2 Barb Cellarius, yeah, do we have Barb Cellarius  
3 available to tell us about the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC  
4 appointment.

5  
6                   MS. NEEDHAM: She's on the phone.

7  
8                   MS. CELLARIUS: Hello.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hello. We  
11 are.....

12  
13                  MS. CELLARIUS: Can you hear me?

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, can hear you  
16 fine.

17  
18                  MS. CELLARIUS: Okay.

19  
20                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Barbara.

21  
22                  MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. The fact that  
23 the Operator muting everybody is confusing to those of  
24 us who have mute buttons on our phones. The -- let's  
25 see the handout for this agenda item is, I believe, on  
26 Page 129 of your meeting book. And I should introduce  
27 myself, I was distracted. So this is Barbara Cellarius  
28 and I am the Cultural Anthropologist and Subsistence  
29 Coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and  
30 Preserve. In addition to that handout that starts on  
31 page 129, I'll draw your attention to the map on Page  
32 131 which shows the location of Parklands in Unit 5.  
33 And as the Chair noted this is an action item.

34  
35                  The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park  
36 Subsistence Resource Commission, or SRC for short, is a  
37 citizen advisory committee that provides a venue for  
38 local subsistence users to have input to the (paper  
39 rustling) management of subsistence resources in  
40 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. It also makes  
41 recommendations to Regional Advisory Councils and the  
42 Federal Subsistence Board about proposals to change  
43 Federal subsistence regulations for hunting, fishing  
44 and trapping.

45  
46                  Under the provisions of ANILCA, three  
47 of nine SRC members are appointed by RACs, including  
48 one by the Southeast RAC. These members provide an  
49 important link between the SRC and the Federal  
50



1 Subsistence Management Program. The Southeast RAC has  
2 the opportunity to take action on its appointment at  
3 today's meeting. (Paper rustling) Some of you may  
4 recall that I called into the spring meeting but I  
5 didn't have a candidate, now I do. RAC appointees to  
6 the SRC must be a member of either the RAC or a local  
7 Fish and Game Advisory Committee within the region.  
8 Yakutat is the only Southeast Alaska community eligible  
9 to harvest resources in Wrangell-St. Elias, which means  
10 only residents of Yakutat are eligible for this  
11 appointment. Because no Yakutat residents currently  
12 serve on the Southeast RAC any appointee would need to  
13 be a member of the Yakutat Advisory Committee.

14  
15 In its previous actions the RAC made  
16 two appointments to the SRC, one for the primary  
17 representative and an optional appointment of an  
18 alternate. The primary seat is currently vacant  
19 because Sam Demmert no longer serves on the AC. The  
20 alternate is Larry Bemis, (paper rustling) his  
21 appointment has expired but NPS Advisory Committee  
22 members continue to serve until reappointed, replaced  
23 or they resigned. So I suggest that the RAC start with  
24 the primary appointment.

25  
26 Through the AC coordinator, I reached  
27 out to AC members about interest in serving on the SRC  
28 but no one responded to the inquiry. In the spring the  
29 Superintendent and I met with several members of the  
30 Yakutat Tlingit Tribal Council although it wasn't a  
31 formal endorsement by the Council the person whose name  
32 was mentioned is the one who I'll be presenting to you  
33 today.

34  
35 Darrel James has expressed interest in  
36 serving on the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC. He is eligible  
37 for this appointment as a member of the AC. Darrel was  
38 born in Juneau and has lived in Yakutat most of his  
39 life except for college and military service. In terms  
40 of subsistence activities he hunts moose, deer and seal  
41 (paper rustling), fishes and gathers shellfish. He  
42 also commercial fished for about 20 years, hand  
43 trolling and setnetting. He is retired from the U.S.  
44 Forest Service. In addition to the AC he currently  
45 serves on the city and borough of Yakutat Assembly and  
46 he's a past member of Yakutat -- or a past Mayor of  
47 Yakutat.

48  
49 So that is Darrel James who has  
50

0435

1 expressed interest in serving on the SRC as your -- as  
2 an appointee by the Southeast RAC. So I'll stop there  
3 and see if there's any questions about that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
6 Barbara. So what you need from this Council is  
7 approval to -- or for us to appoint that person and I'm  
8 sorry, there was a little paper rustling going on  
9 there, I didn't catch his full name.

10

11 MS. CELLARIUS: So the name is Darrel  
12 James.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: I can -- let me take  
17 the phone off speaker. So I'll try speaking directly  
18 into the phone and see if that's better. So Darrel  
19 James is the name of the individual who's the candidate  
20 that I've been able to identify.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, got it,  
23 Darrel James. So I guess what's needed for the Council  
24 to make a motion to have him appointed, correct?

25

26 MS. CELLARIUS: That is correct.

27

28 MS. NEEDHAM: And an alternate?

29

30 MS. CELLARIUS: I mean you could see if  
31 there are any -- he was the only candidate that I was  
32 able to identify.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So I guess  
35 I'm assuming that we don't have a name for an  
36 alternate, is that correct?

37

38 MS. CELLARIUS: So Larry has been --  
39 Larry Bemis has been serving as the alternate. I don't  
40 know if he's in the room with you and could speak to  
41 whether he's interested in continuing to serve in that  
42 capacity. No other -- no other of the SRC seats  
43 actually have alternates but the possibility of having  
44 an alternate does exist in regulation.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.  
47 Why don't we just check with our.....

48

49 MS. CELLARIUS: So it's not.....

50

0436

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....Coordinator  
2 to.....

3  
4 MS. CELLARIUS: .....required to  
5 appoint an alternate. It's a little bit unclear to me  
6 from the last conversation I had with Larry whether he  
7 would like to be appointed as the alternate which is  
8 why I'm sort of hesitating and hope that he might be  
9 able to represent himself.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: He's not here in  
12 the room. Did he have a discussion with our  
13 Coordinator on that earlier when he was here.

14  
15 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
16 is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator. Larry was in the  
17 room earlier today. He did not express an interest but  
18 we didn't bring it up at all. It sounds like,  
19 according to Ms. Cellarius that Larry, by way of his  
20 membership through the local AC there is eligible, we  
21 just don't know if he's willing to serve; is that  
22 correct Barbara?

23  
24 MS. CELLARIUS: That's correct. I mean  
25 sometimes he's indicated an interest but the last time  
26 I spoke with him he seemed on the fence because he has  
27 a lot of other obligations.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, let's  
30 not go there with an alternate it sounds like it's not  
31 necessary. So let's just look for a motion from the  
32 Council here.

33  
34 Cathy, go ahead.

35  
36 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
37 move to appoint Darrel James to the Yakutat --  
38 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC -- sorry, the Wrangell-St. Elias  
39 SRC. Thank you.

40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. It's been  
44 moved and seconded to appoint Darrel James to the SRC.  
45 Any discussion.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

50

0437

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, question's  
2 been called for. All in favor of appointing Darrel  
3 James say aye.

4  
5                   IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
8 opposed, say no.

9  
10                  (No opposing votes)

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.  
13 Glad to hear we had a candidate step forward. So.....

14  
15                  MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16  
17                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Let me just  
18 check the agenda here and we're moving along quickly.

19  
20                  (Pause)

21  
22                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have  
23 another action item, this is also -- it's Item G,  
24 harvest of wildlife for sport purposes in National  
25 Preserves, and this is presented by Eva Patton from the  
26 National Park Service. Eva, are you on the line.

27  
28                  REPORTER: Don, so people need to star,  
29 six to unmute.

30  
31                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And remember to  
32 hit star, six because you're muted from this end.

33  
34                  REPORTER: Just like we have been for  
35 years, to mute and unmute, star, six, like at every  
36 single meeting, you should be using star, six.

37  
38                  MS. PATTON: Hello, Mr. Chair and  
39 members of the Council. Can you hear me now?

40  
41                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We hear you now.  
42 Go ahead, Eva.

43  
44                  MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, Mr.  
45 Chair. Again, my name is Eva Patton. I'm the  
46 Subsistence Program Manager with the National Park  
47 Service, Regional Office here in Anchorage.

48  
49                  And this was an action item, we're  
50

0438

1 really seeking your feedback today -- the proposed rule  
2 did not get published in the Federal Register yet so I  
3 have a brief overview of what we're anticipating will  
4 come in the Federal Register and are interested in any  
5 questions or feedback that you might have at this time,  
6 but not a formal action item because the actual rule  
7 and comment period isn't open yet at this time.

8  
9 I want to thank you for giving us your  
10 time in your busy agenda to speak with you today about  
11 this important issue that will affect how we manage  
12 sporthunting in the National Preserve Lands here in  
13 Alaska. Last winter the National Park Service was  
14 directed by the Department of Interior to initiate a  
15 rulemaking to reconsider factual, legal and policy  
16 conclusions that underlie the 2020 hunting rule, and  
17 that 2020 hunting rule allows for bear baiting, the  
18 baiting of bears by sporthunters in National Preserves  
19 as well as other previously banned activities such as  
20 the harvest of wolves and coyotes during the denning  
21 season, the taking of black bear cubs and sows at den  
22 sites and the harvest of swimming caribou, among other  
23 practices.

24  
25 And, specifically, for the Southeast  
26 RAC region, the only area where the proposed rule,  
27 which again would restrict those practices under  
28 sporthunting, or State regulations on Preserve lands,  
29 it wouldn't have any effect to current subsistence  
30 regulations, means or methods, just for State  
31 regulations on Preserve lands -- and the only area that  
32 it would overlap or interact with the Southeast RAC  
33 region is in Unit 5, you'll see on Page 38 of your  
34 wildlife proposal -- or your wildlife regulatory books,  
35 there's a small section of Wrangell-St. Elias Preserve  
36 lands in Yakutat Bay and a small section of Glacier Bay  
37 Preserve lands in Unit 5A. And bear baiting is in  
38 regulations, under subsistence regulations for black  
39 bear between April 13th and June 15th and it is allowed  
40 under the State -- or sporthunting regulation on  
41 Preserve lands in that unit as well, for black bear.  
42 And so the proposed rule would only restrict those  
43 practices by sporthunters, and no affects to the  
44 current subsistence regulations.

45  
46 And the reason the Park Service is  
47 revisiting this is that they're examining the risk  
48 associated with bear baiting on Preserve lands where  
49 all of the public is invited to come and enjoy the land  
50

0439

1 and also that a number of the practices that were  
2 authorized for sporthunting in 2020 may be appropriate  
3 for Federal subsistence users but the Park Service is  
4 reconsidering whether those opportunities should also  
5 be authorized for sporthunters. And, again, none of  
6 what we're talking about today or in the proposed rule  
7 would have any affect to current subsistence -- Federal  
8 subsistence regulations, or restrict subsistence in any  
9 way. And the input that the Park Service had received  
10 just through informal communications with affected  
11 tribes and Native Corporations is that one of the  
12 primary concerns with the 2020 rule is that it  
13 increases competition with non-local hunters and it  
14 allowed for sporthunters to compete with Federal  
15 subsistence users for the same resources on Preserve  
16 lands.

17  
18 And we're interested to get your  
19 feedback if you have any questions or comments on this  
20 issue and are interested to know how the process will  
21 ensure that your perspective on those that live in the  
22 area as a priority consumptive user under ANILCA are  
23 considered.

24  
25 And the proposed rule, again, we had  
26 anticipated that it would come out prior to the RAC  
27 meetings so you'd have an opportunity for formal  
28 comment as a Council, the proposed rule is anticipated  
29 to perhaps come out sometime this winter and we will  
30 keep your Council Coordinator apprised when that does  
31 post, there will be a minimum 60 day comment period and  
32 also, importantly, once the Federal Register posts, the  
33 National Park Service will initiate formal tribal  
34 consultation with affected communities and, again,  
35 primarily that would be the community of Yakutat in  
36 relationship to where the Preserve lands are in the  
37 Southeast RAC region.

38  
39 So happy to take any questions and  
40 would be very interested to hear your thoughts and  
41 ideas. Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the  
42 Council.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
45 Questions from the Council.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I guess no -- oh,  
50

0440

1 Ian Johnson, go ahead, Ian.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Ms.  
4 Patton, is there a place we can get a written -- a  
5 location we can find a written description. I  
6 appreciate the information I'm just having a little bit  
7 of a hard time tracking without documents in front of  
8 me.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that  
11 question and our apologies. We don't have any written  
12 information at this time. Again, we were anticipating  
13 that the actual Federal Register notice would publish  
14 so that we could provide that for you. Since it hasn't  
15 published yet we don't have the exact language that  
16 would be within the proposed rule. We will, again,  
17 notify your Council Coordination -- Coordinator when it  
18 does publish and I'm sure that the information and the  
19 opportunity to comment gets out to everyone there.  
20 Apologies, we don't have anything available in writing  
21 without the Register itself.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
24 So as far as action for the Council at this time,  
25 you're just looking for comments from us.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you. Any  
28 feedback would be helpful in guiding how the Park  
29 Service proceeds with this or any concerns, you know,  
30 or questions that you have that would help guide both  
31 how the Park Service proceeds or outreach with affected  
32 communities would be very helpful.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anything  
37 else from the Council, questions or comments.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not seeing  
42 any at this time so we'll just stay apprised of the  
43 situation as it moves forward I guess. So thank you,  
44 Barbara [sic]. I think we should take a.....

45

46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
47 members of the Council.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, thank you. I

50

0441

1 think we should probably take a short break and when we  
2 come back we need to develop our annual reports list,  
3 it's another action item. And then after we do that I  
4 think we could move into the State Board of Game  
5 wildlife proposals and get a report from our working  
6 group on that and then we'll see where we are.

7

8 Okay, thank you, 15 minutes, let's say  
9 3:15.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Council and  
16 Staff if you're in the room let's find our seats and we  
17 could reconvene here.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, everybody.  
22 We're going to move on to.....

23

24 MS. PERRY: The annual report.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm sorry I think  
27 I did miss one, I thought we were going to go on to the  
28 wildlife proposals but I do see we also have the annual  
29 report issues as an action item. So the Council  
30 Coordinator handles that and we need to go there first  
31 and then the wildlife proposals so annual report.

32

33 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
34 Council. For the record my name is DeAnna Perry,  
35 Council Coordinator for the Southeast Alaska  
36 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. It is time for  
37 the Council to identify issues for its annual report.  
38 The guidelines for annual reports can be found on Pages  
39 132 and 133 of your meeting books and this is an action  
40 item.

41

42 ANILCA established the annual report as  
43 a way to inform the Federal Subsistence Board of  
44 regional subsistence uses and needs and to provide  
45 recommendations for regional fish and wildlife  
46 management strategies, policies, standards, guidelines  
47 and proposed regulations. In the interest of time  
48 since I know you have this handy cheat sheet in your  
49 book I won't go through all of what Section  
50



0442

1 .805(A) (3)d) of ANILCA spells out, you've got that  
2 right in front of you so -- but I would like to  
3 emphasize that your annual report ensures the Board has  
4 the most up to date awareness of issues, concerns and  
5 current events that impact your subsistence way of life  
6 and this information and recommendations help the Board  
7 make informed decisions on regulatory and policy  
8 actions.

9

10 For our new Council members, just to  
11 let them know how this process works. After the  
12 Council identifies issues at this meeting, I'll draft  
13 up an annual report in letter form based on the  
14 information provided in your discussion. Then the  
15 Council will be able to review that draft report at our  
16 winter meeting next year in February. At that time you  
17 can also provide edits and even additional information  
18 if you think of an additional topic, you can also add  
19 it at that time. If you cannot think of topics to  
20 include in the report now, again, just remember that  
21 you will have another chance to do that.

22

23 So, Mr. Chair, if you'd like to lead  
24 the discussion for the Council members to share items  
25 for fiscal year 2022 annual report I'm ready to make a  
26 note of those items.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
31 DeAnna. So as I mentioned this morning and hopefully  
32 Council members, through the course of the meeting may  
33 have written down some issues that came up in the  
34 course of our meeting that you think maybe need to  
35 address in the annual report or maybe you just had  
36 something else on your mind so now is the time to put  
37 those forward and we'll get a list going. So anybody  
38 with a suggestion for the annual report.

39

40 Ian Johnson, go ahead.

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I  
43 have a few written down, do I just like rip them out  
44 like altogether, I don't know how this works, like one  
45 at a time and discussion, or just like put them all  
46 out.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. If you  
49 could list the item and then maybe tell me a little bit  
50

0443

1 more about that item because we will have to explain  
2 that context in our annual report.

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

5

6 MS. PERRY: So, yeah, one by one would  
7 be great.

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thanks. And I'm  
10 only putting these out here as potential topics not of  
11 course -- yeah, and I was thinking about Mr. Smith's  
12 comments about just the lack of response for the  
13 transboundary letter. It seems like we could address  
14 that directly again, that no response was received  
15 which, of course is discouraging but then focus on the  
16 new letter that was suggested by the Board.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, sure, that's  
19 a good one, Ian. I think Cathy just maybe wants to add  
20 something to that so go ahead, Cathy.

21

22 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
23 agree with Ian and I think that one point that we can  
24 put in there that we add on to it is the fact that we  
25 are still getting new and emergent information about  
26 transboundary impacts and have been even asked at this  
27 meeting to potentially write a letter that gets  
28 submitted to the Department of State and while I was  
29 listening to Heather say that, in my mind I was  
30 thinking, well, we've already tried that tactic, in our  
31 letter, our first letter that was written years ago  
32 hasn't gotten there and so like just making sure that  
33 that point is put in there, that this is not only a  
34 continuing issue but it's becoming more complex as time  
35 goes on as it's coupled with other compounding issues.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
38 John Smith.

39

40 MR. SMITH: Yeah, and just making note  
41 that these changes take time, from what I'm hearing, so  
42 the sooner they respond to us the sooner we can make  
43 changes and, you know, to me these are important issues  
44 and very time sensitive. Just thoughts, thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, those  
47 thoughts can be added into the letter, yeah, that's  
48 what we're looking for. Okay, any other comments on  
49 the transboundary mining letter.

50

0444

1 (No comments)

2

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not seeing any, Ian, you got another suggestion.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, during the testimony today from Amy, hearing about, you know, and it was reflected from the Council that we've had multiple attempts at trying to curb the sportfish issues, the limit issues. And she did suggest legislative actions that also could be other mechanisms, so I guess my -- I'm trying to think of like some sort of wording in there that'll allow us -- that'll, you know, help us identify other means to achieve this end, this highly important issue to the Council but it seems like right now we're likely to continue to beat our head against this wall without success so to investigate other mechanisms to achieve this end.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I'm sure DeAnna is probably going to tell us that we can't do anything that might influence legislation, it's a violation of the Hatch Act, right, DeAnna.

MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. But I did want to just clarify that that was regarding addressing the unguided sportfishing issue. We could certainly advise the Board that this is a continuing issue but that is outside our jurisdiction. We can comment, as we have done, but, yeah, that's probably about as far as we can go but we can put it in the annual report so that it maintains its position in front of the Board.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, good clarification. Any other comments on that. Patty, go ahead.

MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, so we also talked about recordkeeping that the RACs put forth proposals to the Board of Fish for recordkeeping by unguided sport harvest. And then we've also supported bag limits for sport harvest and unguided -- well, that would be unguided sport -- and we've gone through four cycles with these same requests and basically nothing, you know, our concerns aren't heard.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So just as a clarification, are we just informing the Board of our

0445

1 frustration on this and not actually asking them to do  
2 anything; is that correct?

3

4 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Through Ian's  
5 -- what Ian said it sounds like we can -- I mean we can  
6 certainly ask the Board to help us identify other  
7 means, you know, if they're available, that this  
8 Council could take to elevate this. I don't know what  
9 the response will be but we can certainly ask so I  
10 would include that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, sounds good.  
13 Anybody else on this topic, on Board of Fish proposals.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Did you  
18 have something else Ian.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: I did. We haven't talked  
21 a lot about this but I think this is actually a point  
22 that Mr. Kitka has made in the past and I think it's  
23 been in our letter to encourage the Forest Service to  
24 think very strategically about the young growth harvest  
25 when it does occur and ensure that we don't replicate  
26 the same sort of conditions that occur during old  
27 growth harvest and thinking about landscape management.  
28 I don't know, it's a bit of a winger compared to  
29 anything we've talked about but I do think it's  
30 important. I think it's linked to the SASI initiatives  
31 and just the general kind of restructuring that's going  
32 across the region. It might seem pertinent to put that  
33 back in there as just a reemphasis on the importance of  
34 the strategy once harvest does begin again.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any  
37 comments from Council on that item.

38

39 Cathy, go ahead.

40

41 MS. NEEDHAM: I would just add that  
42 even though Mr. Johnson doesn't think that we've  
43 discussed it, we've done a lot of work with land  
44 management planning around like Roadless and the  
45 Tongass Land Management Plan and I think that we've  
46 always kind of commented along those lines so I think  
47 they're supporting information that we have talked  
48 about, you know, managing young growth Forest and old  
49 growth Forest for habitat for wildlife and so I think,  
50

0446

1 you know, it's not a brand new thing, and we have  
2 talked about it. So I think that it definitely  
3 something that we highlight in there because it came up  
4 during this fiscal year. So.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's come up a lot  
7 actually. We've talked about it a lot. We made pretty  
8 strong recommendation 15 years ago in our deer working  
9 subcommittee group on Prince of Wales Island, we made a  
10 strong recommendation to do more habitat restoration on  
11 Prince of Wales Island so, yeah, it's been a  
12 longstanding issue. It won't be new. So any other  
13 comments from the Council on that one.

14

15 Patty, go ahead.

16

17 MS. PHILLIPS: And we had emphasized  
18 adaptive management techniques, I mean requesting  
19 additional sort of -- sort of management.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that can be  
22 added. Any other discussion on this topic.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Ian, do you have  
27 anything else that was on your list.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: I have a note about  
30 desire of the Southeast RAC position on trawling, and I  
31 don't know how other -- at least we may express  
32 interest in that looking at the letter from the other  
33 one, that seems like we have heard from quite a few  
34 constituents about the issue of trawling and its  
35 impacts. So I'm not sure what -- how to frame that to  
36 the Board or what the most important parts are. So  
37 that's the last thing on my list that I jotted down.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
40 Ian. Any other input from the Council on that item.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I mean I  
45 was pretty aware of that issue being discussed quite a  
46 bit, a lot, and I guess I kind of have a question for  
47 Staff, if that is something that is best addressed in  
48 the annual report or I know we've also talked about  
49 generating a letter that would go to the National  
50

0447

1 Marine Fisheries Service, so would the letter be more  
2 effective than annual report, I guess is the question.

3

4 And, John Smith, go ahead.

5

6 MR. SMITH: Yeah, Gunalcheesh. I really  
7 think that's a go, and I think both would be real good.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Possibly, yeah,  
10 both is an option as well. So, Frank, go ahead.

11

12 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
13 think when we were talking about it, we were talking  
14 about addressing it with the other RAC people.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I don't know  
19 if I mentioned that but after lunch we had a letter  
20 that was passed around, that is a letter from the other  
21 four RACs. So, yeah, we can support what they're  
22 doing, we can write a separate letter giving our  
23 viewpoints on the issue and how it relates to Southeast  
24 Alaska, and probably draw some common themes from what  
25 the other four RACs are doing. So I think that will be  
26 a letter for sure, I think I can say that, we haven't  
27 gotten there yet but I think it will be, and maybe not  
28 a bad idea to put in the annual report as well.

29

30 Okay, I think that sounds good.

31

32 Cathy, go ahead. I think we're ready  
33 for new topics, yes.

34

35 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay. Along those same  
36 lines in terms of having, even though we're writing a  
37 letter, also including in our annual report, I think  
38 some of our main points about indigenous co-management  
39 need to continue to be in the annual report. You know,  
40 sometimes these timings are a little bit different.  
41 They're going to -- you know hopefully we'll vote on  
42 our letter today and they'll get it soon but our annual  
43 report won't necessarily reach the Board for a little  
44 bit of time, so it's always good to remind them that we  
45 have put in a lot of work and support this indigenous  
46 o-management. So I think that's another one of the  
47 topics that should be both a letter and the annual  
48 report.

49

50

0448

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
2 Cathy. Any other suggestions on that topic.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Other  
7 topics. Patty, go ahead.

8  
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. Well, I know  
10 the Board already knows, you know, what we're doing but  
11 I think we should address it because it is part of the  
12 .805 section is that, you know, we kept the closure in  
13 place for Neva, we recommended a closure at Kah Sheets  
14 and because of the increasing competition from sport  
15 harvest that we could anticipate further closures on  
16 certain streams and just that those are topics that we  
17 will face and deal with.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other comments  
20 from Council on that one. DeAnna, you have something  
21 to ask.

22  
23 MS. PERRY: Yes. Through the Chair.  
24 Member Phillips. Was this specifically regarding  
25 unguided sportfishing, or sportfishing in general. I  
26 just want it to be real clear.

27  
28 MS. PHILLIPS: Both.

29  
30 MS. PERRY: Good enough.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Discussion  
33 on that.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: How about new  
38 topics.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm not  
43 seeing any. I have one to add. I think we should put  
44 in the annual report, talk about how important we think  
45 it is for students to be visiting this process and  
46 request that they get some funding through the Federal  
47 system. I think we should request that they continue  
48 to get funding.

49  
50

0449

1 Any other comments on that one.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any new topics.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

10

11 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is

12 Albert.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Albert, go

15 ahead.

16

17 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 One I can think of is the impact of creating a new

19 commercial fisheries having on subsistence users.

20 We've heard again they created a new shrimp fishery and

21 now when they go out for shrimp they have a harder time

22 getting what they used to get. So I think that's

23 something we should start looking at again.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,

28 Albert. Anybody else on the Council with a comment on

29 that topic. John, go ahead.

30

31 MR. SMITH: I know in previous

32 conversation, Mr. Jackson from, I think it was Kake,

33 came in, and the issue with crab and not knowing who's

34 pots were out front and the low numbers. I was just

35 curious if there was an investigation or a study or if

36 we moved on any of that, if you remember any of that at

37 all. I'm just curious on that first before -- if there

38 might be an encouragement of doing a study over there.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know if

41 anybody has any recollections for that, I don't.

42 Getting back to Albert Howard's topic, I think I do

43 recall putting something about shrimp fishery in an

44 annual report previously and I don't remember what the

45 response was, but if it's still an issue we can

46 certainly add that.

47

48 Cathy.

49

50



0450

1 MS. NEEDHAM: No, I have a new topic.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay, I  
4 think we can take another new topic. Cathy, go ahead.

5

6 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
7 think it's an added comment to the youth -- support  
8 funding for youth. We've talked about this a lot in  
9 the past and we haven't brought it up in an annual  
10 report for a long time but I think if we're going to  
11 continue to have Council that doesn't have young people  
12 sitting at the table with us that we should also -- we  
13 should be thinking about having a youth representative,  
14 a specific seat for that. One or the other. Either  
15 put youth on the Council with us, and I know the  
16 Federal Subsistence Board just makes recommendations  
17 from an applicant pool up to the Secretaries, but --  
18 and then it's up to them to actually make the  
19 appointments but if we can't get -- I know youth are  
20 applying. Younger people are applying to be on this  
21 Council and we're not getting a lot of that  
22 representation and so -- and I know Councils, after the  
23 All Council meeting, all talked about having putting in  
24 a youth representative seat if we can't generate enough  
25 youth to be actually seated on the Council. So I think  
26 it's time to bring that back up again. And I would put  
27 it under the same one with the funding because then we  
28 can highlight the success of Heather Bauscher's program  
29 and, you know, this will go before the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board and so all these young minds that  
31 we've been melding in this room over the last three  
32 days, they will be there, too, so I think it's just  
33 appropriate for those topics to kind of be put  
34 together.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good. Thank  
37 you, Cathy. Any comments on that one. Ian.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thanks Mr. Chair.  
40 Yeah, I think it's a great idea and I guess I would  
41 encourage the process to remove barriers. I mean I  
42 remember the application process and it's pretty  
43 rigorous and I think that's a barrier, you know, and so  
44 as we're thinking about developing these youth  
45 opportunities, to not just imagine a youth seat but  
46 also make it accessible, you know, make sure that those  
47 -- you know remove barriers as appropriate for youth to  
48 get involved. Just to encourage that.

49

50

0451

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ian.  
2 Any other comments on this one.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other new  
7 topics.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm not  
12 seeing any. DeAnna, go ahead.

13  
14 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. I am a  
15 little wanting with the crab topic that was brought up.  
16 I'm not quite sure how to frame that. So if Member  
17 Smith can help me out, the annual report item that you  
18 wanted. You mentioned crab and knowing that what --  
19 not knowing what is out there, what kind of study could  
20 be done. So I'm going to need some more information  
21 because.....

22  
23 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I'm going.....

24  
25 MS. PERRY: .....I'm not familiar.

26  
27 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I'm going off the  
28 testimony of, but I can't remember his first name, but  
29 Mr. Jackson, he was in a -- he came in and testified  
30 about that and that numbers were down and they were  
31 having trouble catching them but there were pots all  
32 the way up and down the beach so I'm sure commercial  
33 was involved in that so even to the point where lots of  
34 suggestions came up on the table of what to do and one  
35 of them was actually getting a Fish and Game officer to  
36 go out and actually observe that and pull them up or  
37 find out whose pots they were and start taking some  
38 data of who's setting pots or who's subsistence fishing  
39 there, too, who's using their resource to do that too,  
40 and try to determine why the low numbers of that crab  
41 in that area. Because like he was saying in his  
42 testimony, that it was plentiful before. So I can't  
43 remember a whole bunch from that event, but I believe  
44 that was some of the things that came up and I know  
45 many others were there, maybe you remember his  
46 testimony or there's a document of it. But just don't  
47 want to leave him out and that.

48  
49 So, thank you.

50

0452

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Member Smith.  
2 I'll relook at the transcripts as well when they come  
3 out, thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Louie, go  
6 ahead.

7  
8 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
9 Albert.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is it okay if we  
12 go to Albert -- yeah, go ahead, Albert.

13  
14 MR. HOWARD: It's about the crab, Mr.  
15 Chairman, it was Joel Jackson that called in. His  
16 concern was that subsistence users in Kake would have  
17 their pots out and then a commercial boat would come in  
18 the bay and dump three pots in the bay and basically  
19 not leave anything left for the subsistence users other  
20 than females, which you can't take anyway. I think  
21 that's been a problem we've had for years now where  
22 that continues to be a practice. And as an example,  
23 Mr. Chairman, Angoon tried to address that by closing  
24 certain bays close to Angoon to commercial crab without  
25 getting anywhere. So that could be in the annual  
26 report as a continued concern that 300 pots could get  
27 dumped in the bay and cleaned out within a week and  
28 then they move on.

29  
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
33 I see DeAnna is transcribing that. So Mr. Wagner, go  
34 ahead.

35  
36 MR. WAGNER: This is on the same  
37 subject that came up at our meeting last spring. And  
38 up in Fairbanks I sat at a table with all the Kake boys  
39 there and I talked with Joel Jackson, he kind of  
40 brought it up again and I suggested to try to get a  
41 proposal in. I don't know if that would work through  
42 here to designate the area for just sportfishing, like  
43 I explained like Ketchikan has Bostwick Inlet that's  
44 strictly just for sportfishing, and Clover Pass for  
45 shrimp and crab, you know. I think they were going to  
46 try to get something together. I thought that was  
47 their best option because they were fished out.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

0453

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So with this  
2 annual report, we're -- it's not really a time to  
3 suggest proposals, I mean that's kind of getting ahead  
4 of ourselves, we're just informing the Board that there  
5 is an issue and putting it on their radar that, and,  
6 yeah, a proposal may follow but we're not really  
7 suggesting anything yet so.

8

9                   MR. WAGNER: Well, I meant for them to  
10 get it in the spring one.....

11

12                   REPORTER: Louie, your mic.

13

14                   MR. WAGNER: Sorry. I didn't make  
15 myself clear.

16

17                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I know, I.....

18

19                   MR. WAGNER: It was just a suggestion  
20 on here if that was all right to talk to him about that  
21 and encourage him to try to get that in for the spring  
22 meeting, winter meeting, it's called. So that was more  
23 of a question than anything.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Cathy  
26 might have something to add to that.

27

28                   MS. NEEDHAM: So the Board of -- that's  
29 a Board of Game proposal, and maybe what we can add  
30 into our letter to the Federal -- or sorry, Board of  
31 Fish proposal, and maybe what we could add into our  
32 letter on the topic is that this Council spent a lot of  
33 time supporting proposals for closures, commercial  
34 closures of shellfish around communities that submitted  
35 proposals through the Board of Fish and the Board of  
36 Fish actually accepted all of those proposals,  
37 unfortunately there were a number of communities that  
38 didn't submit proposals at that time and so they would  
39 have to wait for the next cycle which is like, it's a  
40 three year cycle, and they just missed the last -- you  
41 know, they just missed the last one. But we did --  
42 like for the Federal Subsistence Board we can say that  
43 this is an issue that was brought before us and we have  
44 supported proponents of those proposals by carrying our  
45 comments up to the Board of Fish and delivering that  
46 support while the Board of Fish is deliberating and  
47 making those decisions.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,

50

0454

1 Cathy. Any other topics. Patty, go ahead.

2

3

4 MS. PHILLIPS: I don't know if we want  
5 to put it in there or not, but it troubles me that for  
6 enforcement of some of these subsistence fisheries that  
7 Alaska State Troopers, or Alaska, you know, Fish and  
8 Wildlife Troopers will not enforce and that there's a  
9 lack of U.S. Forest Service enforcement in the field  
10 and, you know, I don't know. I don't know whether to  
11 put that into a letter or not but people -- what I  
12 heard at this meeting like at Neva area, is that they  
13 go fish in areas that's supposed to be closed to them  
14 just because there's no one around to stop them.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
16 Cal, you want to comment on that.

17

18

19 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
20 Chair. And I would support putting something like that  
21 in our annual report, however, I have a concern and it  
22 seems like whenever you ask for more law enforcement  
23 you get it, you might get it and you might not get the  
24 kind of enforcement that you're wanting.

24

25

(Laughter)

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MS. PHILLIPS: That's why I said I  
wasn't sure.

MR. CASIPIT: You know I don't have a  
problem saying, you know, we need some law enforcement  
folks to go out there and enforcement our closures and  
make sure that only Federally-qualified users are using  
in places where we do have closures but I would hate to  
say we want more enforcement to have guys start showing  
up and, you know, ripping open your permit and looking  
in your bag and, you know, making sure you cut that fin  
off. I mean, I don't know, I've -- if we could confine  
it just to enforcing closures I'm all for it, but I'm  
not really.....

42

MS. PHILLIPS: I'm fine.

43

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we're  
getting a nod of approval from Patty on that. So  
anybody else on the Council want to add to that  
discussion.

49

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is

0455

1 Albert.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We got Albert  
4 first and then we'll go to -- Albert, go ahead, Albert.

5

6 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 That is what is going to happen because that is what  
8 happened in Angoon. We get everything looked at, so  
9 it's pretty normal here so. I agree there should be a  
10 mechanism to enforce we'd like to see on the Federal  
11 level but as far as more enforcement, I can't imagine  
12 any more enforcement in Angoon than there is.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
17 John, you had something.

18

19 MR. SMITH: Yeah, just kind of echoing  
20 some of the conversation we had about our enforcement  
21 officers and having better relationships and more  
22 connection and friendlier, you know, would be a more  
23 positive. Just a thought, you know, I know it's come  
24 up on the table where we get a lot of folks from the  
25 community to that -- that have that same feeling like  
26 Cal was sharing, you know, and it shouldn't be that  
27 way. It should be more of a friendly and guidance to  
28 maybe that officer will share, well, you're not doing  
29 very good here but, see, he's pulling data from them  
30 too that he can record for us, and then guide them to  
31 where the good spots are because they probably know all  
32 these things.

33

34 So more of a friendlier, you know, just  
35 like we were talking about our relatives and how, you  
36 know, as long as you came in and connected with them  
37 and let them know you were there, they would actually  
38 guide you to right where the food was that you were  
39 looking for.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any  
44 new topics. Ian.

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: Also not sure on the --  
47 thank you, Mr. Chair. So putting this one together in  
48 my mind a little bit here and one of the things that  
49 concern me about the analysis of the deer issue in

50

0456

1 Hoonah was the emphasis on declining usership instead  
2 of not -- you know kind of negating the issue of  
3 competition and instead passing it on to the fact that  
4 there's just less hunters in Hoonah, you know, that the  
5 youth aren't stepping up. You know I'm not going to  
6 like weigh in on whether or not that's true, you know,  
7 I do see those trends though, but in my heart I would  
8 say like that is true so I do think we could do more.  
9 Hoonah's doing a lot and I think other communities are  
10 to bring up the next generation and, you know, I hope  
11 that we won't see that decline in usership.

12

13                   But I guess what I would like to maybe  
14 put in a letter is my concern with future analysis of  
15 competition that utilize this concept of reduced  
16 hunters to kind of negate the effect of competition.  
17 So hopefully I said that clearly.

18

19                   But that has been bugging me in my mind  
20 a little bit, it doesn't -- I feel like it adequately  
21 like addresses the issue it just kind of creates a  
22 scapegoat for like the competition issue and I don't  
23 quite see that as what's truly going on.

24

25                   And the other analysis issue that's  
26 just bugging me, it ultimately comes down to lack of  
27 data, but there just doesn't seem to be an adequate  
28 addressing of local -- of access to a recess in  
29 thinking about the competition issue, like, again,  
30 thinking about the Unit 4 deer issue, we're aggregating  
31 data across three islands with like degrees of latitude  
32 difference.

33

34                   So I'm more inclined -- for the latter  
35 perspective, I guess I'm more inclined to just like  
36 think about how to kind of like encourage analysis to  
37 look -- maybe look at things in the face, I guess, or  
38 look beyond maybe what seems obvious initially to  
39 describe these social issues, there's just a lot of  
40 drivers that are going on and not identifying one  
41 scapegoat. So anyways, up for discussion on whether  
42 that's appropriate to put in this letter or like how to  
43 frame that, too. But that's just been on my mind here.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Cathy, you  
46 have something to add.

47

48                   MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, I wholeheartedly  
49 agree, and I think that maybe the ask could be that we  
50

0457

1 need funding to actually collect data that's relevant  
2 to these analysis that we need for deciding proposals  
3 like this. If the underlying problem is, is that we  
4 don't have the data that we need to, again, find  
5 mechanisms to fund those types of studies so that the  
6 data is collected in that particular way.

7

8 And I think it extends beyond just the  
9 deer, too. We've heard other conversation on a couple  
10 of fisheries proposals that were kind of the same  
11 thing, you can't just assess -- like at Neva, we heard  
12 from Mr. Casipit about that in our record, so we can  
13 say it's not just that specific thing.

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I agree with that.  
16 And actually one of the things though that crossed my  
17 mind is there was no discussion of declining usership  
18 when we talked about competition in the fisheries  
19 issue, it was only a discussion of declining usership  
20 when we talked about big game and deer issues. So  
21 there's just a different philosophy happening there, or  
22 whatever, or there's just an acceptance that there's  
23 not a declining usership in fisher people but it's more  
24 of a hunting related thing. But I thought about it  
25 during the analysis discussion. We didn't draw that  
26 same conclusion, kind of negating the competition issue  
27 because of some like perceived lack of participation or  
28 youth involvement or something like that, or the next  
29 generation. So I noticed that discrepancy when we were  
30 doing it.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

33

34 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
35 Albert.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead  
38 Albert.

39

40 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Just real quick, I'd have to agree with that and I  
42 guess I've been doing this long enough that -- when I  
43 did mention, so we have a problem with the deer, how is  
44 adding more users to that problem going to fix the  
45 problem, it doesn't. So even if we start doing hunter  
46 programs and put more use out there, the problem still  
47 exists that there are non-resident, un -- non-  
48 Federally-qualified hunters in the area with their big  
49 boats and skiffs, that doesn't fix that problem. And  
50



0458

1 that's kind of been the concern I was trying to voice.  
2 That was their solution in the past when Kootznoowoo  
3 had the ETJ petition on the salmon. The point of that  
4 petition was the salmon weren't making it back to  
5 Angoon streams, so the answer, one of their solutions  
6 was well we could allow you to gillnet out in Chatham  
7 and we were gillnet on what, if the salmon aren't  
8 there, they aren't there. It doesn't matter if you  
9 have a gillnet or not. Same thing with the hunting  
10 issue we're trying to address, even if you put more  
11 young people out in the field it doesn't fix the fact  
12 that we have pressure from other user groups on the  
13 same resource we've been using our whole lives.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
18 John.

19

20 MR. SMITH: Yeah, kind of want to echo  
21 the air, land, sea and being out and harvesting, I want  
22 to thank Ian for, you know, all his work with the  
23 children over there, with the kids and being worried  
24 about the community. I grew up over there and  
25 understand when you're seeing those things of, you  
26 know, we got to bring the kids and the families back to  
27 the air, land and sea to do the activities, that's what  
28 brings us to peace and calm. And I echo that.

29

30 And definitely echo what Cathy is  
31 saying about getting funds, getting funds to do these  
32 studies. And then connecting the youth back to the  
33 land, air and sea, you know, will really make a  
34 difference.

35

36 So I really throw up a lot to you Ian  
37 for taking care of the community of Hoonah and the  
38 kids. But also echo trying to get him as much support  
39 from all the entities. Seeing the kids out here is  
40 great. And even putting a position up here. It's  
41 going to make us all stronger that way.

42

43 Gunalcheesh. Hoho.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I just  
46 wanted to point out that a lot of our recent proposals  
47 have really dealt with the issue of competition. And,  
48 you know, we've kind of identified that to the Board as  
49 a detriment to meeting subsistence needs. And, you

50

0459

1 know, at one point we weren't really talking about that  
2 so much but it's becoming more of an issue and I think  
3 that's pretty worthwhile to the discussion we've had.

4

5 So any other topics.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Maybe we've  
10 got the annual report covered. I just want to add that  
11 with our recent annual reports I've asked to have  
12 included like the latest fish -- for this cycle, would  
13 be the fish harvest reports that we heard during the  
14 course of the meeting. That's kind of one of the  
15 things that's mentioned in ANILCA, that the Board likes  
16 to hear what the subsistence harvests are in our  
17 region, you know, from a yearly basis. So we like to  
18 include that as well just so they kind of have this  
19 record of how things are going. So we'll have that  
20 included as well, that report I think Jake gave us at  
21 this meeting.

22

23 DeAnna.

24

25 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I just wanted  
26 to clarify. Usually in the spring meeting, or the  
27 winter meeting Mr. Musslewhite presents both an updated  
28 fisheries report and wildlife because he's had time to  
29 go through all the data and it's a more comprehensive  
30 report so that's usually the ones that we attach and if  
31 that's okay with you I'll wait for those reports to  
32 attach to the annual report.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Yeah, that  
35 sounds right, thank you, DeAnna.

36

37 So Frank.

38

39 MR. WRIGHT: Just something that keeps  
40 bothering me. You know this climate change thing is  
41 really getting to me, you know, I always use an example  
42 of our cockles and our cockle shells and -- because  
43 when I was a kid we used to throw cockle shells on the  
44 beach and they never broke, but now that -- I was told  
45 that there's acidification or something of that sort,  
46 that made the shells so thin. So now when you throw  
47 cockle shells on the beach it sounds like glass and  
48 just about every one of them breaks. So I don't know  
49 what we can do with this climate change thing but, you  
50

0460

1 know, it's an issue that bothers me. And you look at  
2 the resources of our fish and wildlife and, you know, I  
3 always worry about it.

4  
5                   You know I'm a person that -- my wife  
6 and I are the first people that collect plastic, it  
7 might be a raindrop in a storm but it's something that  
8 needs to be addressed sometime by somebody. I feel ill  
9 every time I think about it. You know I worry about  
10 the younger children who are going to have to deal with  
11 this because we got old people in Congress and  
12 everywhere else that doesn't care, and we have children  
13 that are going to have to face it. Right now I'm  
14 supposed to go fishing but then it's so rough out  
15 there, when I get back, that I'm not going to go --  
16 anyway it's just an issue that -- I know I don't think --  
17 I don't know if we can put it in the letter about our  
18 concerns about this climate thing but, anyway, thank  
19 you, Mr. Chair.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.  
22 I think that can be added. Anybody else.

23  
24                   Cal.

25  
26                   MR. CASIPIT: I agree with Frank. The  
27 whole issue of global warming just kills me. I know  
28 it's just disheartening and it's hard not to get --  
29 it's hard to not lose all hope, you know, I hope we can  
30 keep some hope about fixing some of that. Anyway so.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, let's not  
33 get into a too deep of a discussion here, the time is  
34 going by, the longer we talk the later it gets.

35  
36                   Ian, go ahead.

37  
38                   MR. JOHNSON: Thanks. I was just going  
39 to suggest that the climate change issue be wrapped  
40 into the co-management bullet point just because I  
41 think that's a direct adaptation strategy that we can  
42 take.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. John.

45  
46                   MR. SMITH: Even just echoing what he's  
47 saying. I know exactly what he's saying because  
48 working with the tribe on testing and there's places  
49 that we're finding where we can't even pull it up and  
50

0461

1 the shells are breaking and this is a carbon issue and  
2 its effect. And I think a lot of testing of the water  
3 and the levels would be a good thing. And they're  
4 actually using -- to recover that they're actually  
5 doing studies where a bay was really high in carbon and  
6 they would actually grow bull kelp in that area, like  
7 huge, and then they would sink them to the bottom to  
8 deplete the carbon level and it was showing -- even Guy  
9 Archibald.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: John, we can't  
12 really get into lengthy discussions on climate  
13 change.....

14

15 MR. SMITH: Yeah, sorry.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....we really got  
18 to move on here. Sorry.

19

20 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We all know what  
23 the problem is.

24

25 MR. SMITH: Just to echo his thought.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other new  
28 topics.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Looking for new  
33 topics here.

34

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So if we  
39 have no more new topics, should we have a quick review  
40 of the topics suggested and then we will vote, right,  
41 it's an action item, to form the draft of the annual  
42 report.

43

44 MS. PERRY: Okay. Before I go through  
45 the list, which will be really rough, but I just did  
46 want to remind especially maybe our new Council members  
47 who might not be aware of the function of the annual  
48 report. When we put an annual report together, it's to  
49 bring issues to the Board's attention hopefully that  
50

0462

1 they have jurisdiction to do some action on. So that's  
2 why you've heard some of the Council members  
3 specifically couch their responses as this is what the  
4 ask would be, or what are we asking.

5

6 So I just wanted to mention like on  
7 Page 132 about the annual reports, the Board is  
8 required to discuss and reply to each issue in our  
9 annual report, we're up to 13 right now, and to take  
10 action when, within the Board's authority. In many  
11 cases if the issue is outside the Board's authority the  
12 Board will provide information to the Council on how to  
13 contact personnel at the correct agency. So what this  
14 Council has done in the last couple of years has sort  
15 of divide our annual report into one, those asks that  
16 we think the Board has jurisdiction and can address,  
17 and the other is like FYI, this is what's going on in  
18 our region, it's still a concern and we want you to  
19 know.

20

21 So, again, just to kind of share that  
22 with some of our newer Council members.

23

24 So through our discussion it looks like  
25 No. 1, we will address the lack of response on our  
26 previous transboundary letter and possibly go ahead and  
27 write that letter to submit -- well, we'll have to ask  
28 the Board to submit that to the Department of State.  
29 Mentioning that it's a continuing issue and becoming  
30 more complex as time goes on. The sooner we get a  
31 response the sooner there can be action to address the  
32 issue.

33

34 2. This came from testimony. We, as a  
35 Council, have made multiple attempts to curb the  
36 sportfish issues, address limits. We may want to see  
37 or have the Board explain if there are any legislative  
38 actions that can be pursued, or what type of remedies  
39 we can pursue. And maybe I'll be combing through the  
40 transcripts to give some citations as to just how many  
41 attempts this Council has made to put in proposals to  
42 the Board of Fish to address these concerns regarding  
43 the sportfishing and unguided sportfishing.

44

45 3. Would be addressing a concern and  
46 asking the Forest Service to think strategically about  
47 young growth harvest and not replicate landscape  
48 management problems. Restructuring across the region,  
49 there needs to be a reemphasis on the importance of  
50

0463

1 strategy once harvest begins again. And I think I will  
2 explore, this was before my time, but if there was a  
3 recommendation 15 years ago by the subcommittee, I  
4 think I'll try to uncover some of that information and  
5 Cathy I know you're great repository for that.

6  
7 4. An annual report item, as well as a  
8 letter just showing our desire to develop a possible  
9 position by this Council on trawling regarding bycatch  
10 issues. I did want to point out if folks haven't seen  
11 it at their spots, there was a letter from the Yukon  
12 Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior, Eastern Interior and  
13 Seward Penn RACs. It's dated April 12th, 2022 and  
14 they're talking about, in a nutshell, the bycatch  
15 issue, and that's what we were talking about earlier,  
16 we might want to do our own letter and join the support  
17 for addressing the bycatch issue.

18  
19 Another annual report item and possible  
20 letter, which I think we've also been calling our  
21 position statement, is the indigenous co-management,  
22 which we also need to visit before we leave today. We  
23 did put a lot of work into this with our work group,  
24 the drafting committee. And we'll add that as an FYI  
25 in the annual report, and then of course the letter  
26 will go into detail with our position.

27  
28 6. Talking about how this Council kept  
29 the closure in place on Neva, a closure in Kah Sheets  
30 because of increased competition of unguided  
31 sportfishing and sportfishing, and that we'll be  
32 dealing with this in the future.

33  
34 7. Address how important it is for the  
35 students to continue to be visiting us and learning the  
36 process. Also we should request any possible funds  
37 through the Program or agencies for the students to  
38 continue attend meetings, and if we continue to have a  
39 Council -- let me rephrase that -- if we continue to  
40 have applications for Council members we should try to  
41 find a way to have young people sitting with us,  
42 whether that be a youth representative seat, or a  
43 possible RAC membership. Highlight success of Heather  
44 Bauscher's group in the Program and encourage the  
45 process, that's the application process to remove  
46 barriers for a youth representative seat.

47  
48 8. Was to describe the impact created  
49 by commercial fisheries on subsistence fisheries.  
50

1 There was a new shrimp fishery created and, again, just  
2 reinforcing a previous annual report item where we  
3 expressed to the Board that the subsistence users are  
4 having a harder time getting their subsistence needs  
5 met specifically regarding shrimp.

6  
7 9. The crab item, that was mentioned,  
8 I'll revisit Mr. Joel Jackson's testimony about the  
9 crab pots. How important taking data of who is setting  
10 pots, the subsistence fishing, what reports are  
11 available to determine low number of crabs. And then I  
12 think one of the examples was 300 pots in the bay can  
13 clean out an area in a short amount of time. So I  
14 will, again, visit transcripts to get a little bit more  
15 information on that.

16  
17 10. The enforcement on some of the  
18 subsistence fisheries. Alaska State Troopers, Fish and  
19 Wildlife Troopers, their lack of enforcement, also lack  
20 of Forest Service enforcement in the field. Examples  
21 through testimony, such as Neva, there is fishing going  
22 on in areas that shouldn't be because people simply  
23 aren't there to enforce it. And yeah, closures, and  
24 having better relationships and enforce the closures so  
25 that only Federally-qualified users are able to use  
26 those subsistence fisheries.

27  
28 11. The concern about the deer  
29 analysis. Emphasis on declining usership. And I will  
30 relook at the transcript because I think I know what  
31 you were talking about, Ian, on this, but I don't think  
32 I captured it quite well in my notes here. But the  
33 concept of reduced hunters to negate the effect of  
34 competition kind of creates a scapegoat for competition  
35 issue, doesn't reflect what's truly going on. There's  
36 not adequate addressing of access to a resource. We  
37 need to have data. We need to fund studies. We need  
38 the data, you can't assess with adequate data. And  
39 then Albert also added the problem with deer, adding  
40 more users does not fix the problem if hunter programs  
41 and regulations create more competition then that's  
42 obviously not going to fix the problem.

43  
44 12. Climate change. The example of  
45 think cockle shells. Talking about the weather  
46 changing. Concerns about climate and global warming  
47 and its affect and impact on fish and wildlife  
48 resources. Testing of water would be a good thing.

49  
50

0465

1                   13. Again, is that what will be the  
2 latest fish and wildlife harvest reports that come from  
3 the Forest Service in the spring.

4

5                   Did I capture everything in a nutshell,  
6 knowing that I'll clean this up and review some  
7 resources before I do my draft. And, again, for  
8 everyone, you will have an opportunity to look at that  
9 draft and add any additional items in February at our  
10 meeting.

11

12                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. Oh, Patty.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.  
15 Patty.

16

17                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Under the climate change one, perhaps we should mention  
19 the tree die-offs, Forest die-offs.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
22 That was discussed in this meeting. Any other  
23 suggestions on DeAnna's summarization there. As I say  
24 there's still plenty of time to finalize this so we're  
25 just getting the concepts down there.

26

27                   (No comments)

28

29                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Then we  
30 would need a motion to approve this as our draft annual  
31 report.

32

33                   Cathy.

34

35                   MS. NEEDHAM: Move to approve the draft  
36 annual report.

37

38                   MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a  
41 motion to approve the draft report. All in favor say  
42 aye.

43

44                   IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
47 say no.

48

49                   (No opposing votes)

50



0466

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, it's been  
2 approved. Okay, now we still have a few more items to  
3 deal with. I think the one that's going to take the  
4 most time is our comments on proposals to the State  
5 Board of Game that we have an opportunity to comment on  
6 before they meet in January. So this is our one and  
7 only chance as a Council to formalize our comments that  
8 we want to send in. We'll have no other opportunity.  
9 So we need to -- if we want to do this we have to  
10 complete it now.

11  
12                   So just to review, yesterday we formed  
13 a working group to kind of identify the proposals that  
14 we thought were most important to subsistence users and  
15 we had a pretty good representation of, you know, the  
16 areas in the region, we had some expertise. We were  
17 able to sit down with our subsistence Staff over there  
18 and ask him questions this morning and DeAnna took some  
19 pretty good notes, I believe, what we want, what our  
20 suggestions were. So I think the best way to go about  
21 this is for DeAnna to go through the list and for the  
22 benefit of the Council members, all of the proposals  
23 are in our supplemental book under Tab No. 5 and they --  
24 you know, for each proposal, it's a complete proposal  
25 with justification and what the problem is so, you  
26 know, as we go -- as DeAnna goes through it, you can  
27 also be looking at that to be familiar with them and  
28 what we will need to do is listen to what the working  
29 group's opinion was on these and then if anybody on the  
30 Council has a different view or something to add, that  
31 will go into our recommendation, and we will be making --  
32 the Council, as a whole, will be making  
33 recommendations on whether to support the proposal or  
34 not support the proposal.

35  
36                   So it's not like our system where we  
37 have all this, you know, public input and testimony,  
38 this is just the Council's opinion on what we should do  
39 with State Board of Game proposals.

40  
41                   So if everybody understands what we're  
42 trying to do here, like I say, we'll kind of go through  
43 them one by one, Tab No. 5 starts as Page 1 in the  
44 supplemental book and DeAnna can read what the  
45 workgroup thought about them. Also, I guess I should  
46 add that if, you know, anybody on the Council sees a  
47 proposal that we didn't identify as being important but  
48 they think is important that can certainly be added and  
49 suggest a recommendation as well.  
50

0467

1                   So hopefully you have confidence that  
2 the work group did a good job on this and, yeah, we can  
3 proceed. Go ahead, DeAnna.

4  
5                   MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
6 for those who might be listening online, you can find  
7 that proposal book on Alaska Department of Fish and  
8 Game's website. There's a link at [www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov).  
9 The meeting for the Southeast region Board of Game --  
10 or I should say the Board of Game, the Southeast cycle  
11 will be January 20th through 24th and the comments for  
12 that proposal cycle need to be in by January 6th. So  
13 as was mentioned this is our last chance to provide  
14 comments.

15  
16                   So similar to the annual report items,  
17 we have not had an opportunity to fine-tune the  
18 language since we met at 7:00 o'clock this morning but  
19 we'll give you the gist. I also have Rob Cross and  
20 Jake Musslewhite, Biologists from the Forest Service  
21 standing by. They will be helping me afterwards put  
22 the nuances with our paragraph description but, again,  
23 this is just going to be me identifying the proposal,  
24 our recommended position and then just a quick blurb on  
25 why we would either support or oppose. And, again, to  
26 streamline I'll go through these rather quickly but if  
27 folks have something to add please let me know.

28  
29                   So the work group did identify Proposal  
30 1 as one that the Council would like to comment on in  
31 opposition. Recognizing this proposal is a great idea  
32 but it's going to be too burdensome.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Could you read the  
35 proposal and the basic outline of the proposal.

36  
37                   MS. PERRY: Oh, I can.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's right here  
40 too.

41  
42                   MS. PERRY: Gotcha. Alrighty. So  
43 Proposal 1 was to require certified hunter safety  
44 education to hunt in Units 1 through 5. Again, the  
45 suggestion was to oppose this proposal because although  
46 a great idea it would be too burdensome. There are  
47 issues such as internet connectivity, the offering to  
48 remote communities may be a challenge to do that  
49 consistently and it does create an extra hurdle. If it  
50

0468

1 was voluntary, then the Council may support it but if  
2 they're going to make it a requirement the Council  
3 would probably oppose this proposal.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If I could just  
6 add, the wording was to require hunter safety  
7 education, I think it was for youth maybe or for  
8 everybody -- everybody in order to get a hunting  
9 license. So essentially it would require you to do  
10 this education before you could get your State hunting  
11 license, and, of course subsistence hunters have to  
12 have a State hunting license to hunt so it would affect  
13 us and it would be burdensome.

14

15 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If  
16 that summary is good we'll move on to the next  
17 recommendation which was to oppose Proposal 2.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, DeAnna,  
20 I would like to get -- instead of doing them all as a  
21 group at the end I just, you know, would like to ask  
22 after each one if the Council is in agreement with the  
23 work group on our recommendation on this.

24

25 Anybody disagree or have a question.

26

27 Mike.

28

29 MR. DOUVILLE: Are you talking about 1.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

32

33 MR. DOUVILLE: (Thumbs up)

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we got a  
36 thumb's up.

37

38 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: To facilitate the  
43 discussion, you can ask if there's any objections and  
44 then if there are any then someone will speak up and if  
45 there is no objection we just roll right along.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good suggestion.  
48 If there's no objection we'll move on to the next one.  
49 That's a good way to phrase it, thank you, Patty.

50

0469

1 (No objections)

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(No objections)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I see no objections, okay, next one.

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal 2 was to require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast region units. The working group suggested the Council oppose this proposal. Again, the proposal's a good idea but too burdensome similar to the opposition in Proposal 1, there are issues such as internet connectivity and the challenge to offer this to remote communities consistently.

If there are no objections I can move on to the next.

(No objections)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I see no objections, go ahead, DeAnna.

MS. PERRY: The next proposal identified by the working group was Proposal 5. Proposal 5 was to change the waterfowl season in Units 1 through 4 by creating a split season. The working group suggested the Council support this proposal because it creates more opportunity and affords more flexibility.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: This was proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as well. Anybody have an objection to our recommendation on this one to support.

(No objections)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, seeing none, go ahead, DeAnna.

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The next set of proposals the working group looked at as a group, those were Proposals 6 through 9, which dealt with lengthening the trapping seasons. Proposal 6 was to lengthen the river otter trapping season in Units 1 through 4 to align them with Unit 5. Proposal 7 was to extend marten trapping seasons to align with wolverine seasons in portions of Units 1 through 4 and 5. Proposal 8 was to extend the marten trapping season in

0470

1 Units 1 and 2. And Proposal 9 was to extend the  
2 wolverine trapping seasons to March 15th in Units 1  
3 through 5. The working group suggested this Council  
4 support this proposal because it provides additional  
5 opportunity for subsistence users. And we did check  
6 Federal seasons with State seasons and stood behind  
7 that recommendation.

8

9 So if there are no objections to that  
10 we can go on to the next.

11

12 (No objections)

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: And there was no  
15 difference between -- excuse me.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cal.

18

19 MR. CASIPIT: There was no difference  
20 between the State seasons and the Federal seasons?

21

22 MS. PERRY: That was my  
23 understanding.....

24

25 MR. CASIPIT: Okay.

26

27 MS. PERRY: .....but we'll have Rob  
28 relock at that if you would Rob.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. It'll  
33 take us a second but we'll look that up.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Yeah, we were fast and  
36 furious this morning with all the regulation books.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Does somebody else  
39 have a question or comment on this one.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, I guess not,  
44 okay. We'll just give it a minute here. There's a lot  
45 of information to digest on some of these.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I remember during the

50

0471

1 work group discussion that we were talking about that  
2 was one of the crux of whether we would support or not  
3 and there was looking at the Federal and State seasons.  
4

5 While they're working on that I can go  
6 maybe to the next group if that would please the  
7 Council.  
8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.  
10

11 MS. PERRY: Okay. Great. This would  
12 be under the Sitka area heading. The working group  
13 took up Proposals 10 and 11 to look at. They suggested  
14 this Council support both of those proposals. Proposal  
15 10 was to decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4  
16 remainder and Proposal 11 was to decrease the bag limit  
17 to four deer in Unit 4 remainder. We chose to support  
18 both of these under one comment because it was  
19 basically the same proposal, one was just more specific  
20 than the other. The support would be to support the  
21 bag limit reduction to four and, again, there was some  
22 discussion if the Board approves our earlier deer  
23 proposals, that there might be a conflict. There was  
24 also discussion about how the limit for the State was  
25 arbitrarily changed from four to six and now there is  
26 localized competition. The working group said the  
27 Council could support going back to the harvest limit  
28 of four and support the concept again if limiting that  
29 bag limit to four deer.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And keep in mind  
32 that only this -- this regulation only applies to non-  
33 subsistence users so it's just going back to where they  
34 were several years ago. They increased the bag limit  
35 and now somebody's proposed to put it back to where it  
36 was and, yeah, only apply to non-subsistence users.  
37 And depending on what the Board does on our proposals,  
38 you know, if they should approve that, any of those  
39 proposals to reduce the bag limit to two deer, then  
40 that would supersede this regulation on Federal lands,  
41 but this one could still apply on State lands. So  
42 further clarification.  
43

44 Any questions or opposition to our  
45 recommendation on that one.  
46

47 MR. HOWARD: Just further  
48 clarification, Mr. Chairman, this is Albert.  
49  
50

0472

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

3  
4                   MR. HOWARD: So that decrease wouldn't  
5 affect Angoon residents?

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: This proposal  
8 would not affect Angoon residents directly but if it  
9 were approved it would lessen the bag limit on, let's  
10 say, you know, the Juneau hunters that they would only  
11 be allowed to take four deer instead of six on State  
12 lands, which of course in your area would be, you know,  
13 below the tidelands, so the beach hunting. So, you  
14 know, if you're looking for an effect, it could be  
15 positive on Angoon residents to some degree.

16  
17                   But as I said, you know, depending on  
18 what.....

19  
20                   MR. HOWARD: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
21 Chair.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep. Depending on  
24 what the Federal Subsistence Board does, which we don't  
25 know yet, it could potentially go to two bucks for non-  
26 subsistence users.

27  
28                   Okay, next one, I didn't see any  
29 opposition to that one.

30  
31                   MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 The next three that the working group brought up, we  
33 did discuss a little bit but we wanted to also include  
34 our Council members in the discussion who are from  
35 these areas. So first Proposal 12 was to open the  
36 Mitchell Bay closed area in Unit 4 to brown bear  
37 hunting. The work group recognized that we did receive  
38 testimony from the Mayor of Angoon regarding this type  
39 of harvest and so the working group suggested this  
40 Council oppose this proposal but that we did want to  
41 ask our Angoon Council member his thoughts on this.  
42 Some of the discussion was, is this proposal, could it  
43 have been put in for predator management because it  
44 describes the effect for deer and that this might be  
45 creating a hunt which would be used by non-residential  
46 residents -- or non-residential hunters and increase  
47 competition. So, again, the working group wanted to  
48 hear from Member Howard.

49  
50

0473

1 Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
4 DeAnna. And Albert, yeah, we are requesting some help  
5 on this one. Do you have the proposal in front of you  
6 with all the explanations of what the proposal is  
7 attempting to do?

8

9

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, thank you.  
10 I have had conversations with community members and  
11 past community members and past Forest Service  
12 employees, one of them is KDMetcalfe and he was a part  
13 of the original reason they closed this area, was due  
14 to the fact that a lot of wounded bears seemed to have  
15 made it into town when a non-resident trophy hunter  
16 took a bad shot and it ended up being the  
17 responsibility of community members to make sure the  
18 community was safe. The areas that they are talking  
19 about are way too close to Angoon and would become our  
20 responsibility if such thing had happened, or if it did  
21 happen and then it wasn't reported -- as you can  
22 recall past meetings I've talked about bear hunters in  
23 the southern bay pulling crab pots and getting caught  
24 by residents who were checking their crab pots, and  
25 that's another thing residents here are mindful of, is  
26 the impact it will have once you start letting people  
27 into the bay that have never been in there. Now, if  
28 you look at the map and keep in mind, sometimes the  
29 tide will run out of those bays pretty fast. I think  
30 they did some gauges on the current coming out of there  
31 and it's anywhere from 14 to 18 knots, depending on  
32 whether it's a minus tide or not, and then that brings  
33 in the concern of safety of people -- safety of people  
34 going up in the bay. Then that also becomes our  
35 concern as well, if they go in there and decide they're  
36 going to turn around, that's not an option.

37

38 So there's many things that -- reasons  
39 why there shouldn't be bear hunting in there. So I  
40 agree with opposing this for community safety really.

41

42

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Right.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. HOWARD: We have a lot of young  
kids running around now and I'd hate to see a wounded  
bear come into town.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.



0474

1 MR. HOWARD: And someone not notify us.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.

4

5 MR. HOWARD: It should be somewhere so  
6 thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you.  
9 I think you just confirmed what the discussion was of  
10 the work group. We thought that was the issue and we  
11 just wanted to make sure we got it right, so, yeah, our  
12 recommendation was to oppose for those reasons. So  
13 thank you, Albert. Anybody else on the Council see any  
14 reason to change that.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, next one, go  
19 ahead.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 Going on with this suite of proposals and then I think  
23 we'll go back and revisit the one where we were getting  
24 more information. The next one is Proposal 13, which  
25 is to change RB088, the hunt boundary in Unit 4 to  
26 include Northeast Chichagof and increase the allowable  
27 harvest for brown bear. (Coughing) I hope I'm not  
28 losing my voice. And for this one the initial response  
29 from the work group was to probably oppose, or suggest  
30 the opposition, but the working group wanted to hear  
31 from Ian and Frank who are our Hoonah Council members  
32 for this.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Ian.

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, yeah, I believe  
37 that's the correct action of this. I mean any of the  
38 brown bear hunts are going to overlap with usership and  
39 so I just think it could exacerbate the competition  
40 issue so I think that's my primary thought on this one.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anything to add to  
43 that Frank.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: (Shakes head negatively)

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. So our  
48 recommendation was to oppose, correct?

49

50

0475

1 MS. PERRY: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
4 else have a different opinion on that one.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Oh, John,  
9 go ahead.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Just conversation. Of the  
12 numbers of bears and what the number of per mile, I  
13 don't know, when I was a young man it was five bears  
14 per mile. I grew up in Hoonah too and know that the  
15 numbers are very high.

16

17 (In Tlingit)

18

19 MR. SMITH: But, you know, encouraging  
20 to drop the numbers down. I don't know if that's  
21 respectful or not, but I know that harvesting brown  
22 bear and black bear have been in many cultures and have  
23 been on the table for many generations. But just a  
24 thought and maybe talk about that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess  
27 that could be added to the discussion right. Anything  
28 else on this proposal.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: What's the next  
33 one.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
36 next proposal the working group looked at was Proposal  
37 14, which was to change the brown bear hunt area for  
38 RB088 in Unit 4 to include all of Lisianski Inlet  
39 drainage. Again, the work group's initial  
40 recommendation was to oppose but they wanted to hear  
41 from our Pelican Council members, Ms. Phillips and Mr.  
42 Slater.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Patty.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: I support the  
49 recommendation of the working group.

50

0476

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any comments from  
2 Mr. Slater.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

7  
8 MS. PERRY: Bear with me, I was going  
9 back to the proposal that we were looking at, I believe  
10 that was the suite of proposals, Proposals 6 through 9  
11 about lengthening trapping seasons, checking Federal  
12 seasons with State seasons, and it is my understanding  
13 that it's closed to all. Regarding brown bear, also  
14 all the trapping seasons are currently the same. And I  
15 would defer to Mr. Cross or Mr. Musslewhite if they  
16 needed to add some details.

17  
18 MR. CROSS: No, that is correct. The  
19 State and the Federal trapping regulations for the  
20 species listed in those proposals are currently  
21 aligned.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So just as a  
24 clarification, if the State were to change their season  
25 length we might want to put in a similar request to the  
26 Board to change Federal regulations as well to realign,  
27 that's always an option, I guess.

28  
29 (Council nods affirmatively)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're seeing  
32 confirmation on that so we'll wait and see what the  
33 State Board does before we take any action but as of  
34 right now I guess we think it could be a good idea.

35  
36 Next.

37  
38 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 The next proposal that the working group looked at was  
40 from the Sitka Area Unit 5 section -- or I'm sorry, let  
41 me take that back -- Petersburg and Wrangell area,  
42 Units 1B and 3. So the first proposal was Proposal 16  
43 and the working group suggested this Council support  
44 that proposal which was to lengthen the deer seasons in  
45 Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the  
46 Petersburg Management Area. The working group felt  
47 that lengthening the season is beneficial to  
48 subsistence users, beneficial, again, to the Federally-  
49 qualified users to harvest by bow and just, in general,  
50

0477

1 provide additional opportunity.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other comments  
4 on that one from the Council.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, seeing none,  
9 next one DeAnna.

10

11 MS. PERRY: The next proposal was  
12 Proposal 17, the working group suggested that this  
13 Council support the proposal to establish a fall  
14 drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit  
15 3. There was discussion about the competition between  
16 elk and deer and they thought that this proposal, the  
17 support of it, would decrease competition with deer and  
18 there is not a sustainable population on Zarembo and it  
19 would create an opportunity for Federally-qualified  
20 users. And I guess I should clarify, it wouldn't --  
21 there's not a sustainable elk population on Zarembo.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any objections to  
24 the recommendation on that one.

25

26 (No objections)

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Don't see any, go  
29 ahead, DeAnna.

30

31 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
32 next proposal the working group talked about was  
33 Proposal 42 and that's on Page 3 of the document behind  
34 Tab 5 of your supplemental book. The working group  
35 suggested this Council support this proposal, which  
36 extended the deer season to December 31st in Unit 1A  
37 remainder. They felt this would provide more  
38 opportunity for people in Ketchikan, that they would be  
39 available to hunt basically in their own backyard  
40 instead of having to go to Prince of Wales. It would  
41 decrease the competition on Prince of Wales Island.  
42 Again, just allowing the hunters to stay in Ketchikan  
43 and take advantage of the additional opportunity  
44 locally.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any objection from  
47 the Council on our support for this proposal.

48

49 (No objections)

50

0478

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, don't see  
2 any, go ahead, DeAnna.

3  
4 MS. PERRY: The next proposal the  
5 working group looked at, Proposal 45, the working group  
6 suggested this Council oppose the proposal to raise the  
7 population objective from 150 to 200 wolves to 250 to  
8 350 wolves in Unit 2 and raise the threshold for  
9 closing the season from 100 to 200 wolves. The working  
10 group actually had a long discussion recognizing how  
11 this Council has worked for two years plus to come up  
12 with a management strategy kind of hand in hand with  
13 ADF&G. They want to continue to support ADF&G's  
14 management strategy. We believe the testimony and the  
15 traditional ecological knowledge that we've heard over  
16 the years and the last several meetings that the  
17 population of wolves is actually higher on Prince of  
18 Wales Island. The strategy is working and they would  
19 be pretty confident in supporting the current  
20 management strategy for the next several years because  
21 it's too soon to tell whether there's an issue with the  
22 new management strategy because by all accounts it  
23 looks to be working.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any comments.

26  
27 MR. CASIPIT: Is it oppose?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we opposed  
30 that. Any comments on that from the Council.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. It looks  
35 like we oppose that one.

36  
37 MS. PERRY: The next proposal was No.  
38 46. The working group suggested we also oppose this  
39 proposal for much the same reason. That proposal was  
40 to lengthen the hunting season for wolves in Unit 2 to  
41 open September 1. And, again, the working group felt  
42 this was not within the current management strategy and  
43 wanted to make sure that we supported ADF&G's current  
44 management strategy.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think we might  
47 have gotten 46 wrong there, DeAnna.

48  
49 MS. PERRY: Okay.

50

0479

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: This was not a  
2 trapping regulation, this was for hunting, and it was  
3 to lengthen the non-subsistence hunter season for  
4 wolves in Unit 2 and the rationale for this proposal  
5 was to better align State and Federal regulations.  
6 Right now the Federal regulation is for a longer  
7 hunting season and the proposal is to lengthen the  
8 subsistence -- or excuse me, the non-subsistence  
9 hunters opportunity in Unit 2. So that would affect  
10 non-subsistence users who would be hunting on State  
11 lands. Because right now they have a shorter season on  
12 State lands than Federal lands so if you align the two  
13 seasons then they -- non-subsistence hunters would have  
14 more opportunity as long as they're hunting on State  
15 land.

16  
17                   MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Mike.

20  
21                   MR. DOUVILLE: I believe that the  
22 trapping season limits are aligned but not the hunting  
23 so this would address that. But I believe that.....

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct.

26  
27                   MR. DOUVILLE: It seemed like.....

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, this is a  
30 hunting proposal for wolves so, you're right, right now  
31 we're not in alignment but this would bring us into  
32 alignment, that's correct. Yeah, actually I think we  
33 wanted to support that, DeAnna, was my understanding.

34  
35                   (Pause)

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll take a  
38 minute on this one to confirm that.

39  
40                   (Pause)

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

43  
44                   MS. NEEDHAM: Sorry, so we're -- what  
45 was the question, why we opposed it?

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, it was my  
48 understanding that we supported this one and DeAnna had  
49 it in her notes that we opposed it. I don't know if  
50

0480

1 you were taking notes but we're just trying to confirm  
2 what we did here.

3

4 MS. NEEDHAM: On my note I just said we  
5 should defer and discuss this with Member Douville on  
6 how he would handle it. But my inclination was that we  
7 were talking about grouping all of the wolf proposals  
8 and opposing any changes to that but I don't know about  
9 this one specifically.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: The other  
12 proposals all deal with trapping.....

13

14 MS. NEEDHAM: Right.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....but this is a  
17 hunting proposal so it's different in that respect. It  
18 doesn't have as much to do with -- the wolf management  
19 plan is much more geared towards trapping than hunting.

20

21 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah. I don't think the  
22 work group discussed it because when we talked about  
23 wolf we took that strategy and then we didn't  
24 necessarily come back to this one individually to talk  
25 about the hunting aspect of it. But I suggested we  
26 might want to make a comment on it but I wanted to hear  
27 what Member Douville thought about it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, that sounds  
30 right. Our discussion may have centered around the  
31 possibility of supporting it but we did want to talk to  
32 you, Mike, I guess, so, yeah, I guess the question is,  
33 you know, how much is the non-subsistence users hunting  
34 activity, you know, reflected in the wolf management  
35 plan, you know, I know the plan is primarily geared  
36 towards the trapping effort but I mean there is some  
37 effect of hunting, although it's small. And I guess  
38 I'm trying to gage here what the impacts would be if  
39 liberalizing the season for wolf hunters which -- I  
40 mean we know is fairly a small take. But, yeah, I  
41 don't know if you have an opinion on that.

42

43 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman. I am  
44 neutral on this one. It is not a big opportunity, you  
45 might get some or you might not even see any but then  
46 you might do okay. It's just a -- but I wouldn't  
47 expect the take from this hunt to be really that  
48 significant.

49

50

0481

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.  
2 I think that might be the best course, you know, given  
3 the complex ramifications, maybe we should just pass on  
4 this one, we don't have to make a recommendation on it,  
5 we could just let the Board hash it out. That's fine,  
6 yeah, that might be a good recommendation.

7  
8                   Go ahead.

9  
10                  MR. DOUVILLE: This would only affect  
11 State and private land.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Let's go on  
14 to the next one then, take that off the list.

15  
16                  MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you for that  
17 discussion, I appreciate that. The next proposal  
18 discussed was Proposal 47. The working group chose to  
19 recommend this Council oppose the proposal to require  
20 wolf harvest information be reported within 48 hours of  
21 recovery and sealing within 14 days in Unit 2. This  
22 Council actually put in a pretty good justification  
23 against a similar proposal from Board of Game a couple  
24 years ago so I will pull out that language. Again, the  
25 working group thought because of that, that they would  
26 suggest opposing the proposal. 48 hours was an  
27 unnecessary burden and, again, I would look for more  
28 information in our old justification that we have of  
29 record on this.

30  
31                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Do we have  
32 agreement on that rationale for that proposal.  
33 Proposal 47.

34  
35                  (No objections)

36  
37                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think we  
38 have consensus from the Council on that recommendation  
39 to oppose. What's the next one.

40  
41                  MS. PERRY: Okay. And then the next  
42 set we lumped together, Proposal 48 through 54, again,  
43 because we agree with the current management strategy.  
44 Proposal 48 was to change the methodology for setting  
45 the population objective for wolves in Unit 2.  
46 Proposal 49 was to utilize the lower confidence  
47 interval of the wolf population for estimating the  
48 population in Unit 2. Proposal 50 was to establish  
49 estimate and harvest limit based on Prince of Wales  
50



0482

1 Island wolf population that excludes extrapolation from  
2 outer islands in Unit 2. Proposal 51 was to establish  
3 a percentage of the Unit 2 wolf population that can be  
4 harvested on a sustainable basis. Develop a harvest  
5 quota each season. Require in-season reporting.  
6 Provide the harvest to the public in real-time, and  
7 allow three days notice before closing the season by  
8 emergency order. Proposal 52 was to establish a  
9 harvest quota for wolves between 25 and 30 percent of  
10 the estimated wolf population in Unit 2. Proposal 53  
11 was to establish an estimated unreported mortality rate  
12 for Unit 2 wolves to be used for establishing the  
13 harvest quota. And Proposal 54 was to identify an area  
14 in Unit 2 for protected status for wolves.

15

16 Again, the working group remembered all  
17 the work that it had done with ADF&G when moving from  
18 the recommendation to manage wolves from a harvest  
19 quota to a population estimate or objective and so,  
20 again, wanting to support that work and ADF&G's current  
21 management policy the Council chose to -- the working  
22 group suggested the Council oppose all of those  
23 proposals as one group.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Do we have  
28 agreement from the Council on our recommendation there  
29 to oppose these. Mike, go ahead.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: I totally agree. This  
32 has been a long process and it involved several  
33 meetings with the locals, TEK, it just didn't  
34 materialize out of thin air, a lot of thought and  
35 effort went into these regulations we're working under  
36 right now and I believe that the Department is doing  
37 better with their assessments in the last couple of  
38 years, I mean there's a learning curve to all this, you  
39 don't come to the island and become a wolf expert in a  
40 year or two, it takes times, and I believe that it is  
41 bearing fruit. It's looking a bit more solid as we go  
42 along and I hope that down the road that it continues  
43 to do so. So I am in opposition to these proposals  
44 that would put a skewer in everything and change the  
45 direction and we need to give the -- we need to give  
46 enough time for the system that we have in place to  
47 work and it is working and we need to continue that for  
48 at least -- for awhile.

49

50

0483

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.  
2 I think that's good to get on the record so appreciate  
3 that. Any other thoughts from the Council on our  
4 recommendations here.

5  
6                   (No comments)

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And I  
9 believe those are the last proposals, is that right,  
10 DeAnna.

11  
12                   MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. That  
13 concludes the work that the working group did earlier  
14 today, thank you.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So at this  
17 point I guess what would be required is a motion from  
18 the Council to approve these recommendations and send  
19 them to the Board of Game. That would be one motion.  
20 We probably should also have a motion that would  
21 request that somebody on the Council get funding and  
22 support from Staff to attend that meeting in January.  
23 So what's the Council's wishes here.

24  
25                   (Teleconference interference -  
26 participants not muted)

27  
28                   MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cal.

31  
32                   MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, I'll take care  
33 of the first one first. I move to approve the  
34 recommendations that we just discussed and send those  
35 recommendations to the Board of Game for their January  
36 meeting.

37  
38                   MR. KITKA: Second.

39  
40                   MR. HOWARD: I'll second, Mr. Chair,  
41 this is Albert.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
44 we have a motion and a second. Any other discussion on  
45 this motion.

46  
47                   (No comments)

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, motion to  
50

0484

1 approve the recommendations on the wildlife proposals  
2 and send them to the Board of Game. All in favor say  
3 aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
8 opposed say no.

9  
10 (No opposing votes)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
13 Another motion is needed here to.....

14  
15 MR. CASIPIT: I'm not sure I want to  
16 make a motion yet but I just wanted to ask Mike if  
17 you'd be available to go to that. I know you're the --  
18 It seems to me that wolves will be taking up a major  
19 portion of this agenda and you are our wolf expert and  
20 I don't want to put you on the spot but if you were  
21 available to do that.

22  
23 MR. DOUVILLE: I can't say that I'll be  
24 available but I have other avenues to -- I'm on the  
25 Craig AC and I'm also going to encourage the Craig  
26 Tribal Association to comment. I am fully authorized  
27 to speak on behalf of the Craig Tribe on matters of  
28 wolf and sea otter so there's a good possibility I'd be  
29 available but I can't guarantee it.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If I could add to  
32 that. Given what Mike just said, probably a good  
33 chance that he might be there representing another  
34 organization which would, if that were the case, it  
35 would open up the possibility of us maybe designating  
36 somebody else in the other area that we -- a lot of  
37 these proposals deal with is Unit 4 and I don't know if  
38 somebody, a resident of Unit 4 might want to volunteer,  
39 accept a nomination to attend the meeting. And like I  
40 said, we don't have to have a specific person, I don't  
41 think designated right now, if we just say that we will  
42 send somebody maybe we can set that later, I'll put  
43 that question to DeAnna.

44  
45 MS. PERRY: Yeah, Mr. Chair, you do  
46 need to select someone at this meeting.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

49  
50

0485

1 MS. PERRY: You could select someone  
2 and select an alternate. And, again, just as a  
3 reminder the meeting is January 20th through the 24th,  
4 just to consider that on your calendars.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Where is it?

7  
8 MS. PERRY: It will be in Ketchikan.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right here in  
11 Ketchikan. Okay, so we do need a name. I don't know,  
12 I guess I'll ask for any volunteers first or  
13 suggestions or, Albert, we'll include you in this if  
14 you want to -- hopefully you're still there and  
15 listening.

16  
17 MR. HOWARD: I'm still here Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: What was that,  
20 Albert?

21  
22 MR. HOWARD: I was letting you know I  
23 was still here, Mr. Chairman.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good to  
26 know. John, were you -- did you have your hand up?

27  
28 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I would put the  
29 efforts up if that's what the group would like.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, so you would  
32 accept the nomination to attend, is that right, John,  
33 are you accepting -- you say you'd be available to  
34 attend?

35  
36 MR. SMITH: I would, yes, if that's the  
37 wishes of the team, yeah.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So are we  
40 ready for a motion, and I guess there was another  
41 suggestion of suggesting an alternate as well, just in  
42 case. Cathy.

43  
44 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I wanted  
45 to ask Mr. Howard if he was available. We did talk  
46 about potentially sending someone from Unit 4 and there  
47 are Unit 4 proposals from the Board of Game and if he's  
48 available I think he would be also an option to either  
49 be a primary or an alternate person on that list.

50

0486

1 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, I can be an  
2 alternate.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
5 Albert.

6  
7 MR. HOWARD: I'm kind of thinking --  
8 Mr. Chairman, to be honest I was thinking Ian Johnson  
9 with all his work. Because him and I had a  
10 conversation earlier when he was starting his project  
11 and I thought that that's a good pilot project and  
12 maybe we could turn that into something like co-  
13 management with the State so I think he should be  
14 considered as well, if he could go.

15  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: He's nodding his  
19 head no.

20  
21 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I appreciate it,  
22 but I will not be a Council member by that time so  
23 thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, that  
26 makes a difference. Are we ready for a motion.

27  
28 Mike.

29  
30 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm not ready to make a  
31 motion but I was going to clarify something. That I do  
32 belong to the AC and I am a CTA tribal member with full  
33 power of representation on -- but I was not making any  
34 decision for them but I do sit on those two groups, so  
35 I wasn't making any preconceived assumptions for them  
36 at all, okay.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that's a  
39 good point. Yeah, you'd probably still have to have  
40 those discussions with those groups before you kind of  
41 had a position on these, I guess, right?

42  
43 MR. DOUVILLE: That's right.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good.

46  
47 MR. DOUVILLE: That is correct.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
50

0487

1 that's good to know. So are we ready for a motion with  
2 that clarification from Mr. Douville.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thinking about the  
7 details here.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're making sure  
12 we get the proper wording to the motion here, I think,  
13 so standby unless anybody has a suggestion. DeAnna, do  
14 you have something to add.

15

16 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I just wanted  
17 to, again, take an opportunity for our new Council  
18 members who might not understand the process. When we  
19 send anyone to like a Board of Game or Board of Fish  
20 meeting we also -- that's always contingent on funding  
21 available from the Office of Subsistence Management so  
22 as part of the nomination for someone to attend the  
23 meeting we also couple that with a funding request  
24 letter to Office of Subsistence Management because if  
25 they cannot provide funding, we cannot send anyone. So  
26 I just wanted to, again, let our new Council members  
27 know a little bit more about that process.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Cathy.

30

31 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
32 struggle how to put the nomination of who we're sending  
33 as the primary and then the alternate and then the  
34 funding all in one kind of motion and it seems like --  
35 I don't know it just seems easier to break it up a  
36 little bit. But, yeah, one minute.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I suppose  
39 it could be broken up.

40

41 MS. NEEDHAM: It can?

42

43 MS. PERRY: Sure.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I would say  
46 so, go ahead, Cathy.

47

48 MS. NEEDHAM: All right. I move that  
49 we send one representative from the Southeast RAC to

50

0488

1 the Board of Game meeting in January 2023 and that that  
2 includes funding from the Office of Subsistence  
3 Management.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We do have  
6 to name -- we do have to designate individuals is what  
7 DeAnna told me.

8

9 MS. NEEDHAM: You said I could break it  
10 up.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry, okay.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I see where  
17 you're going with this, okay.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So the  
24 motion was to send a representative and an alternate  
25 and to request funding, that was motion No. 1. So  
26 everybody clear on that, any further discussion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. All in  
31 favor say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
36 say no.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that motion  
41 passes. Now, the other motion which I was I guess  
42 anticipating would be the first motion but go ahead.

43

44 MS. NEEDHAM: I nominate John Smith to  
45 be the primary and Albert Howard to be the alternate to  
46 represent the Southeast Regional Advisory Council's  
47 comments at the Board of Game.

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

50

0489

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a  
2 motion and a second. Any further discussion.

3  
4                   MR. WRIGHT: Question.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question's been  
7 called for. All in favor of sending John Smith as a  
8 representative and Albert Howard as an alternate to the  
9 Board of Game meeting say aye.

10  
11                   IN UNISON: Aye.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
14 say no.

15  
16                   (No opposing votes)

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We got that  
19 one settled. And I need to take a quick break here,  
20 and probably everybody else does too, let's make this a  
21 10 minute break, if we could be back at 5:15. I'll  
22 consult with our Coordinator here on the rest of the  
23 agenda, I think there's some items that are on the  
24 agenda that could be moved to our next meeting but we  
25 still have letters to authorize for sure and we have to  
26 set our next meeting date, that's a requirement. So  
27 keep those two things in mind and be back in 10  
28 minutes.

29  
30                   (Off record)

31  
32                   (On record)

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, everybody we  
35 need to reconvene here. We've got a little bit of a  
36 time deadline staring us in the face here and I'll  
37 explain that in just a second. So Council members  
38 let's get back to business here.

39  
40                   (Pause)

41  
42                   MS. NEEDHAM: Do you want me to  
43 whistle.

44  
45                   REPORTER: Sure. Yes.

46  
47                   (Whistle)

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I wasn't  
50



0490

1 expecting that. Okay, thank you everybody. Yeah, we  
2 still have a couple of action items to get through here  
3 this afternoon and we do have kind of a deadline  
4 staring us in the face here because, did you say it's  
5 6:15 or 6:30?

6  
7 MS. PERRY: 6:15.

8  
9 MS. NEEDHAM: 6:15.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: 6:15, we have four  
12 Council members that are going to be leaving us because  
13 they have jet reservations on the flight back to Juneau  
14 tonight, so after 6:15 unless we have a commitment from  
15 at least one Council member who's on the phone, and I  
16 know Albert was there, and Albert I hope you're still  
17 there, I don't know if Jim is there, but we will lose a  
18 quorum unless we still have that one person on the  
19 telephone at 6:15. So are you still there, Albert?

20  
21 MR. HOWARD: I'm still here, Mr.  
22 Chairman.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good, thank you,  
25 Albert. I think we'll be good then. Okay, and we are  
26 going to eliminate agency reports. DeAnna checked with  
27 everybody and most of that stuff can be moved to our  
28 spring meeting when hopefully we'll have more time, but  
29 there are a couple of kind of report items that are  
30 brief that we do want to include and then we're going  
31 to finalize our letters, pick our dates for our next  
32 meeting and then we can adjourn.

33  
34 So, DeAnna, a couple of those.....

35  
36 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair, this is Jim.  
37 I'm sorry to interrupt but I was here, I was on mute  
38 trying to answer you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, good, thanks  
41 Jim. I think we'll be fine then if we have to go past  
42 6:15. So, DeAnna, what are those report items that you  
43 wanted to inform us about.

44  
45 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I  
46 think we were talking about some correspondence items.  
47 I think we might first want to revisit the indigenous  
48 co-management letter. Everybody should have a copy of  
49 the second draft that was given to you, we just need to  
50

0491

1 confirm that that's okay to send after the edits were  
2 made.

3

4 MR. SLATER: DeAnna, was it emailed to  
5 us guys on the phone?

6

7 MS. PERRY: Mr. Slater, I forgot to do  
8 that so my apologies. I can send it to you and Albert  
9 now.

10

11 MR. SLATER: Thanks.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So standby while  
16 DeAnna takes care of those emails and then you guys  
17 have a few minutes to read through that because we'll  
18 do a couple of brief little report items here that we  
19 want to inform the Council about before we get into any  
20 other discussions.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. Mr.  
25 Slater and Mr. Howard, again, apologies that I didn't  
26 send that out sooner but I just sent it so you should  
27 be getting it shortly. Mr. Chair, as we wait for them  
28 to receive that and maybe have a moment to look it  
29 over, would you like me to go ahead and take care of a  
30 few of the other report items?

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, that would be  
33 good, go ahead.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Members of the Council. For the record, again, my name  
37 is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the Southeast  
38 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

39

40 I would like to reiterate the  
41 appreciation that our Regional Forester earlier gave at  
42 the beginning of the meeting and thank all the Council  
43 members for your volunteer service on the Council and  
44 on behalf of the Federally-qualified subsistence users  
45 in your region. Your knowledge and experience is of  
46 great value to the Federal Subsistence Management  
47 Program. The Program constantly continues to work on  
48 having robust Councils with full membership and at the  
49 request of the Board we're going to engage the help of  
50

0492

1 the Native liaisons of Federal agencies in helping us  
2 to solicit more applications during this appointment  
3 cycle. And we're also requesting you, Council members  
4 to help, because you are the connection to the  
5 communities in the region that you represent.

6  
7 The 2023 Council application period  
8 opened on September 13th. We are encouraging you to  
9 help us spread the word about it in your region and  
10 recruit new applicants. You know the people in your  
11 region and you can also share first-hand experience of  
12 what it means to serve on the Council, how much time it  
13 takes, what's involved. You can also nominate  
14 candidates if someone is interested in applying but is  
15 having a hard time filling out an application. The  
16 application packets are available on our website, for  
17 those listening on the phone, if you go to  
18 [www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions), then you'll actually  
19 have to click on the regions tab on the blue bar as  
20 it's on the regions page, but it doesn't appear as a  
21 drop-down option if you just hover over the regions  
22 tab. We also have a number of application packets here  
23 at the meeting that we will give to each of the Council  
24 members, you have that in your folders. Please take  
25 those back to your communities, take a handful back to  
26 your communities and hand them out to interested  
27 persons, organizations and tribes. Additionally, we're  
28 mailing out about a thousand copies of the application  
29 packets to various addresses across the state. If  
30 someone needs a copy to be faxed to them, we can do  
31 that as well. We're hoping to have a good number of  
32 qualified applicants applying this year so that we are  
33 able to fill all vacant seats across the region and we  
34 can even have alternates available for situations when  
35 Council members resign, move out of the region or pass  
36 away. I would really appreciate your help with  
37 recruitment this year. The application period is open  
38 until February 21st of next year.

39  
40 I also encourage all of the incumbents  
41 on our Council to reapply. You can do that before you  
42 depart from this meeting, I think I've already sent out  
43 incumbent applications to folks. This way you will not  
44 need to mail your incumbent application. All  
45 incumbents whose seats expire on December 2nd will need  
46 to reapply during this cycle. And in the Southeast we  
47 have four seats open for appointment or reappointment  
48 come December 2nd. And as most of us know there has  
49 been delay in appointments the last couple of years and  
50

0493

1 I would just note that we did have a recent charter  
2 change which allows for continuance of service. So for  
3 instance if we have not received new appointments by  
4 December 2nd, those folks whose seats would expire on  
5 December 2nd can continue to serve until the  
6 Secretaries make a formal appointment.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
11 DeAnna. Any questions from the Council on the process  
12 -- nomination process.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
17 DeAnna. There's one other item there that you wanted  
18 to inform us about -- I don't know, maybe not but I'll  
19 check.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 Actually I think this is Mr. Vickers who is going to  
23 tell the Council about virtual Council meeting costs.  
24 Are you available to do that, Brent, if not I can come  
25 back for an encore if you're not available, I do have  
26 the talking points.

27

28 MR. VICKERS: If you want to, I don't  
29 have them.

30

31 MS. PERRY: Okay, no worries.

32

33 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

34

35 MS. PERRY: I can go ahead and present  
36 it. I'll give you information on how you can get  
37 reimbursed. If any of the Council members have any  
38 telephonic or internet expenses associated with your  
39 participation in Council meetings over the last two and  
40 a half years, the materials for this agenda item are in  
41 your supplemental materials book behind Tab 4. This  
42 issue was brought up to the Board's attention by the  
43 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council during their winter 2022  
44 meeting. OSM reviewed the policies regarding  
45 reimbursement and I would like to provide you with  
46 information on the types of expenses that may be  
47 reimbursed and the documentation necessary to receive  
48 reimbursement.

49

50

1                   For the time period when the Council  
2 members [sic] were held via teleconference, or in our  
3 case, videoconference, you can be reimbursed for  
4 internet and phone charges that are in excess of your  
5 normal bill. Council members who have internet or  
6 cellular plans that charge a flat monthly fee that they  
7 pay regardless of how much usage, they cannot be  
8 reimbursed unless it is over normal charges. So if it  
9 is a flat fee, there would not be any overages. In  
10 order for Council members to receive reimbursement for  
11 excess charges you would need to submit a copy of your  
12 bill that covers the time period during which the  
13 virtual Council meeting took place, indicate the excess  
14 charges for attending the virtual meeting and then the  
15 Council members can submit that information to myself  
16 or mail your bills to the Office of Subsistence  
17 Management and I can provide you with that mailing  
18 address.

19  
20                   So that concludes my presentation on  
21 that, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
24 DeAnna. Any questions on that item.

25  
26                   (No comments)

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
29 So next item of business is approving our letters that  
30 the Council would like to send out. So we have three  
31 letters that have been proposed. I'll tell you the  
32 three that I'm thinking of and if I missed anything,  
33 that anybody else wanted to send a letter on, please  
34 let us know and we can deal with that as well. But we  
35 have to approve our indigenous co-management letter.

36  
37                   (Teleconference interference -  
38 participants not muted)

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Send that to the  
41 Board. Another letter is we want to send a letter that  
42 would hopefully go to the Department of State and that  
43 letter would have to pass through the Board and the  
44 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture requesting them  
45 to forward that letter on to Department of State. That  
46 has to do with the transboundary mining issue, and, you  
47 know, that's the letter that we sent several years ago  
48 and it never got responded to so I guess the proposal  
49 there is to essentially take the points out of that  
50

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1 original letter. There is a few additions based on  
2 events that have happened since that time to be added  
3 to that letter and then we make the request that  
4 eventually that letter would go to Department of State.  
5 So that's letter number 2.

6  
7 Third letter is for this Council to  
8 generate its own letter that is somewhat in line with  
9 what the four other Regional Councils have sent in  
10 regard to trawl bycatch and that letter would go  
11 through the Board and ask them to forward it to the  
12 North Pacific Fishery Management Council. So we have  
13 some -- well, I guess what we would do there is take a  
14 close look at the letter from the other RACs, pull out  
15 bullet points that we have common interest in and then  
16 there might be a couple others that we may want to add  
17 more specific to our region.

18  
19 So those are the three letters I have.  
20 Anybody else have any other letters that they propose  
21 to send that I missed in my notes.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think  
26 we've got three to work with here. Let's start with  
27 the indigenous co-management letter which was  
28 distributed at lunchtime. For the benefit of everybody  
29 it's the one that looks like this, it's got our Council  
30 logo on the top and then there's a list of, what, five  
31 agencies that it's going to go to on the front cover  
32 and then the letter is behind that, and it was just --  
33 like I say, it's not the one in the book, the original  
34 draft, this is a new draft that was kind of put  
35 together based on the conversation we had on Tuesday.  
36 So it was handed out at lunchtime while we were at  
37 lunch.

38  
39 So, Cathy.

40  
41 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
42 move to submit the SERAC Council's position statement  
43 for indigenous management of natural resources to the  
44 Federal Subsistence Board.

45  
46 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
49 So we have a motion on the floor to submit the letter  
50

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1 so that gives us the opportunity to start discussion on  
2 what's in the letter and make sure it's what we intend  
3 to send. So, Cathy, go ahead.

4

5 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6 You know this Council at this meeting spent a bunch of  
7 time talking about this on our first day and I reviewed  
8 the letter that was given to us and I think that the  
9 recommendations of additions to that letter and stuff  
10 were captured really well and I didn't find anything in  
11 there that was concerning. I think that the indigenous  
12 work group -- the indigenous co-management work group  
13 did a stellar job and I think that with those edits I'm  
14 pretty -- I'm ready to vote to send it and move to the  
15 next agenda item.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
18 Any other input from the Council on this. Ian, go  
19 ahead.

20

21 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks. I think just one  
22 minor addition, maybe for me, would be, I think we  
23 discussed in the definition of co-management to include  
24 State agencies in there among partners and it's not in  
25 there now so I think that would be a fairly minor  
26 addition. And then on Page 3, second paragraph, the --  
27 it's listed as SeaCoast Indigenous Guardians Network  
28 Project, but it's actually just Indigenous Guardians  
29 Network so I just wanted to make sure that that was  
30 named correctly, a simple correction.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ian.  
33 DeAnna, do you have a question.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Not a question, I just  
36 wanted to address Ian's comment about Seacoast, I was  
37 advised by our tribal relations specialist that they  
38 are now going by the name SeaCoastIndigeneous Guardians  
39 Management to differentiate themselves between the  
40 Indigenous Guardians Management from B.C., in British  
41 Columbia, but I can confirm that before we send the  
42 letter out. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Hopefully  
45 that clarifies that. So, yeah, this is an opportunity,  
46 you know, as Ian mentioned, maybe something was missed,  
47 like the inclusion of the State agencies, I think, in  
48 that definition, so if anybody saw anything else like  
49 that that might have been missed in this draft, like I  
50

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1 say, hopefully you're having a chance to look it over,  
2 but, yeah, as Cathy said I think we did a pretty good  
3 job of capturing all the input we had on Tuesday.

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
8 Albert.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Albert, go ahead,  
11 and then Patty Phillips has something. So go ahead,  
12 Albert.

13

14 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
15 know the State agencies need to be included but they're  
16 already managing the resource, I think what we're  
17 asking for is to be co-managers with the State agencies  
18 so I think it should be worded that way.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
23 I think that's a good suggestion. DeAnna, are you  
24 adding that. Patty, go ahead.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
27 just wanted to state that this is very superior work  
28 and thank you, thank you very much for the effort from  
29 the work committee to bring this before us.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
34 Like I say, there was a lot of input from the rest of  
35 the Council as well. So anybody else with anything  
36 they want to address on this letter.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, question has  
43 been called for. So we have a motion to approve this  
44 draft letter and make it a letter from the Council  
45 going to Office of Subsistence Management, Regional  
46 Office of U.S. Forest Service, Dave Schmidt, Tongass  
47 Forest Supervisor, Earl Stewart, National Park Service  
48 Alaska Region, Regional Director Sarah Creachbaum,  
49 National Park Service Glacier Bay Superintendent Philip  
50



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1 Hooge, Commissioner ADF&G, and I guess we have a  
2 question mark on the Governor, can we send it to the  
3 Governor, but it does go through the Board first before  
4 it gets forwarded to any of these other people. So I  
5 guess I'll leave that as a question as to whether or  
6 not it can go to the Governor and the Commissioner of  
7 ADF&G.

8

9 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty.

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Is the director of BIA,  
14 is -- I thought they were on the Board, no?

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So it's going to  
17 the Board as well, right, I mean that's the first stop.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Oh, I see, okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: The first stop is  
22 the Board and then we requested they send copies to  
23 these other people, I guess.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think  
28 that's the way it's supposed to work, is that correct,  
29 DeAnna?

30

31 MS. PERRY: Yeah, Mr. Chair, in the CC  
32 line on the last page you'll see Federal Subsistence  
33 Board, that's how they'll get a copy of it. And also  
34 of note, this Council expressed a desire for a copy of  
35 this letter of intent and their position statement to  
36 also be shared with all the other regions, so they're  
37 listed there as well. We also have Ben Mulligan,  
38 Deputy Commissioner, and Mark Burch, Special Projects  
39 Coordinator from ADF&G as well as the InterAgency Staff  
40 and, of course, all of you as members will get a copy  
41 as well.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
46 I didn't want to muddle the motion there but I'll  
47 restate the motion. The motion is to approve this  
48 letter as a letter from the Council. It goes to the  
49 Board with copies going to numerous other agencies and  
50

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1 individuals. So all in favor of the motion signify by  
2 saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
7 opposed say no.

8

9 (No opposing votes)

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Got that  
12 one settled. So now the other two letters may still  
13 take a little bit of work. Let's go to the letter that  
14 we propose to send to the -- eventually it'll end up at  
15 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Of  
16 course it'll also go through the Board and asking them  
17 to forward. And this is the letter that we will  
18 generate from the Southeast RAC that will go along with  
19 the letter from four other RACs, that's the Yukon  
20 Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior, Eastern Interior and  
21 Seward Peninsula Regional Councils.

22

23 So like I say this one might require a  
24 little bit of work. So at some point we have to use  
25 this as kind of a model, I guess, to be consistent. We  
26 can use some of their wording. We've already got some  
27 suggestions so maybe I'll just start digging into that  
28 now.

29

30 These Councils -- on the first  
31 paragraph, write to you to request a significant  
32 reduction in chinook and chum salmon bycatch, of course  
33 they say the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, ours would  
34 say Gulf of Alaska, and their primary concern is with  
35 chinook and chum, but we might suggest including all  
36 salmon species as bycatch, it might be expecting some  
37 of the other species in Southeast Alaska. So that's a  
38 suggested change. And to request subsistence  
39 representation on the North Pacific Fishery Management  
40 Council. That's a pretty important ask there. All the  
41 Councils should be requesting subsistence  
42 representation on the North Pacific Fisheries  
43 Management Council. Councils will further request the  
44 Federal Subsistence Board elevate the concerns  
45 expressed in this letter to the Secretary of Commerce.  
46 So, you know, National Marine Fisheries Service is  
47 under Commerce not Agriculture or Interior, so we have  
48 to make that same request like we did in our other  
49 letter to forward it to a different cabinet department,  
50

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1 so that is important in the letter, I believe. Then,  
2 you know, where they talk about their various  
3 communities, we would probably have wording reflecting  
4 the communities here in Southeast Alaska, or all of  
5 Southeast Alaska probably.

6  
7 They quote passages from Title VIII of  
8 ANILCA, that would give Councils the authority to do  
9 this and their charters so we would include that.  
10 That's paragraph number 2. Nothing would be different  
11 there for this Council other than the locations.

12  
13 Next paragraph, you know, we would kind  
14 of reflect that on our meeting and the discussions we  
15 had about salmon bycatch.

16  
17 Of course the next paragraph is pretty  
18 specific to, you know, the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.  
19 We might talk about how salmon bycatch, you know,  
20 affects Southeast fisheries. And maybe I'll throw this  
21 out there, I thought maybe something that Southeast  
22 Alaska might want to include is bycatch on halibut,  
23 that's kind of been an issue in the past. So I'll just  
24 maybe take a minute here and see if the Council would  
25 agree that we should include halibut bycatch. I don't  
26 think that's mentioned for the northern RAC.

27  
28 Any comments there.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We all good with  
33 that.

34  
35 (Council nods affirmatively)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Next  
38 paragraph kind of deals with the extent of the salmon  
39 bycatches so they focus on chinook and chum, of course.  
40 If we would include a paragraph like that we would have  
41 to do a little research on what some of the other  
42 bycatch species are if we want to include that  
43 paragraph. I guess we'll kind of leave that -- Council  
44 members might want to comment on that.

45  
46 And, Harvey, I see you have something  
47 to say, go ahead.

48  
49 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

50

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1 know this is not added to any of the records or  
2 anything but the bycatch on forage fish throughout, not  
3 only the Bering Sea but the Gulf of Alaska is affecting  
4 a lot of things.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, Harvey,  
7 yeah, I think we should include that. Any other  
8 suggestions.

9

10 Patty, go ahead.

11

12 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. That last  
13 sentence, if subsistence fishers cannot harvest a  
14 single salmon then the billion dollar commercial  
15 fishery should have stricter salmon conservation  
16 measures enacted. I mean the way they have it written,  
17 it's like the Commfish should enact stricter measures  
18 or, you know, the commercial fisheries should enact  
19 stricter measures but it's the North Pacific Council  
20 who would enact the measures, and then the commercial  
21 fisheries would have to comply. But maybe we don't  
22 want to add that, I don't know.

23

24 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is  
25 Albert.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: Page 2, second  
28 paragraph, last sentence.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry, we'll get  
31 to you in just a minute, Albert. What was your  
32 suggestion there, Patty.

33

34 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, the way it's -- it  
35 just needs a little bit of wordsmithing. To me it  
36 reads the billion -- it says now: The billion dollar  
37 commercial fisheries should also enact stricter salmon  
38 conservation measures but it's the North Pacific  
39 Council that does the enacting. I mean right now the  
40 commercial fisheries is taking -- under the current  
41 regulations is taking as much as its taking. I mean  
42 it's not enacting nothing, it's the over -- you know  
43 the governing body that should be doing more to enact.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I follow you  
46 there.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.

49

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There's no mention  
2 of the governing body in that paragraph.

3  
4                   MS. PHILLIPS: Right. Correct.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, yeah, I think  
7 that does need to be included DeAnna. That's a good  
8 catch Patty. Albert, what did you have to add.

9  
10                   MR. HOWARD: It was along the same  
11 lines as Patty. But the thing I was thinking about  
12 today and the other day was these guys don't have to be  
13 a part of the Treaty negotiations when the rest of us  
14 have to go there and justify why we need so much,  
15 they're just allowed to dump it back overboard and call  
16 it good. I know if that, in itself, bothers me, I mean  
17 as subsistence users and residents of Alaska we have to  
18 go there as part of the Treaty negotiations, maybe we  
19 need another letter to tell them they should show up  
20 and justify their bycatch and what they're dumping  
21 overboard to the B.C. government. I don't know.

22  
23                   Thanks, Mr. Chair.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.  
26 Yeah, that issue of the International Treaty, I'm not  
27 too familiar with that so maybe that'll take a little  
28 research but it certainly -- we'll certainly take a  
29 note of it and investigate that a little more I think,  
30 possibly. Does that sound.....

31  
32                   MS. PERRY: Okay.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....like a good  
35 idea. And, John, did you.....

36  
37                   MR. SMITH: Just a -- I guess a  
38 question, or even a comment that, you know, you were  
39 talking about salmon on the bycatch but also halibut,  
40 but I'm just thinking of crab and sharks and all these  
41 other things that come up when they're catching.  
42 They're catching almost everything so, you know, what's  
43 happening -- even seals and other things. So just a  
44 thought.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I don't know  
47 if we've gotten to that in this letter yet but there  
48 was some suggestions about the harm that the trawl  
49 industry does to habitat and other species on the  
50

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1 bottom as well such as crab, so that is a  
2 consideration. It may be in this letter, we just  
3 haven't gotten to it yet, but we'll add it if we don't.  
4 So okay. Any other comments thus far.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's a fairly  
9 lengthy letter. So next paragraph deals with a  
10 request, salmon bycatch, they say the Bering Sea trawl  
11 fisheries be significantly reduced below levels  
12 currently authorized by the North Pacific Fishery  
13 Management Council. Councils recommend that bycatch be  
14 immediately reduced. Let's see let's kind of go  
15 through here. That paragraph is essentially asking for  
16 some significant decreases in the bycatch.

17

18 Anybody else has any thoughts on this  
19 just chime in.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think there was  
24 some -- might be some discussion as, you know, they  
25 have a lot of specific asks that, you know, affects  
26 their regions and it was also kind of a thought that we  
27 may just want to also, you know, add a paragraph that  
28 our Council supports their Councils and their efforts  
29 to protect their fisheries as well. That might be a  
30 good idea.

31

32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm seeing some  
35 agreement on that. Because they have a lot of specific  
36 issues in here and we could just support them in that.  
37 That's probably a good idea. Is there agreement on  
38 that?

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

41

42 (Council nods affirmatively)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Have  
45 agreement on that, thank you. So the next paragraph  
46 deals for that need for subsistence representation on  
47 the North Pacific Management Council. And I think that  
48 paragraph would probably be the same as what our  
49 Council would want. I think we could probably mirror  
50

0504

1 that wording.

2

3

John, you have a comment.

4

5

MR. SMITH: Yeah, this might be way off  
6 but just thinking about all that by -- the bycatch and  
7 what do they do with that bycatch. And even though  
8 they catch it and it's dead, doesn't mean that it's not  
9 -- you can't preserve it and you can't process it, just  
10 make note they can process all that. But something --  
11 what can we make them do besides throw it over, their  
12 bycatch, or a certain percent of it, maybe three-  
13 quarters of it or half of it is processed on their  
14 ship, boxed and everything and then dropped off at all  
15 the different communities for free, I mean because of  
16 the -- I mean I'm just thinking it just kills me the  
17 idea of them dumping that much or what are they doing  
18 with it but, you know, they're processing and they're  
19 profiting off of it, and maybe there's a percent of  
20 that they can give back to the people because of the --  
21 the heavy kind of fishing that it is, the darkness of  
22 that fishing, yeah. Just a thought. Just how do we  
23 manage it.

24

25

26

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And I know I've  
heard discussion on that and I don't know where it's  
gone. But that could probably be a suggestion added  
into the letter to find out a way to -- or figure out a  
way to, yeah, essentially not waste the bycatch. I'm  
trying to remember, I did hear something on that  
recently -- oh, yeah, kind of the previous  
recommendation from the Council to the trawl industry  
was to find creative solutions to this issue, and that  
might be one of those creative solutions that might  
help.

So, okay, anybody else on that topic.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're good. And  
then they kind of go to their conclusion and we could  
probably craft some words that would be appropriate for  
our Council in a way of a conclusion, I think we could  
do that. I don't know if there's any suggestions  
there, in that last paragraph.

(No comments)

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1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So I just see  
2 here, John, just reading through this it says, this  
3 acknowledgement is very important, however, even if  
4 subsistence communities were to receive some economic  
5 relief for the loss of the food that we have suffered,  
6 no amount of money can possibly replace the millions of  
7 pounds of healthy subsistence salmon we rely on to  
8 survive. Yeah, I don't know if that would be the same  
9 for us or not but probably not. I don't know, any  
10 thoughts on that.

11  
12                   MS. PHILLIPS: Could you say that  
13 again.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I guess they  
16 talked about, or maybe it's been suggested, you know,  
17 that there might be some ways for the subsistence  
18 communities to receive some economic benefit from the  
19 loss of this bycatch but they kind of reject that idea  
20 as being insignificant in comparison to what's been  
21 lost.

22  
23                   I don't know if anybody has any  
24 thoughts on that conclusion.

25  
26                   (No comments)

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we can  
29 probably mirror that in some way. Ian, go ahead.

30  
31                   MR. JOHNSON: I would just include that  
32 we expect a response. They don't explicitly ask for it  
33 so I think we should just make sure to include that in  
34 there.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
37 suggestions.

38  
39                   (No comments)

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So we kind  
42 of got a proposed letter here with bullet points that  
43 need to be fleshed out. That's fairly typical that the  
44 Council kind of, you know, expresses all their ideas on  
45 a subject and in this instance we have an example to go  
46 by because we're kind of supporting other Councils so  
47 we have that available to us and what we usually do is  
48 kind of allow our Staff to maybe consult with probably  
49 myself on this, I don't know if anybody else, and as  
50



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1 long as the Council approves the concepts and ideas we  
2 talked about here and we can flesh out the wording and  
3 it would have the approval of the Council is the normal  
4 procedure.

5

6 So, Ian, you had a question and then  
7 Patty.

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I just thought of  
10 one more. They reference their fisheries disaster  
11 declarations but I think it'd be worth talking about  
12 not making escapement in Taku and Chilkat and just kind  
13 of paint the picture of where things are at here.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Another good  
16 suggestion, thank you, that's relevant.

17

18 Patty.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
21 Chair. You know the drastic measures that was taken,  
22 you know, by the Board of Fish on salmon. But I also  
23 want to state that the National Fisheries Management  
24 Program under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Section .301,  
25 National standards for fisheries conservation and  
26 management, 104-297109-4798; conservation and  
27 management measures shall, consistent with the  
28 conservation requirements of this Act, including the  
29 prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished  
30 stocks take into account the importance of fishery  
31 resources to fishing communities by utilizing economic  
32 and social data that meet the requirements of Paragraph  
33 2 in order to, A, provide for the sustained  
34 participation of such communities and, B, to the extent  
35 practicable minimize adverse economic impacts on such  
36 communities.

37

38 You know me, I like to put, you know,  
39 the actual law into our justifications. I mean we are  
40 an affected community and, you know, they're not taking  
41 into consideration, you know, the overreach that  
42 harvest is having on us as communities.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good suggestion.  
45 DeAnna, were you able to capture that, do you need the  
46 statutes from Patty.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: I can take a picture.

49

50

0507

1 MS. PERRY: I recorded Patty's mention  
2 so, yeah, so Patty if you've got that available you can  
3 send that to me or I can look it up. That'd be great,  
4 thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, it  
7 looks like we're approaching that 6:15 timeline. We've  
8 got some Council members that have to leave so I think  
9 we're pretty close to finalizing this letter. Just  
10 want to confirm that we still have two Council members  
11 on the phone.

12  
13 MR. SLATER: This is Jim, I'm here.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Jim.

16  
17 MR. HOWARD: I'm here, Mr. Chairman.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks,  
20 guys, we still have a quorum.

21  
22 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, we're still  
25 good. So are we ready -- I don't know if anybody has  
26 any other details they want to add, we've had some  
27 really good suggestions here.

28  
29 (Pause)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I just want to  
32 thank the Council members who have to leave, thank you  
33 for all your good work here at this meeting. Good  
34 travels and we'll see you down the road, I guess.

35  
36 (Pause)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you leaving,  
39 Patty, as well.

40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Ian, are  
44 you staying?

45  
46 MR. JOHNSON: (Nods affirmatively)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So we have  
49 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven Council  
50

0508

1 members, that's a quorum, okay, and a court reporter  
2 and a Coordinator. Oh, John, are you still here  
3 or.....

4

5 MR. SMITH: I'm still here.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So we actually  
12 still have eight Council members so.

13

14 (Pause)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just for the  
17 record here we're kind of saying goodbye to Council  
18 members and checking to make sure we still have a  
19 quorum, which we do. We don't usually have this  
20 situation but.

21

22 MS. PERRY: I think we're ready for a  
23 motion, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think we are  
26 ready for a motion. Ian.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: I make a motion that we  
29 draft a letter using the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Western  
30 Interior, Eastern Interior letter as a template and  
31 adopting the suggestions made here in this discussion  
32 to be drafted and approved by the Chair.

33

34 MR. WAGNER: Second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We have a motion  
37 and a second. Is there further discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. The motion  
42 is to send a letter from this Council to the Board that  
43 mirrors the letter from four other Regional Advisory  
44 Councils dealing with salmon bycatch and the letter  
45 should be forwarded to the North Pacific Fisheries  
46 Management Council. Ready for the question.

47

48 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.

49

50

0509

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do you have one  
2 more question, Mike.

3

4                   MR. DOUVILLE: I don't have a question,  
5 I have a comment.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, one more  
8 comment, go ahead.

9

10                   MR. DOUVILLE: I think it's a good  
11 letter and I think our additions are really good and  
12 particularly the one that Patty recommended that we put  
13 in there that states the regulations. Call for the  
14 question.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
17 Question's been called for. All in favor of sending  
18 this letter from the Council say aye.

19

20                   IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
23 opposed say no.

24

25                   (No opposing votes)

26

27                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, motion  
28 passes. Okay, one more letter and then we approve our  
29 next meeting places and times for the next Council  
30 meetings and then I think we're done.

31

32                   Third letter is -- let's see, the third  
33 letter is a letter dealing with the transboundary  
34 mining issue and this letter would also be addressed to  
35 the Board with a request for the Board to send it to  
36 the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture and a request  
37 for those departments to send it to the Department of  
38 State, is how that would have to work. So  
39 transboundary mining and we have sent previous letters  
40 on transboundary mining which we can draw on. A lot of  
41 issues remain the same but there are some new issues to  
42 consider.

43

44                   We do have a list of talking points on  
45 the new issues and I know DeAnna has that available for  
46 us for discussion when she finds that in her emails, I  
47 believe. So maybe DeAnna if you could kind of run  
48 through the suggested new items that would be added to  
49 that letter. Like I say we have a previous letter that  
50

0510

1 was drafted and sent and we never got a response to it  
2 so we will essentially resend that letter with these  
3 additions, okay.

4

5 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 MR. SLATER: Okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, did we  
10 have a question on the floor.

11

12 MR. SLATER: No, I was just agreeing,  
13 I'm sorry to disturb.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Go ahead,  
16 DeAnna.

17

18 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 Earlier we heard testimony from Brianna Walker  
20 regarding the transboundary mining rivers issues and  
21 she asked this Court [sic] to also support their effort  
22 with letters going to the Department of Interior and  
23 Department of Agriculture. They are also suggesting  
24 that we include that letter addressee the U.S. members  
25 of the International Joint Commission as well as  
26 Department of State and she's provided me with some  
27 additional addresses to do so. And, yes, Mr. Chair,  
28 you're correct there are certain limitations we have in  
29 our correspondence policy but we can certainly ask the  
30 Board to forward on to those that we cannot directly  
31 communicate to.

32

33 And if you'll bear with me I will pull  
34 up her other email where she kind of enumerates some  
35 specifics that she wanted us to add into our letter  
36 that we sent earlier.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 MS. PERRY: So this would be a letter  
41 that is incorporating some information we learned today  
42 from Salmon Beyond Borders. It will be forwarded to,  
43 it looks like the Salmon Beyond Border folks will be  
44 sending a letter to the Biden Administration by the end  
45 of the year. They're requesting a renewed letter of  
46 support from this Council to those agencies that I  
47 mentioned before to voice shared concerns for the  
48 future of the Taku, Stikine, Unuk Rivers and the  
49 threats posed to them by British Columbia's mining up  
50

0511

1 river. She has attached some examples of resolutions  
2 and I can share those with Council members after this  
3 meeting. The asks included in these resolutions are  
4 timely and vital. She asks that the Council consider  
5 supporting the following asks in any of our letters  
6 that we send regarding the transboundary mining issue.  
7

8                   For President Biden and the United  
9 States Government and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and  
10 the Canadian Government to immediately utilize their  
11 authority under the United States/Canada Boundary Waters  
12 Treaty of 1909 to prevent and resolve disputes over the  
13 use of shared waters, and support an immediate  
14 temporary halt to permitting, exploration, development  
15 and expansion of Canadian mines along shared Alaska,  
16 British Columbia salmon rivers until a binding  
17 international agreement on watershed protections  
18 developed by all jurisdictions in these shared  
19 transboundary watersheds and consistent with the  
20 Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and the United Nations  
21 Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples is  
22 implemented, and convene with local communities,  
23 stakeholders and indigenous leaders of the Taku,  
24 Stikine and Unuk watersheds to develop the  
25 aforementioned binding international agreement on  
26 watershed protections. This agreement will identify  
27 and honor No-Go zones and decisions by local residents  
28 and indigenous people on both sides of the  
29 international border, ensure mining companies and  
30 shareholders are liable for clearing up their waste and  
31 compensating impacted communities for all damages and  
32 enforce requirements for mining best practices,  
33 including a permanent ban on the perpetual storage of  
34 contaminated water and wet tailings behind earthen dams  
35 along these irreplaceable Alaska/British Columbia  
36 Transboundary Salmon Rivers.  
37

38                   More information on the above request  
39 is included in one of the documents that she sent me,  
40 again, that I'll share with the Council and she has  
41 given me her contact information in case there's  
42 further support that she can give.  
43

44                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45

46                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
47 DeAnna. Any questions, comments, additions from the  
48 Council on those suggestions. I think we're fortunate  
49 that, you know, we have Salmon Beyond Borders has been  
50

0512

1 involved in this issue for a number of years and  
2 they're taking the lead and following this issue and  
3 giving us suggestions on, you know, how to address it.  
4 I think we find that very helpful. But like I say, if  
5 there's anything else that you can think of that you  
6 want to add to that.

7

8 Frank, go ahead.

9

10 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 There were just a few of those communities that were  
12 added -- that were mentioned in the letter, right?

13

14 MS. PERRY: Are you talking about the  
15 watersheds.....

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah.

18

19 MS. PERRY: .....Member Wright? Yes.  
20 And let me just make sure in her precursor, she does  
21 say in the resolution that it does address areas  
22 including Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Craig, Wrangell  
23 and Ketchikan.

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you. I was  
26 thinking that since this RAC represents all of  
27 Southeast Alaska we need to mention all the rest of the  
28 communities because we are concerned about what's going  
29 on with this mining industry. And I think it would be  
30 a little stronger if all the communities within  
31 Southeast that are represented by the RAC.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rank.  
36 I think that's a good suggestion because impacts to  
37 fisheries -- yeah, do impact many communities, every  
38 community essentially so thank you for that. Any other  
39 suggestions, additions, comments.

40

41 Ian.

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just  
44 the same that I suggested before in the conclusion,  
45 just making explicit that we expect a response to this  
46 letter and try to give it more teeth that way.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good suggestion,  
49 thank you, Ian. Any others.

50

0513

1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So once again we'll kind of take all these points that we've kind of outlined here, put them into a good narrative form and do a little bit of wordsmithing but, like I say, I think we have enough to approve the writing of a letter along these lines so a motion from the Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Or more discussion, either one. Ian.

MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I make a motion that we draft the letter on transboundary issue guided by our previous letters and the discussion here today to be sent to the Department of State, did I get the recipient right again?

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just as a clarification it would be.....

MR. SLATER: I second that.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....it would go through the Board.....

MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....and eventually be forwarded to the Department of State.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. To be submitted to the Board.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. With the request that it be forwarded on to the Department of State. You might want to state that again so.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I move that we draft a letter on the transboundary issue guided by our previous template -- or previous letters and the discussion here to be submitted to the Board and then moved through to the Department of State.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a motion.....



0514

1 MR. SLATER: This is Jim, I second  
2 that.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....and a second.  
5 Okay, we had a second here, thanks, Jim. Okay. Any  
6 further discussion.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll call  
11 the question for the motion to draft a letter on  
12 transboundary mining. All in favor say aye.

13  
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
17 say no.

18  
19 (No opposing votes)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, motion  
22 carries. So unless I'm mistaken the only other item  
23 that we need to do is future meeting times and dates,  
24 can you confirm that DeAnna.

25  
26 MS. PERRY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 You did have a few calendars in your meeting book  
28 however they have been updated since the printing of  
29 the meeting book since we've had some RAC meetings and  
30 folks have taken -- they have scheduled their meetings,  
31 so in front of you you should have two handouts that  
32 look like calendars. One for fall 2023 and one for  
33 winter 2023 and so what we need to do is tentatively  
34 the Southeast RAC had chose let's see, February 28th  
35 through March 2nd in Juneau for their winter meeting so  
36 if this Council could confirm that date and location by  
37 motion and then we would also need a motion for a  
38 selection of dates and location for the fall meeting.

39  
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
43 DeAnna. So let's deal with the winter meeting first,  
44 it's already been selected so if we're still all good  
45 with that we could just confirm that and that does  
46 require a motion and if there's any discussion we'll  
47 have discussion after the motion.

48  
49 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair.

50

0515

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair. I move that a  
4 meeting for February 28th through March 2nd in Juneau.  
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a  
12 second.

13

14 MR. HOWARD: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there any  
17 discussion on this, is there any reason why anybody  
18 would need to change this time and place, and I realize  
19 we lost half our Council here almost, which is  
20 unfortunate, but for the folks that are here, any  
21 problems with that time.

22

23 Mike.

24

25 MR. DOUVILLE: It looks to me and I  
26 support the motion.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, call for the  
29 question.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: Call for the question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
34 All in favor of holding our meeting, winter meeting in  
35 Juneau on February 28th through March 2nd say aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
40 Anybody opposed say no.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that's  
45 confirmed. A little more difficult here, we got to  
46 talk about the fall meeting. I guess I will -- like I  
47 say, since we lost so many Council members here I just  
48 kind of want to confirm with DeAnna, anything we select  
49 here is subject to change at the next meeting if it

50

0516

1 doesn't work with the Council members who aren't here,  
2 is that correct?

3

4

5 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. And I  
6 would like to let the new Council members know that due  
7 to the splitting of Staff, we share Staff during all  
8 these Regional Advisory Council meetings we can  
9 schedule no more than two Regional Council meetings per  
10 week, and it looks like we're safe with all weeks  
11 except for October the 2nd, that week is kind of out of  
12 play and then the week of October 30th is out of play,  
13 they already have two Council meetings.

13

14

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

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And also as a reminder, just like we  
just did for our winter meeting, we can select a.....

(Teleconference interference -  
participants not muted)

MS. PERRY: .....we can select a few  
dates and a location and then confirm that at our next  
meeting, and it's not uncommon for us to, you know,  
change it if there are conflicts. So this is just  
trying to look a year ahead and anticipate when most  
people would be available but you would be able to  
confirm that at your next meeting.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.  
So just kind of open for Council members to throw  
out.....

MR. SLATER: Traditionally in October  
-- Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Jim.

MR. SLATER: Traditionally we're in  
October for that meeting.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I didn't quite  
catch that.

MS. PERRY: Traditionally we have  
our.....

0517

1 MR. SLATER: Is that true?

2

3 MS. PERRY: .....meeting in October.

4

5 MR. SLATER: Oh, I'm sorry,  
6 traditionally our fall meeting's in October.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's been  
9 typical, yes. I would say late September, occasionally  
10 we have meetings that early but mostly they're in  
11 October, that's true.

12

13 MR. SLATER: So the 2nd is out and the  
14 30th is out.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right.

17

18 MR. SLATER: And the 9th is Columbus  
19 Day which is a short day -- short week for some people  
20 and they might not want to travel on that day so we  
21 have the week of the 16th and the week of the 23rd, so  
22 we could have the week of the 16th designate a meeting  
23 if we like that and then have a back up for October  
24 23rd -- the week of October 23rd, does that sound  
25 reasonable to anyone.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So far it  
28 sounds reasonable to me, other Council members.

29

30 MR. SMITH: Sounds good.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mike.

33

34 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, I'm having a  
35 hard time understanding what he's saying. Maybe we  
36 could clarify it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, it was a  
39 little bit garbled over the phone there but he's  
40 essentially saying the week of October 16th or the week  
41 of October 23rd are probably the best dates available  
42 right now. I don't know if -- yeah, go ahead.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair. I'd be  
45 supportive of the week of October 23rd.

46

47 MR. SLATER: Yeah, I.....

48

49 MR. DOUVILLE: As we're winding down

50

0518

1 fishing still in the middle of September.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.

4

5

6

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just found out that it is possible that AFN is going to be scheduled the week of October 16th so Mr. Douville's suggestion of the following week, the 23rd, may be the best suggestion at this time.

9

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, DeAnna. Yeah, sometimes it's helpful to check on other events going on. So do Council members that are here concur with Mr. Douville that October 23rd would be the best week.

17

18

19

20

MR. SLATER: I concur, that sounds good to me. Am I coming in clearer now.

21

22

23

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah, I could hear you Jim.

27

28

29

30

MR. SLATER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think we have consensus on that. Once we get a proposed place we'll put that into a motion so it's always a consideration here about what's the best place. And I don't know what the considerations are, we have our next meeting in Juneau. I'm trying to think of other communities we haven't been to in awhile and in the fall, I don't know, I'm open to suggestions.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

MR. SLATER: Pelican.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: John.

MR. SLATER: Sometimes it's hard to get there.

45

46

47

48

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We got John and then Jim. Go ahead, John.

49

50

MR. SMITH: I was just looking at

0519

1 Sitka, maybe, possibly, just an idea.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
4 John. Did you have a suggestion Jim.

5

6 MR. SLATER: I was maybe half joking  
7 when I said Pelican being that it's very hard to get  
8 there in October, (indiscernible - garbled) waiting  
9 around for a week.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry, I had a  
12 little difficulty hearing that again.

13

14 MR. SLATER: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah, I  
15 was kind of half jokingly suggesting Pelican but then  
16 realizing that our travel in and out of Pelican is very  
17 iffy in October that that wouldn't be a good idea.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, there are  
20 some parameters. Maybe for the new Council members,  
21 DeAnna, you might want to kind of run through the  
22 parameters here we kind of have to consider.

23

24 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
25 are expected to hold our Council meetings in what they  
26 call hub communities and those are the -- roughly those  
27 communities that can be accessed by a commercial air  
28 flight such as Alaska Air. For us it was Island Air  
29 and Alaska SeaPlanes. If we choose to be in a more  
30 remote location we do need to ask -- I've got to come  
31 up with a comparison and some paperwork showing that  
32 the estimated cost of having a meeting in a non-hub  
33 community would be and then that is actually something  
34 that needs to be approved by OSM before we could secure  
35 any kind of non-hub community. And I also did want to  
36 note again for our new Council members, when we single  
37 out a week, usually we pick Monday as our travel day,  
38 the meeting dates are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
39 and then Friday is the travel date back. I would  
40 assume that we would continue that tradition but if  
41 somebody wants to change that just please make that  
42 clear in your motion.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
47 DeAnna. So we had Sitka suggested which is always a  
48 good option. I did want to bring up, I think -- I mean  
49 we've had so many meetings cancelled here in the last  
50

0520

1 couple years I'm trying to think of the communities  
2 that we had meetings scheduled in that we didn't get to  
3 go to and I think one of them was Craig and I don't  
4 know if Craig fell into that category of something that  
5 would require kind of like a special.....

6  
7 MS. PERRY: Yes.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....that -- it  
10 does?

11  
12 MS. PERRY: Yes.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So Craig's  
15 a little more difficult, it's been done in the past but  
16 I don't know maybe we should just go with the Sitka  
17 suggestion, I don't know any other comments.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think Sitka was  
22 also a community that we passed by as I recall.

23  
24 MS. PERRY: Uh-huh.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, we had a  
27 meeting scheduled there as well so, yeah, that might be  
28 a good option. Go ahead, John.

29  
30 MR. SMITH: Yeah, and then there's  
31 more.....

32  
33 (Cell phone ringing)

34  
35 MR. SMITH: .....people there that  
36 would testify or come in and visit too. You know if we  
37 go to a smaller village the numbers of folks that  
38 participate would be limited so just thinking that  
39 Sitka would be a good positive.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, are we ready  
42 for a motion then.

43  
44 Ian.

45  
46 MR. JOHNSON: I make a motion that the  
47 fall 2023 meeting be held October 24th, 25th, 26th in  
48 Sitka, Alaska.

49  
50

0521

1 MR. WAGNER: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we have a  
4 motion and a second. Unless there's any other  
5 discussion call for the question.

6

7 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Question's  
10 been called for, for our fall meeting a year's hence to  
11 be held in Sitka the week of October 24th, 25th, 26th,  
12 all in favor say aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
17 say no.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think we  
22 have our meeting schedule addressed. And with that I  
23 think we can entertain a motion to adjourn.

24

25 MR. SLATER: Do we ever -- Mr. Chair,  
26 can I ask a question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that a motion  
29 to adjourn Jim.

30

31 MR. SLATER: No, but it's a -- no, I  
32 understand -- I can defer it but I just wanted to have  
33 a closing comment if I could.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah, I  
36 guess, I can't remember, closing comments come before  
37 or after adjournment.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Before.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Before, right.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Yes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Before, okay.  
46 Yeah, there is an opportunity for closing comments.  
47 So, yeah, before we entertain a motion to adjourn let's  
48 ask if anybody has any closing comments.

49

50



0522

1 Jim, it sounds like you might so go  
2 ahead.

3  
4 MR. SLATER: Yeah, I think the meeting  
5 overall was very productive. And I think a lot of good  
6 decisions and difficult decisions were made. I did  
7 just want to say one thing, I think with our discussion  
8 on the Ketchikan rural identity issue, we made a good  
9 decision but I think the trend may continue that  
10 another bigger community, Juneau may follow along the  
11 same route and I would guess that we need to prepare to  
12 think about it. Are we going to do that, are we going  
13 to -- what would be our actions and how would we handle  
14 that, would we become somewhat irrelevant at that point  
15 if basically all of Southeast Alaska is rural. And  
16 then the meaningful preference is for everyone,  
17 effectively everyone.

18  
19 So anyway that's my comment. And it's  
20 something we need to think about for the future.  
21 That's all.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
24 Jim. any other closing comments for those of us that  
25 are still here.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
30 Council members. I think it's been a pretty productive  
31 meeting. I think we got a lot more accomplished here  
32 meeting in person. I don't know how we could have done  
33 this meeting over the phone, I think it would have been  
34 a real nightmare with all the different topics we had  
35 and having the opportunity for more public comment and  
36 hearing from the folks in Ketchikan was pretty  
37 valuable. So, yeah, I think it was just -- I really  
38 appreciate the fact that we could do this.

39  
40 So somebody else.

41  
42 Mike.

43  
44 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
45 do appreciate being able to meet in person, it's been a  
46 long time and it's very difficult to do virtual  
47 meetings and do a good job. It gives us the  
48 opportunity to interact and solve a lot of problems in  
49 a much smoother fashion so it's been a great meeting  
50

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1 and I think we accomplished quite a bit.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.

6 Anybody else.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Motion to

11 adjourn.

12

13 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is

14 Albert.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, Albert, yeah,

17 go ahead.

18

19 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Just real quick, an idea, as far as food security goes

21 if there's ever another (indiscernible - garbled)

22 Angoon take and other communities aren't able to --

23 like an example, Mr. Chairman, we didn't have ferry

24 service because someone on the ferry had Covid so they

25 cancelled the ferry and then that kind of left us

26 without groceries. I think if we get ahead of it,

27 maybe, and I wish I'd have thought of it earlier, make

28 it part of the co-management topic. Maybe it'll be the

29 first one, I don't know, but how to work with the State

30 on opening the resources with guidelines for Federally-

31 qualified users for small communities during a pandemic

32 to where we won't get in trouble but we have the

33 ability to feed our families.

34

35 I didn't make it to this one because

36 I've been gone all summer so I had to get my house back

37 in order so I'll see you guys at the next one.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.

42 And appreciate you and Jim spending all that time by

43 your telephones, I know that's difficult. We really

44 appreciate it, you've been a big help, thank you very

45 much.

46

47 Anybody else.

48

49 Frank.

50

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1 MR. WRIGHT: Just have a question, Mr.  
2 Chair. If no one comes in as a nominee for the next  
3 seat on our Council, is Ian still going to be a  
4 representative?

5  
6 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. Member  
7 Wright. Yes, he would be under the continuing service  
8 clause of our charter so he would be able to continue  
9 to serve until that appointment was made.

10  
11 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
12 Chair. I enjoyed being here with everybody and it's  
13 sure a lot more fun than sitting by your phone and just  
14 eating all the time.

15  
16 (Laughter)

17  
18 MR. WRIGHT: So, Gunalcheesh.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.  
21 Well, you do get more bathroom breaks, so I will say  
22 that.

23  
24 (Laughter)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, anybody  
27 else.

28  
29 Louie.

30  
31 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 It's a good experience. A little different on this  
33 side than sitting back there so thanks again.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Okay,  
36 Mike.

37  
38 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, move to  
39 adjourn.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: A second.

42  
43 MR. WAGNER: Second.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. The fall  
46 meeting of the Southeast RAC is now adjourned.

47  
48 MS. PERRY: Everyone in favor say aye.

49  
50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry, we do  
2 have to vote -- everybody in favor say aye.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, anybody  
7 opposed.

8  
9 MR. WRIGHT: No.

10  
11 (Laughter)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, meeting  
14 adjourned.

15  
16 (Off record)

17  
18 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_ through \_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME III taken electronically on the 27th day of October;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of November 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26