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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME III

Cape Fox Lodge
Ketchikan, Alaska
October 27, 2022
8:59 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donald Hernandez, Chair
Calvin Casipit
Michael Douville
Albert Howard
Ian Johnson
Harvey Kitka
Cathy Needham
Patricia Phillips
James Slater
John Smith
Louie Wagner
Frank Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
329 F Street, Suite 222
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-5312/sahile@gci.net

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

5

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

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
10 Albert.

11

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

19

20 (No comments)

21

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

27

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

33

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

45

46 We're your neighbors. We appreciate
47 everything that you are doing. I don't want to get too
48 much in the weeds of those proposals, but I did want to
49 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.....

24

25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27

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.

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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.

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

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

So somebody on the phone is going to
talk more about the transboundary mining issue. And
I'm not sure which hat I'm going to wear, I'm also the
Chair of the Sitka AC so I've been involved in a lot of
things and I'm not going to speak under any of those
hats, I'm just going to paint this picture right now.
So we have the transboundary mines on the Canada side
impacting all of our king salmon rivers. The North
Pacific Fisheries Management Council met in Sitka this
past June, the bycatch issue came up, there was a lot
of talk about king salmon, and chum salmon, there was
like two or three days of public testimony about these
things. When they finally got to their motion, there
was no reduction to the trawl fleet, there was no
effort made to reduce that interception and they
basically just told industry to get more creative and I
am a champion of public process, I believe in people's
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.

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

14
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.

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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.

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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.

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15 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you, John.

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

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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

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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

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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.
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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

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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
50

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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
50

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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.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

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

7

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

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

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

17

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

27

28 Thank you.

29

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

38

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

50

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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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0371

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

2

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.

47

48 Thank you.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

2

3 MR. SLATER: Okay, thank you.

4

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

25

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

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.
40 Another question, just the fact that a community has a
41 large Native population, and I know we're going to hear
42 from a lot of those folks today, does that in and of
43 itself become a factor, because, you know, that's a
44 community that's traditionally been engaged in
45 subsistence activities, so it's kind of like you need
46 to be rural in our present system to have, you know,
47 subsistence opportunities but yet having have lived the
48 subsistence lifestyle for generations after
49 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

0376

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

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

19

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

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0377

1 Southeast. 80 percent.

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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

47

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49

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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

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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

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
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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

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

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

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

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
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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.

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

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I'm going to skip this part.

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

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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

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

14

15

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

42

43

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

47

48

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

50

0393

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.

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
50

0397

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.

0399

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

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

5

6

7

8

9

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.

10

11

12

13

14

15

Thank you.

16

17

18

19

20

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, yeah,
thank you.

21

22

23

24

25

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.

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

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:

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

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.

43

44

45

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

46

47

48

49

50

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

33

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

34

35

Thank you for your time, Marcy Haines.

36

37

38

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And those
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

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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)

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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

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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 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 MR. CROSS: Yeah, Member Wagner. I
26 just want to clarify that the Unuk River eulachon,
27 there have been proposals submitted for those over the
28 last couple of cycles, they've ranked highly, they just
29 have not received funding based on the ranking. But I
30 would add that if that's something that you're
31 interested in -- I guess to address the whole Council,
32 if there's a project that you're interested in, I would
33 say through this process, or through this exercise I
34 would make sure that one of those priority information
35 needs captures the project that you're interested in.

36

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

50

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.

50

0429

1 Cathy.

2

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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

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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
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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

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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.

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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.

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

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

(Laughter)

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.....

MS. PHILLIPS: I'm fine.

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.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is

0455

1 Albert.

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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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

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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.
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

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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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
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0473

1 Thank you.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, DeAnna. And Albert, yeah, we are requesting some help on this one. Do you have the proposal in front of you with all the explanations of what the proposal is attempting to do?

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I have had conversations with community members and past community members and past Forest Service employees, one of them is KDMetcalfe and he was a part of the original reason they closed this area, was due to the fact that a lot of wounded bears seemed to have made it into town when a non-resident trophy hunter took a bad shot and it ended up being the responsibility of community members to make sure the community was safe. The areas that they are talking about are way too close to Angoon and would become our responsibility if such thing had happened, or if it did happened and then it wasn't reported -- as you can recall past meetings I've talked about bear hunters in the southern bay pulling crab pots and getting caught by residents who were checking their crab pots, and that's another thing residents here are mindful of, is the impact it will have once you start letting people into the bay that have never been in there. Now, if you look at the map and keep in mind, sometimes the tide will run out of those bays pretty fast. I think they did some gauges on the current coming out of there and it's anywhere from 14 to 18 knots, depending on whether it's a minus tide or not, and then that brings in the concern of safety of people -- safety of people going up in the bay. Then that also becomes our concern as well, if they go in there and decide they're going to turn around, that's not an option.

So there's many things that -- reasons why there shouldn't be bear hunting in there. So I agree with opposing this for community safety really.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Right.

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.

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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

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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

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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

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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, 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

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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

0500

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

0502

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

27

28

29

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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)

0505

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

0506

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

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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

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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)

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So once
4 again we'll kind of take all these points that we've
5 kind of outlined here, put them into a good narrative
6 form and do a little bit of wordsmithing but, like I
7 say, I think we have enough to approve the writing of a
8 letter along these lines so a motion from the Council.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Or more
13 discussion, either one. Ian.

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I make
16 a motion that we draft the letter on transboundary
17 issue guided by our previous letters and the discussion
18 here today to be sent to the Department of State, did I
19 get the recipient right again?

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just as a
22 clarification it would be.....

23

24 MR. SLATER: I second that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:it would go
27 through the Board.....

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:and
32 eventually be forwarded to the Department of State.

33

34 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. To be
35 submitted to the Board.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. With the
38 request that it be forwarded on to the Department of
39 State. You might want to state that again so.

40

41 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I move that we
42 draft a letter on the transboundary issue guided by our
43 previous template -- or previous letters and the
44 discussion here to be submitted to the Board and then
45 moved through to the Department of State.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a
48 motion.....

49

50

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 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. And I
5 would like to let the new Council members know that due
6 to the splitting of Staff, we share Staff during all
7 these Regional Advisory Council meetings we can
8 schedule no more than two Regional Council meetings per
9 week, and it looks like we're safe with all weeks
10 except for October the 2nd, that week is kind of out of
11 play and then the week of October 30th is out of play,
12 they already have two Council meetings.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 And also as a reminder, just like we
17 just did for our winter meeting, we can select a.....

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21

22 MS. PERRY:we can select a few
23 dates and a location and then confirm that at our next
24 meeting, and it's not uncommon for us to, you know,
25 change it if there are conflicts. So this is just
26 trying to look a year ahead and anticipate when most
27 people would be available but you would be able to
28 confirm that at your next meeting.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.
33 So just kind of open for Council members to throw
34 out.....

35

36 MR. SLATER: Traditionally in October
37 -- Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Jim.

40

41 MR. SLATER: Traditionally we're in
42 October for that meeting.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I didn't quite
45 catch that.

46

47 MS. PERRY: Traditionally we have
48 our.....

49

50

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

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

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.

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

49

50

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We got John and then Jim. Go ahead, John.

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

0523

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

0524

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

0525

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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