

0001

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Cape Fox Lodge
Ketchikan, Alaska
October 25, 2022
9:03 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

0002

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Ketchikan, Alaska - 10/25/2022)

(Invocation)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Orville. And with that we can call the meeting to order and we'll call on our Secretary, Frank Wright, Frank, if you would do the roll call of Council members, please.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Ian Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: I am here.

MR. WRIGHT: Frank is here.

Cal Casipit.

MR. CASIPIT: Here.

MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

MR. SLATER: Jim is here.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Jim.

Bob Schroeder.

(No comments)

MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

(No comments)

MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Good morning, this is Albert.

0003

1 MR. WRIGHT: Good morning, Albert.

2

3 Don Hernandez.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Here.

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Patricia Phillips.

8

9 MS. PHILLIPS: Here.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.

12

13 MR. WAGNER: Here.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

16

17 MR. KITKA: Here.

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: John Smith.

20

21 MR. SMITH: Here.

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

24

25 MS. NEEDHAM: Here.

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: We have a quorum, Mr.

28

Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
31 Frank. So now we'll have some introductions and
32 welcomes. And first off I think we have some local
33 representatives from the Traditional Territory here,
34 Trixie Bennett, President of Ketchikan Indian Community
35 and Joe Williams, President of Organized Village of
36 Saxman. So if you'd like to come forward.

37

38 MS. BENNETT: President Williams is in
39 the dental chair right now so he won't be joining me,
40 but I'm happy to be here.

41

42 (In Tlingit)

43

44 MS. BENNETT: So my English name is
45 Trixie Bennett. My Tlingit name means Plant Leaf, or
46 Leaf Girl, or Plant Spirit. (In Tlingit). I belong to
47 the Kaach.adi People, Raven Frog Clan from Wrangell. I
48 am a grandchild of the Tahltan from my father, (In
49 Tlingit) grandchild of the (In Tlingit), my mother was

50

0004

1 Minnie Larson, my grandmother was Emma Shakes.

2

3 (In Tlingit) Good morning.

4

5 I'm the President of Ketchikan Indian
6 Community, one of the two tribes here in Ketchikan.
7 I'm so happy to welcome each of you to Ketchikan, to
8 open your meetings with a welcome and share a Tlingit
9 prayer. This beautiful Tlingit prayer was translated
10 and shared to me by elder Tlingit -- Tlingit Elder
11 David Katzeek Kingeesti, he's passed now. Do you mind
12 standing again.

13

14 (Prayer)

15

16 MS. BENNETT: Again, we want to welcome
17 you here for your meetings. You're on the traditional
18 homelands of the Saanya Kwaan and the Taanta Kwaan
19 people. Gunalcheesh for your work here, for being
20 stewards of this land, for being the voice of the
21 water, the animals, the tree, the fish and the plants.
22 In the spirit of Tlingit HaaAnni at Ketchikan, I want
23 to welcome you all here to do your good work.

24

25 Gunalcheesh. Have a beautiful day.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you very
28 much, Ms. Bennett. We feel privilege to be here in
29 your home territory.

30

31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted)

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're also going
35 to have a welcome from Dave Schmidt from the Forest
36 Service but before we do that, Dave, DeAnna did want to
37 do some housekeeping announcements so I'll let her do
38 that now.

39

40 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Hello, everyone, my name is DeAnna Perry. I'm the
42 Council Coordinator for the Southeast Alaska
43 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Again, welcome
44 everyone to our fall meeting of the Council. I'd like
45 to go over a few housekeeping announcements.

46

47 This is our first meeting since Covid
48 that we're having in-person. I would welcome and
49 encourage everyone to join us in-person, if you're
50

0005

1 listening on the phone, if you're able to, the current
2 Covid19 community risk level in Ketchikan is low and so
3 masks and social distancing will not be required at our
4 meeting unless that risk level increases. But if
5 attendees wish to wear masks we would encourage you to
6 do whatever makes you feel comfortable. For those
7 participating in-person, please be informed that if our
8 risk level increases we would recognize the Department
9 of Interior guidance for all in-person meetings.

10

11

12 For those attending our meeting in-
13 person, please make sure that you sign in on the table
14 as you come in the door. The front table has a sign-in
15 sheet and each day if you'll put your name down that
16 would greatly help us capture an accurate
17 administrative record so that we could spell everyone's
18 name right. This is a regulatory meeting. The Council
19 will be discussing and deliberating fish proposals and
20 closures. There will be an opportunity for public
21 comment during that proposal period. You can see the
22 steps of the proposal presentation procedure on Page 41
23 of the meeting book. We also have a few separate
24 copies of that procedure on the handout table, again,
25 as you enter the front door. The Chair will announce
26 the time for tribal and public comment on non-agenda
27 items each morning. That will be an opportunity for
28 those present, as well as those participating on the
29 phone to speak on non-agenda items. We would ask you
30 to hold any comments on proposals or agenda items until
31 such time as they come up before the Council so that
32 the Council can hear all pertinent information at the
33 time they're working on them. However, the Chair can
34 make exceptions on the timing of public comments.

34

35

36 If you would like to address the
37 Council during the meeting, for folks in the room,
38 please fill out a blue testifier form, that's out on
39 the handout table. Just hand it to me, this helps us
40 keep track of anyone who would like to speak regarding
41 a specific agenda item. One of the main purposes of
42 our meetings is to encourage and promote local
43 participation and the decisionmaking process affecting
44 subsistence harvest on Federal public lands and we want
45 to make sure that we keep track of those who would like
46 to address the Council. For those on the phone who
47 would like to speak, start by saying Mr. Chair and wait
48 to be recognized by the Chair before speaking.

48

49

50

For all participants on the phone,

0006

1 please remember to mute your phones when you are not
2 speaking. If you do not have a mute button you can
3 press star, six and that will mute your phone. It's
4 the little asterisk on your phone. If you would like
5 to speak unmute your phone by, again, pressing star,
6 six and that will unmute. If we find that a line is
7 not muted and creating a distraction the operator will
8 go ahead and mute that line.

9
10 If you are unable to stay with us
11 throughout the meeting until the public comment
12 opportunity has opened for the particular proposal
13 you'd like to address, you may consider submitting a
14 written comment instead. You can do that by emailing
15 your comment to subsistence@fws.gov. You need to
16 indicate your name, affiliation and what proposal or
17 closure your comment addresses. Written comments will
18 be accepted until the presentation of that proposal or
19 closure review analysis. Those will be sent to myself
20 and Staff and we'll share those with the Council. In
21 the interest of time we would ask that you either
22 provide an oral comment or read your statement, or
23 email a written statement. We want to make sure that
24 all interested parties have the time to provide
25 comments and we appreciate everyone's help in
26 preventing duplication. So, again, comments can be
27 sent to the email address, subsistence@fws.gov.

28
29 I got a lot of announcements. It's our
30 first meeting in-person and we've got some new Council
31 members so bear with me.

32
33 Speaking of new Council members, we
34 also have new Staff that have joined us over the last
35 couple of years, this is the first time many of us are
36 physically meeting each other so I would encourage
37 Staff, especially, to remember to put your name tags up
38 when you come up to the testifier table and address
39 the Council that way the Council can start putting
40 names to faces. For Council members and Staff, please
41 remember to press and depress your microphone button.
42 I know we've been having virtual meetings so we've all
43 forgotten about the microphone button. So I just
44 wanted to throw that reminder out there.

45
46 Also in the event of an emergency I
47 need to point out that the doors you came in would be
48 the doors you would go out if we have to evacuate the
49 building in any kind of emergency situation. And if
50

0007

1 you go out to the end of the paved sidewalk just
2 outside we'll muster there.

3

4

5 Okay, a reminder to all, our meetings
6 are conducted by Robert's Rules, which helps us provide
7 structure and maintain order throughout the meeting.
8 All participants, Council, Staff and public members are
9 expected to be courteous and respectful in all
10 interactions. Please wait to speak until you are
11 recognized by the Chair. If the Chair or I have not
12 heard you please continue to try to get our attention
13 to be recognized before you deliver your statement. No
14 insults or foul language will be tolerated in this
15 meeting. If any kind of unruly behavior or insulting
16 language from anyone occurs during this meeting, please
17 be advised that, I, as the designated Federal official
18 will intervene immediately.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Some final reminders. Please know that
our proceedings are being recorded and that everything
said, even if it isn't meant to be noted, it'll be
captured and it will appear in the transcript. I don't
anticipate a problem as we expect everyone
participating in our meeting to be respectful.

Phone participants, again, use your
mute function. Please don't put us on hold, that will
disrupt the meeting and we would actually have to halt
our meeting if we're unable to use the court reporting
equipment.

For those in the room I would ask you
to take a moment to look at your cell phones and silent
any ringers to minimize distractions during our
meeting.

And, again, I know that was a lot, just
dusting off the rust and trying to address all the
important things we have with our in-person meetings
since this is the first one we've had in about two
years. So thank you for allowing me the time to share
that information, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.
So, yeah, Dave Schmidt, our Regional Forester, we're
privileged to have him here with us this morning.
Dave, thanks for your patience with all those
announcements so go ahead.

0008

1 MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you for your
2 patience, I didn't know I was at the top of the agenda
3 here this morning. But, Mr. Chair. Council members.
4 Welcome. Welcome, you had a traditional welcome from
5 folks that have been here since time and immemorial,
6 but the Forest Service since the last 100 or so years
7 has also been here and Ketchikan is the Supervisor's
8 office and you'll meet several Staff. Frank Sherman is
9 here with me, he's the Deputy Forest Supervisor, and we
10 have a number of a Rangers.

11
12 My name is Dave Schmidt. A few of you
13 I haven't met yet. I serve as the Regional Forester
14 here in Alaska. I spent most of my career in Alaska.
15 I've lived in rural Alaska for about 23 or 24 years
16 before coming back to Juneau almost five years ago,
17 that's where my heart is and I got to practice more of
18 a subsistence lifestyle. I came here in the summer of
19 1982 and stayed, gosh, that first round was for 23
20 years, I fell in love with the people, the lifestyle,
21 the landscape and I know many of you have lived here
22 much longer than that. But I also have the honor and
23 the privilege of not only serving as the Regional
24 Forester but I serve as a member of the Federal
25 Subsistence Board on behalf of the U.S. Department of
26 Agriculture and the Forest Service and I take that role
27 very seriously. I have a lot of things on my plate, as
28 you all do, but for me one of the most important is
29 that part that I play in subsistence and making --
30 helping make decisions that affect people's lives
31 across the state, rural users primarily.

32
33 This is the first meeting in like three
34 years, in-person. I had an opportunity a couple of
35 weeks ago to meet with the Southcentral RAC and it was
36 amazing. It was just such a different and rich
37 dialogue being able to see each other, read body
38 language and communicate. And so it's great to be back
39 together and I really want to extend my appreciation to
40 those of you who worked through the virtual system here
41 and all of those tough conversations at time that just
42 get more difficult when they're over a conference line.
43 But the work that you all do is truly appreciated, I
44 know I appreciate it and certainly the Board does. I
45 know you're all volunteers and you take time out to
46 travel and represent your interests and certainly your
47 communities here and that is really important. And
48 then over the next, I guess, three days here, like I
49 said I met with Southcentral, but you've got a big
50

0009

1 agenda, there are some really critical issues here in
2 Southeast that you'll be deliberating and advising the
3 Board here as we move forward this winter and I just
4 really encourage you all to participate and share your
5 experiences around these and so that will be very
6 helpful. For me, it's really important, and that's why
7 I take time out, it helps me tremendously to represent
8 the Forest Service and the Board when I can hear your
9 deliberations and really hear from all of you.

10

11 So I thank you for the opportunity to
12 come and listen and I'm looking forward to the next
13 couple of days, both in the meeting and maybe meeting
14 some of you outside the meeting here and get to know
15 you a little bit better. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Dave.
18 And I understand that you will be here for most of the
19 meeting and you have -- I think you're going to be
20 giving us some updates on Forest Service things going
21 on with the Sustainable Strategy and the Roadless Rule,
22 I think, are you going to be able to do that?

23

24 MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'd be
25 happy to do that. And I think that will be under old
26 business but, yeah, both of those topics are near and
27 dear to most folks' hearts here so I'll be happy to
28 give an update and actually field a few questions if
29 you're interested.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good. I was
32 just going to remind the Council that if they have
33 questions for Dave Schmidt, hold off on those until he
34 comes back and meets with us again, hopefully this
35 afternoon we'll be into the old business and we'll hear
36 those updates and if Council members have questions
37 we'll be happy to take them.

38

39 So very good, thank you, Dave.

40

41 And I've also been told that there are
42 some service awards to give out at this meeting, and
43 that you're going to do that.

44

45 MR. SCHMIDT: This is the easy part for
46 me, Mr. Chair, but I think DeAnna is going to share who
47 and where and I will, on behalf of the Board, recognize
48 a couple of folks here as Council members.

49

50

0010

1 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Members of the
2 Council. Again, for the record my name is DeAnna
3 Perry, Council Coordinator for the Southeast Alaska
4 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Dave Schmidt,
5 again, as he said who is a Federal Subsistence Board
6 member, he'll be presenting our service awards to two
7 Council members who have reached milestones in their
8 service on our Council. I'll ask him to hand out the
9 awards and do the congratulations and I'll do the
10 speaking part.

11

12 So the first one we would like to
13 recognize is Mike Douville.

14

15 Mike actually celebrated 20 years on
16 the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
17 back in 2020 but we were unable to physically give him
18 his award so today we would like to honor his long-term
19 service as a subsistence user representative on the
20 Council. Mike lives by the ocean on the west coast of
21 Prince of Wales Island where he has lived his entire
22 life and where there are many opportunities for him to
23 hunt, fish and trap as a subsistence user. The
24 extensive technological, ecological knowledge and
25 experience that Mike shares with the Council helps
26 inform the members and public about fish and wildlife
27 resources on Prince of Wales Island and how various
28 subsistence activities may be affected. This area has
29 seen a lot of changes and proposed changes that may
30 affect resources and Mike's input on the Council is
31 valued as a local resident.

32

33 Mike has served as a City Council
34 member since 1998 for the city of Craig. He's served
35 as the Director on the Board of Directors for the
36 Prince of Wales Hatchery Association. And a long-term
37 member of the Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
38 He has spent much of his time recently teaching the
39 next generation his traditional and cultural knowledge
40 as a lifelong subsistence user.

41

42 So, please, help me congratulate Mike
43 for his 20 years of service on our Council.

44

45 (Applause)

46

47 MS. PERRY: And our next Council member
48 to be recognized is our Chair, Don Hernandez. He
49 celebrates 20 years of service on the Council this year

50

0011

1 serving as a commercial/sport user on the Council, and
2 for the last four years Don has served as the Chair of
3 our Council.

4

5 For over 40 years Don has lived in the
6 remote community of Point Baker on Prince of Wales
7 Island where being self-reliant is necessary. His
8 subsistence harvesting activities, coupled with his
9 experience in commercial fisheries for the last four
10 decades has provided him with a broad perspective on
11 the demands on subsistence resources and this
12 comprehensive insight is appreciated during Council
13 discussion and business.

14

15 In addition, Don has been active in
16 resource management for about 35 years. He was the
17 Chair of the Prince of Wales, Unit 2 Deer Steering
18 Committee and in addition to his service on this
19 Council, he has served on the Sumner Strait Fish and
20 Game Advisory Committee for 15 years and he Chaired
21 that for four years, and the Point Baker Community
22 Association Council for 10 years, Chairing that for
23 three years. And that's just to name a few of the
24 other contributions that Don has made other than those
25 on our Council.

26

27 He has made many contributions to the
28 Southeast Alaska residents who rely on its fish and
29 wildlife resources and we would like to have you join
30 us in congratulating Don for his 20 years of service.

31

32 (Applause)

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
35 DeAnna. Thank you, Dave. Let's see, now we need to go
36 around the room with other introductions just so we
37 know who's here with us this morning, there's a lot of
38 Staff people, and maybe some people from the public as
39 well who might want to introduce themselves and let us
40 know who you represent. So we've already heard from
41 Dave, maybe we'll start on the front row there and work
42 our way to the back.

43

44 MR. SHERMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
45 My name is Frank Sherman. I am the Deputy Forest
46 Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest located here
47 in Ketchikan. I've been serving in that role for the
48 past four years, so I'll be helping representing Earl
49 Stewart, the Forest Supervisor, for the next few days.

50

0012

1 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Mr. Chair
2 and members of the Council. My name is Greg Risdahl.
3 I am the Forest Service Subsistence Program Leader and
4 InterAgency Staff Committee member, and many of you
5 probably remember me as also the OSM Subsistence
6 Division Fisheries Leader for some time, and prior to
7 that a manager at three different National Wildlife
8 Refuges, two of them here in Alaska. Anyway, it's
9 great to be back, meeting in-person, and seeing we've
10 all changed a little bit, but it's good to be here.

11
12 Thank you, very much.

13
14 MR. LIND: Camai, Board members.
15 Council members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for
16 Office of Subsistence Management. Again, so glad to be
17 in the meetings in-person. As you know Alaskans love
18 to meet in-person, face to face, and I couldn't sleep
19 too well last night, I was just too excited to get
20 started.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. LIND: But, anyway, good to see
25 everyone, Bless you guys. We're going to have a
26 wonderful meeting today. Quyana. Thank you.

27
28 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Good morning, folks.
29 My name is Jake Musslewhite, I'm a Fisheries Biologist
30 out of Juneau and it's an honor to be with you in-
31 person today and I'm excited about it. Thanks.

32
33 MR. SANDERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair
34 and Council.

35
36 REPORTER: Hang on, go ahead, press it
37 again.

38
39 MR. SANDERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair
40 and Council. My name is Andrew Sanders, I'm a
41 Fisheries Biologist for Prince of Wales Ranger District
42 and I'm happy to be here at the meeting in-person.
43 Good to meet everybody and talk to you today and later
44 in the meeting. Thanks.

45
46 MR. VICKERS: Good morning. I am Brent
47 Vickers, I am the Anthropology Division Supervisor for
48 Office of Subsistence Management. My first time at an
49 in-person meeting with the Southeast Council so looking
50

0013

1 forward to it. Thank you.

2

3 MR. CROSS: Good morning, everyone. My
4 name is Rob Cross, I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for
5 the Tongass and I'm just excited to see everybody in-
6 person again, it's been a long time.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Let's make sure we
9 get all the Federal Staff up first, if there's anybody
10 else with Forest Service, or Federal and then we'll
11 move on around the room.

12

13 MS. TIGHE: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
14 Council members. I'm Cathy Tighe, I am the District
15 Ranger here in Ketchikan for the Ketchikan Misty Fjords
16 Ranger District. And I want to welcome you all to
17 Ketchikan.

18

19 MR. BORN: Waacaa', Mr. Chairman.
20 Council members. I'm Ray Born, the new District Ranger
21 in Petersburg District. I am coming from Bethel,
22 Alaska where I worked with that Council there for about
23 seven years. It's good to see everybody. It's good to
24 be back in-person again. Thank you.

25

26 MS. HANLON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
27 Honorable Council members. My name is Jennifer Hanlon,
28 I am the Tribal Relations Specialist for the Tongass
29 National Forest based here in Ketchikan, the
30 traditional territory of the Taanta Kwaan and Saanya
31 Kwaan people, although I'm originally from Yakutat and
32 still pretty new in my role. Before this I've had the
33 good opportunity to speak before you when I was with
34 the Yakutat/Tlingit Tribe and Tlingit/Haida Central
35 Councils. So gunalcheesh, it's good to see your faces.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other Federal
38 Staff. If not, maybe if we have anybody here from the
39 State of Alaska they could come forward.

40

41 MR. BURCH: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is
42 Mark Burch out of the Palmer Office. Thank you. Good
43 morning.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mark,
46 we heard you. Anybody else. Lauren.

47

48 MS. SILL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
49 This is Lauren Sill. I'm with Department of Fish and
50

0014

1 Game, Division of Subsistence based out of Juneau.
2 It's nice to see you guys all in-person.

3

4 MR. DORENDORF: Good morning, Mr.
5 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Ross
6 Dorendorf, I'm the Area Biologist. I manage Game
7 Management Units 1A and 2. Happy to be here.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, if that's
10 everybody from the State of Alaska, how about tribal
11 representatives or just general members of the public
12 and I notice we have students here this time that just
13 came in, we'll have them come up when everyone else is
14 done. But Native organizations or other members of the
15 public.

16

17 MR. HARTFORD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
18 Members of the Council. My name is Steven Hartford,
19 and I am the tribal attorney for Ketchikan Indian
20 Community here in Ketchikan. Thank you. Welcome.

21

22 MR. GALLEGOS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
23 Council. My name is Tony Gallegos. I'm on Staff with
24 the Ketchikan Indian Community. I'm the Director of
25 their Cultural Resources Department. It's an honor to
26 have you here in Ketchikan on traditional Saanya Kwaan,
27 Taanta Kwaan Tlingit people, and look forward to
28 spending some time with you informally throughout, and
29 formally throughout the next three days.

30

31 REPORTER: So, Don, I have a Mr.
32 McDonald who wants to talk, he keeps.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we'll get to
35 people on the phone after we hear from people in the
36 room, how does that sound.

37

38 REPORTER: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

41

42 MR. SANDERSON: Good morning everybody.
43 My name is Keenan Sanderson. A few of you may know me,
44 a few of you are meeting for the first time. I wear a
45 number of hats nowadays for the Community of Ketchikan
46 but today I am here as a Staff person for the Ketchikan
47 Indian Community as the Indigenous Food Sovereignty
48 Specialist. So thank you and I'm happy to be here.

49

50

0015

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I was told that
2 Mr. Williams was able to join us. We were looking for
3 Joe Williams for a welcome this morning, but Mr.
4 Williams, if you want to come forward and introduce
5 yourself and if you have a welcome for us we'll be glad
6 to hear it now.

7
8 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

9
10 COUNCIL: Good morning.

11
12 MR. WILLIAMS: I was wondering if you
13 guys were asleep.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Joe Williams,
18 and my real name is (In Tlingit), and I want to say
19 welcome to our small community of Ketchikan. And the
20 next time I want to invite you to the rural community
21 of Saxman since that's what we're doing here today. I
22 am the elected Tribal President for the Organized
23 Village of Saxman. I appreciate this opportunity to
24 address you this morning. I am not sure that this
25 would be the time to say what's on my heart, but then,
26 again, when it comes to time, I'm not sure I'd be
27 available, that's the challenge. So you tell me if I
28 can take a couple minutes, if you wish, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, by all means,
33 we were hoping that you would be here earlier so take
34 the time now, yeah.

35
36 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. The
37 Organized Village of Saxman has passed a resolution in
38 full support of having Ketchikan Indian Community to be
39 a rural community as it once was since time and
40 immemorial. When you think in terms of family,
41 Ketchikan is our family, Ketchikan members of KIC are
42 members of our family.

43
44 So in today's world when we think in
45 terms of family members it's brothers and sisters,
46 aunties and uncles, grandparents and maybe some others
47 involved in this, but when we talk about family in
48 earlier days, in my mind, this is how it was. Please
49 know, blood relative is thick, there's no question
50

0016

1 about that. In the Tlingit world, tribal relative is
2 thicker than blood. Clan relationship is thicker than
3 tribal relationship, which is thicker than blood. And
4 that's what I'm addressing this morning. We have
5 numbers of clan relatives that live in our small
6 community of Ketchikan that are part of our family in
7 Saxman, that's what I'm referring to. How we became a
8 state, then came the division within the Tlingit world.
9 Because now you have the have nots and the haves.
10 Okay. In the earlier day of the Tlingit world, one had
11 it, they shared it, because in our Tlingit world, the
12 more we can give away in our culture, the greater the
13 wealth. In the world of today thinking, the more we
14 can hang on to, the greater the wealth.

15

16 So it's very contrary to the way that I
17 was raised. Keep in mind, often times people say -- I
18 remember several years ago I addressed a tourism
19 conference in Sitka as an elder and one of the men that
20 was older than me said, Joe, how do you become an
21 elder, very simply, you outlive everybody else. That's
22 how you become an elder. So I'm 79 years of age, okay.
23 So what I'm speaking of is from my heart, it isn't
24 something that's prepared, it is something that has
25 been in my heart for years. And for years I've been
26 feeling real sad for my brothers and sisters that live
27 here in Ketchikan. Please think about that for just a
28 moment. Because of where you live you can no longer do
29 what your ancestries allowed you to do and that was to
30 feed your family and this Board is squashing that, and
31 I'm struggling with that. And I really would
32 appreciate if you could -- seriously considering now --
33 I'm fast-forwarding to today's world, as far as
34 Federally-recognized tribes. Our Federally-recognized
35 tribe of Saxman is in 100 percent support of having
36 Ketchikan Indian Community to be part of who we are
37 dating back to the earlier days before the White man
38 came because then we were a unit.

39

40 I just finished attending Alaska
41 Federation of Natives Convention. The theme of that
42 convention, I'm bringing here today to you and that is,
43 unity. Please bring unity within the Ketchikan Indian
44 Community and the Organized Village of Saxman, which
45 is, in my mind, correct me if I'm wrong, in my mind you
46 have the power to do. Bring our brothers and sisters,
47 aunties and uncles and our tribal relationship back
48 together as it once was in years previous. That's my
49 request. That's on my heart. And I would really

50

0017

1 appreciate you seriously considering that.

2

3 Gunalcheesh.

4

5 (In Tlingit)

6

7 Gunalcheesh, hoho, thank you very much.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. That's
10 a very good perspective for us to begin the meeting
11 with. Thank you, again. Anybody else in the audience
12 who is just a member of the public or a tribal member.
13 Or maybe we have one more Federal official stepping
14 forward, but if there's anybody else that wants them to
15 introduce themselves in the public.

16

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello, can you
18 hear me.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We still have one
21 person in the room before we get to the phones.

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So in the room
24 only.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Glenn.

27

28 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Mr. Chairman and
29 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the
30 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
31 Affairs. It's really wonderful to see all of you in-
32 person again, and it's always a pleasure to attend your
33 meetings.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Glenn.
38 Anybody else in the audience that would like to
39 introduce themselves this morning.

40

41 MS. THOMPSON: Hello.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Then let's people
44 on the phones then, we have some people on the phones
45 as well.

46

47 MS. THOMPSON: Boy, it went down, it
48 went really down. Can you hear me?

49

50

0018

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear
2 you fine.

3
4 REPORTER: Speak up Don.

5
6 MS. THOMPSON: Hello.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we hear you
9 fine.

10
11 MS. THOMPSON: Oh, okay, you sound
12 really low. This is Maxine Thompson. I am the current
13 Mayor of the city of Angoon. I am also a tribal member
14 of Angoon Community Association. I wanted to say,
15 first off, hi Joe, I enjoyed your speech.

16
17 I wanted to talk about the significance
18 of -- this is the hearing on the bear guide application
19 for up inside by Angoon; is that correct.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry, Ms.
22 Thompson, that's.....

23
24 MS. THOMPSON:is that part of the
25 agenda?

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, that's not
28 something on our agenda. If you want to talk about
29 items that are not on our agenda, we will be doing
30 that.....

31
32 MS. THOMPSON: Okay, let me try and
33 call back because I can barely hear you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll be hearing
36 testimony.....

37
38 MS. THOMPSON: We have a bad connection
39 here so I will try another line.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:at 9:00
42 o'clock tomorrow morning, that would be a good time to
43 call in.

44
45 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

46
47 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
48 Albert Howard.

49
50

0019

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
4 it does sound like you're a long ways away, I'm not
5 sure what it is.

6

7 MR. SMITH: Get closer to your mic
8 because it's not even recording in the room.

9

10 MR. HOWARD: And I have my phone turned
11 all the way up so, thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
14 Albert, for letting me know my mic's not working very
15 well. We're working on that.

16

17 REPORTER: Yep.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hopefully this
20 one's better. Yeah, yeah, okay, I had a microphone
21 problem, sorry about that. Where were we, is there
22 anybody else on the telephone who wants to just
23 introduce themselves this morning and say who they are.

24

25 MR. BALLARD: Mr. Chair, Mr. Ballard.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, go
28 ahead.

29

30 MR. BALLARD: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
31 Patrick Ballard with the Alaska Department of Fish and
32 Game. I am the Sportfish Management Biologist for the
33 Southeast Alaska.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
36 Anybody else on the phone.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

39

40 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Go ahead.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think I hear
45 somebody else.

46

47 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
48 This is Jason Roberts, Anthropologist with OSM.

49

50

0020

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Say that again,
2 Jake?

3
4 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
5 This is Jason Roberts, Anthropologist with OSM.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, got that,
8 thank you.

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Mr. Chair
14 and members of the Council. This is Eva Patton, the
15 Subsistence Program Manager with the National Park
16 Service, Regional Office here in Anchorage and ISC
17 member, previously with OSM. So it's wonderful to know
18 that all of you are finally meeting in-person again and
19 wishing you a wonderful meeting.

20
21 Qu yana.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
24 Anybody else.

25
26 MS. OEHLERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
27 Members of the Council. This is Susan Oehlers with the
28 Forest Service in Yakutat. Good morning.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, good
31 morning, Susan. Anybody else.

32
33 MR. MCKEE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
34 This is Chris McKee, Statewide Subsistence Coordinator
35 for the Bureau of Land Management and ISC member.
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
39 Chris. Anybody else.

40
41 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
42 This is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator
43 with the Office of Subsistence Management and ISC
44 Chair. Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
47 Next.

48
49 (No comments)
50

0021

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think we
2 got everyone.

3
4 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein. I'm
5 the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for the U.S. Fish
6 and Wildlife Service based in Anchorage at the Regional
7 Office and also the ISC member. Good morning.

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
10 Next.

11
12 MR. MCDONALD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
13 Members of the Board. This is Justin McDonald, newly
14 hired Natural Resources Coordinator for the Organized
15 Village of Kake.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Justin.
18 Anybody else.

19
20 MS. BREDOW: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
21 This is Wendy Bredow, Chief Ranger at Glacier Bay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
24 Next.

25
26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think we
30 got everybody, a lot of people on the phone. Okay, so
31 I think we can get to the students who have joined us
32 here. We're very fortunate to have a group of
33 students. We've done this at past meetings, some of
34 them virtual, some of them in-person and we're very
35 fortunate that we have a group able to join us for this
36 meeting. And Heather Bauscher, their instructor, will
37 bring them up and they can introduce themselves.

38
39 Good morning, Heather.

40
41 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning, members of
42 the Council. Thank you so much for having us here. My
43 name is Heather Bauscher. I am an adjunct biology and
44 fish tech professor with the University of Alaska-
45 Southeast, and I am now in a shared role between the
46 Sitka Conservation Society and Salmon State, I'm now
47 the Fisheries Community Engagement Specialist working
48 on Southeast issues and beyond. But here, today, I am
49 in the capacity of the adjunct professor that is
50

0022

1 leading this student group through participation in
2 these meetings.

3

4 And I want to say thank you so much to
5 the Southeast RAC for your continued support of this
6 program. Thank you to the Forest Service for your
7 continued support for this program, it wouldn't be
8 possible without that funding allowing students to come
9 here. And what I've learned over the years is you
10 can't learn how to do this through books, you have to
11 show up and you have to go through it and participate
12 in it so super glad and grateful that I have eight
13 students here today. This is the most student
14 engagement we've ever had. I had to cap the class so
15 we were able to bring eight students, and we'll have
16 funding for bringing them into Anchorage, too, the next
17 meeting. So I will turn it over to them and allow them
18 to introduce themselves.

19

20 MR. YOUNG: Hi, I'm Jason Young. I'm a
21 senior in high school at Sitka High. I mostly hunt
22 and subsistence fish. I have a friend down in Arizona
23 that took an AP class last year, Environmental AP and
24 he said one of the assignments was researching
25 subsistence, and like the sustainability that we have
26 in like Southeast Alaska and he said it's like probably
27 one of the best in the country, so I'm really curious
28 to see the regulations and how the government processes
29 work to support such a good sustainability here. So
30 thank you.

31

32 MR. ONEY-MILLER: Good morning, and
33 thank you Council members. I am Ryan Oney-Miller from
34 Sitka High School and I'm very grateful for this
35 opportunity. And I am very grateful to learn the
36 process at which these laws get passed. Thank you.

37

38 MR. MCGAW: Good morning. I'm Josh
39 McGaw. I'm a sophomore at Sitka High. I am grateful
40 to be here and I am ready to learn about subsistence
41 life and more about that.

42

43 JORDAN: Good morning. My name is
44 Jordan (Indiscernible). I'm a sophomore at Sitka High.
45 And thank you for this opportunity and funding this
46 operation to bring all of my peers to Ketchikan. Thank
47 you.

48

49 KIRK: Hello. My name is Kirk

50

0023

1 (Indiscernible) and I'm a junior at Sitka High. I'm
2 just really thankful to just come here to learn more
3 about subsistence life and stuff like that, so, thank
4 you.

5

6 MR. QUIGLEY: Good morning. My name is
7 Tristan Quigley. I'm from Mt. Edgecumbe High School,
8 I'm a third year, junior, but I'm originally from
9 Prince of Wales Island, Naukati Bay. I'm thankful to
10 be here because on Prince of Wales subsistence is a big
11 part of my and my family's life and I want to learn
12 more about the process. Thank you.

13

14 OWEN: My name's Owen (Indiscernible).
15 I'm at Sitka High School too. Thanks for this
16 opportunity.

17

18 LINA(PH): Hello and good morning
19 everyone. My name is Lina (Indiscernible). I'm from
20 Sitka High School. I have lived in Sitka my whole life
21 and I have always had a very deep relationship to
22 subsistence. I would like to acknowledge that I live
23 on (In Tlingit) and I'm very grateful to be able to be
24 a guest on their land.

25

26 Subsistence is something my family and
27 I rely heavily on. We utilize this privilege of
28 subsistence harvesting by gathering firewood, berries,
29 fish, deer. Subsistence is something that is
30 incredibly intertwined with living here and holds
31 immense cultural value to so many people. I care
32 deeply about this privilege and I want it to be
33 something that continues in Alaska forever and that
34 others can experience as well. To ensure the longevity
35 of subsistence we must do our part to advocate for
36 ourselves and the resources we need. To know that any
37 individual in Alaska could be a part of initiating the
38 change that will affect them is a truly wonderful
39 thing. I want to be a part of that change as well, and
40 to be able to witness that in real-time today is truly
41 an honor. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to be
42 here today.

43

44 Thank you, Chair, and Council members.

45

46 MS. BAUSCHER: I want to congratulate
47 the students for their bravery in doing that. We all
48 know how hard it is to come up here.

49

50

0024

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

(Applause)

MS. BAUSCHER: That was super impressive and we've been traveling since about 5:00 or 6:00 this morning, so really proud of them. We've spent a couple weeks having classes twice a week to get ready to come here and learn about the structure. Shout out to Rob Cross here in the room for helping to support the initial class and giving the agency presentations and sharing Ashley Bolwerk with us to help provide support, she attended last night's class. Thanks to Don for calling in and giving us the briefing on what we would expect today. And all the others in this room that have continued to help in various ways and meet with students and spend time with them and help support this program, it wouldn't be possible without all of you and I just think it's so exciting to be able to bring so many young people to this table and the hope always is that by the end of this class they realize how powerful individual voices can be in this process and feel more confident in navigating it.

So they're encouraged to engage. They have assignments where they have to keep contact lists of everybody they talk to, learn the networking skills. They have to pick an issue or a topic or a proposal to follow so you might have them asking you more about that. And then they also have interview assignments. So if you have the chance, please make time to talk to them. And, once, again, thank you so much for having us here today and letting us be part of this.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're real happy you're here and I know the Council members will be involved and talk to the students.

REPORTER: Wait a minute, Don. Okay, go ahead.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Council members I know will really appreciate talking to the students and, yeah, they always are really good about that so don't be shy, students, just collar us whenever you get the opportunity and pick our brains and bend our ears. So very good.

Okay. I think that does it for all the

0025

1 introductions. A lot of people here. A lot of issues
2 this meeting. So let's move on and let's review our
3 agenda and then we will need a motion from somebody to
4 adopt the agenda and there are a few changes from
5 what's printed in the book so we should run through
6 those first.

7
8 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 There are a couple items for this Council's
10 consideration regarding the agenda. I did just find out
11 that the agenda item for non-rural determination
12 threshold analysis, which is currently Agenda Item,
13 under new business, 10c, that will now be an action
14 item and Brent Vickers from Office of Subsistence
15 Management will provide the Council more information on
16 that but I did want to bring that to your attention.
17 It will be an action item. They'll be asking for some
18 feedback.

19
20 Also if we could move 10j, the Joint
21 Meeting, North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic
22 Ungulate Conference up for the first item under new
23 business. We have Lisa Grediagin from OSM coming to
24 join us and because her time is limited, it's going to
25 be probably a five minute presentation, if we could
26 take care of that first thing before we get into the
27 fish proposals.

28
29 And then if we could move 10l to the
30 first item on Wednesday after public comment. This is
31 Board of Game -- or, I'm sorry, let me take that back.
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Tom Schumacher is
33 available should this Council have some questions. He
34 does have some other prior commitments so he should be
35 available for a short time this afternoon, I believe
36 before and a little after lunch, and then possibly
37 tomorrow morning as well, so that would help
38 accommodate his schedule.

39
40 And then as our Regional Forester, Dave
41 Schmidt mentioned earlier, he is standing by and could
42 give an update on a few items such as Roadless,
43 Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, if we would
44 like to add that to the old business section. If you
45 want to put that towards the end, wherever you would
46 like to see that.

47
48 Mr. Chair, thank you.

49
50

0026

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
2 DeAnna. And I understand that you will be able to
3 maybe print up some new agendas with those changes to
4 distribute which would be helpful and we'll have those
5 this afternoon, I believe. So, now, given those
6 changes and hopefully everybody has looked at the
7 agenda and we'll need a motion to adopt.

8
9 Ms. Phillips.

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
12 Hernandez. I have a question before a motion is made.
13 The RAC got an email on May 11th, 2022 called -- the
14 subject was Seeing the Forest for the Deer, Alaskan
15 Scientists Harness Big Data for Conservation by Dustin
16 Solberg, an inter-disciplinary team to model how deer
17 move through the Forest in winter using lidar and
18 random Forest to improve deer habitat models and
19 managed Forest landscape. Is that something that we
20 could have a presentation, perhaps not at this meeting,
21 because it's such notice, but at a future meeting?

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm getting an
24 approval from our Coordinator.

25
26 MS. PERRY: Yes, I can look into that
27 Patty, thank you.

28
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: She's taking note
32 of that, thank you, Patty. So we need a motion for
33 this meeting's agenda.

34
35 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

38
39 MR. WRIGHT: I move that we accept the
40 agenda as a guide.

41
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

43
44 MS. NEEDHAM: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
47 Okay, so hopefully everybody's reviewed the agenda and
48 any other questions on the agenda.

49
50

0027

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Call for the question then. All in favor of adopting the agenda as stated say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed, say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, so the next item would be to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting. So hopefully Council members have had a chance to look over the minutes from our previous meeting and when everybody feels comfortable that they are familiar with those then we'll need a motion to approve previous minutes as well. So if anybody has any additions or corrections we'll hear those after we get a motion.

(Pause)

MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I'd move to adopt the meeting minutes from March 22nd through 24th, 2022.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Cathy. A second. Do we have a second.

MR. SMITH: Second.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John. Okay, now if there's any corrections or additions from Council members, speak now.

Go ahead, Cathy.

MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I have a small correction I believe on Page 6 of the meeting minutes for election of officers, that Mr. Frank Wright, Jr., was reelected as the Council's Secretary this spring and it just says elected. So he was also reelected.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Thank you, Cathy. We'll make a note of that. Any other additions or corrections.

0028

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Seeing none, I'll call for the question. All in favor of approving previous minutes say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody who does not approve say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Previous minutes adopted. Now, we can move on to our Council members reports, always an interesting part of our meetings, very informative section. And to start us off on this I'm going to go first to the two Council members who are on the telephone so I don't forget about you guys and maybe we'll hear from Albert first. So go ahead, Albert Howard, Angoon.

MR. HOWARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair. This summer was kind of interesting, I actually did something different, I went to work in Hoonah as a whale watching captain. But I also had time to learn how things were done over there as far as fishing and hunting and so on and so forth. But it seems as though the cost of living is on the rise. And I mention this as part of the report because in the smaller communities we rely on our king salmon, our cohos and our deer and everything that the resource provides for us that we can't exactly go to the store and buy. One of the conversations I had with some people I associated with in Hoonah was the price of milk was \$10 for a half a gallon. So it's \$20 a gallon for milk. I mean if we had a boat and a car that would run on milk it might be cheaper than gas but I don't know, or the other way around, if you could have gas with your cereal that would be cheaper as well.

But anyway talking with some people here at home, when I got home, that the cohos didn't show up until the middle of August when they're usually here the beginning of July. King salmon were almost non-existent. I'm speaking with guys that spend a lot of time on the water and asked them what their concerns were, halibut was slow. Sockeye returns were very low, across the board, across Chatham. So the typical -- is

0029

1 a typical year, I guess is what it's becoming for us,
2 is you don't get the returns we used to have.

3
4 My sons have been out deer hunting
5 quite a bit this fall and came home with one so that --
6 I'm not sure what that means so far but I'm sure I'll
7 have another report in January.

8
9 I'm concerned that the price of -- the
10 cost of living is going up because the resource we rely
11 on, and I heard a young gentleman mention that someone
12 was doing a report and they couldn't believe how
13 sustainable our resources were, well, it doesn't seem
14 to be so here in Angoon, Mr. Chairman, so that concerns
15 me even more than it has in the past. So I think our
16 community members are in for a tough winter unless
17 something's done different. I'm not sure how bad it
18 has to get before something changes.

19
20 So other than that, I learned I can
21 only watch whales for so much because that's what I did
22 in Hoonah, I was a whale watching captain for Icy
23 Strait Point.

24
25 That's all I have for now, thank you,
26 Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
29 Albert. How about Jim Slater from Pelican. Are you
30 there, Jim.

31
32 MR. SLATER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Yes, I'm here, can you hear me okay?

34
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, hear you
36 fine.

37
38 MR. SLATER: Oh, great, okay. Yeah, as
39 I told you in an email I've been traveling a bit but I
40 was most -- there until August and then I was there
41 again in October in Pelican. And I was able to talk to
42 a number of the community members and have some
43 interesting information.

44
45 One of the things that stood out to me
46 was in talking to the President of the local fish
47 processing place, Yacobi Fisheries, he was short on
48 coho for the year because he couldn't get fishermen to
49 fish coho because most of them had gone down to the
50

0030

1 Sitka area to fish for chum salmon because the money
2 was better. I thought that was somewhat remarkable.

3
4 Halibut for subsistence, for me and for
5 other people who live around me, was slow. I had one
6 or two good days but other than that success was far
7 and few between.

8
9 From what I understand local in our
10 Inlet, the pinks in the creeks around where I live in
11 Phonograph Creek area was very low. And something akin
12 to what Albert said, the people who have been out deer
13 hunting haven't seen too many deer down low yet,
14 they're still up high and so success has been very
15 minimum so far at least as of last week.

16
17 On a good note, we had a very
18 successful growing season. Recently we've put in a
19 large high tunnel and had a bumper crop this year and
20 we were able to share quite a bit with the community
21 from August until just about now. And so that went
22 well.

23
24 That's about all I have, Mr. Chair,
25 thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Jim.
28 Now, we'll go around the room here and I will start
29 with Harvey Kitka from Sitka. Go ahead, Harvey.

30
31 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
32 name is Harvey Kitka and I'm from Sitka, Alaska. I
33 represent Sitka as well as all of Southeast when we get
34 together. It's kind of different, this is the first
35 time we never got to introduce our RAC Council first
36 before everything happens. It's been awhile since we
37 got together. I really miss seeing all you guys and
38 hearing you guys. I'm sorry, I wanted to have a few
39 words before I got to start talking about Sitka.

40
41 It seems like the meetings that we had
42 over the telephone, it was so difficult, especially
43 having to sit by a phone all day and three days of it
44 was really almost more than I could take. I don't know
45 about the rest of you but being that I'm 81 years old
46 now it's a little hard for me to handle that. But on
47 another note I'm glad to see Don get an award, him and
48 I got appointed at the same time but I had a break in
49 service but it was good to see him and Mike again too,
50

0031

1 and the rest of the group. It's nice to be back.

2

3

4 Sitka has an ongoing issue with our
5 herring. Even though Sitka Tribe has won a lawsuit --
6 or a portion of it, and caused them to listen to us a
7 little more, they tend to -- we asked them to spread
8 out the fishery, what we meant was don't take all the
9 fish just in Sitka Sound. They take their biomass
10 settings from below Dorothy Narrows and Salisbury
11 Sound, but they're only fishing one stock in Sitka
12 Sound. So if they're going to do that they should just
13 take the biomass from Sitka Sound and not touch the
14 rest of them. Sitka Sound has always been one of the
15 places where the herring spawned and when it got too
16 crowded in Sitka Sound they started moving out and
17 they'd start spawning towards the south as well as
18 towards the west. Back in the earlier days of space
19 travel when they did the -- they started putting up
20 satellites to take pictures, one of the earlier
21 pictures of Baranof Island just happened to be when the
22 herring were spawning, unbelievable, the whole island
23 from the outside and the inside showed that there was
24 spawn in almost all the bays. Now we have a spawn just
25 in a small area and we have very light spawn in some of
26 the places south of Dorothy Narrows. It's so light
27 that we couldn't even get any eggs off of them. And
28 almost no spawn in Salisbury Sound this year. So we've
29 still got some problems with herring.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

The deer population in Sitka on Baranof
Island as well as West Chichagof, southwest, it seemed
like our people having -- really had a problem that
area. Maybe because we only have 13 miles of road. It
might make a world of difference.

Noticing, the goat season seems to get
shorter and shorter every year, not too sure how much
our subsistence people are being able to take. I know
there's an awful lot of guided goat people that come in
and take.

We've got a problem with bears like a
lot of communities in Southeast. This year even though
they took somewhere close to 20 bears in Sitka, there's
still a lot of bears wandering around and some of them
do attack people and some of them are kind of good
bears, they just kind of ignore you as long as you
don't bother them. But all we need is one of them to
take one of our children then it would be really bad.

0032

1 Sockeye, as far as Sitka goes, Redoubt
2 has been the only place that's really been producing
3 for us and they've been -- there's been places on
4 Chichagof where the people used to go but some of them
5 have gotten really poor runs since.

6
7 It's been a lot of years we talked
8 about the sea otter. It seemed like between the Mammal
9 Commission and Sitka Tribe, it seemed like they got
10 kind of a handle on the sea otter, we're starting to
11 see gumboots and abalone and we're starting to see some
12 of our cockle beds come back. That's good to know.

13
14 That's pretty much all I got to say
15 about Sitka.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you very
18 much, Harvey. John Smith, III., from Juneau.

19
20 MR. SMITH: I'll test the waters here.

21
22 (In Tlingit)

23
24 MR. SMITH: Good morning. It's good to
25 see your faces and (In Tlingit) be of good courage.
26 It's really good today just to see the children. I'm
27 an educator, retired from the district, a culture
28 specialist in the Juneau district there and worked at
29 all the schools so, of course, Richard Peterson from
30 Tlingit and Haida and then Robert Sanderson, I see his
31 son over there. It's good to see, hurrah, and all you
32 kids. Thank you for being here.

33
34 I'm from Juneau, of course, originally
35 from Hoonah, but moved to Juneau probably 2006. I was
36 an educator in Hoonah also.

37
38 To report on things that I've seen and,
39 of course, everybody's talking about the numbers of the
40 salmon, of course some was said that it might have been
41 reason from some of the young fry that might have been
42 damaged from the other year from a landslide that --
43 but, really, the numbers in all the fish have been --
44 and you can really see it -- what I'm also seeing too
45 is I see fishermen that are trolling out in the ocean
46 or out further, that they actually had a pretty good
47 year, they were doing pretty good so realizing that a
48 lot of it may have to do with the heat, temperature of
49 the water.

50

0033

1 The growing season's been awesome. We
2 just came back from Angoon. The University -- I work
3 with University of Fairbanks, Darren Snyder, and we
4 travel around to different communities and support, but
5 mainly in Juneau, too, do a lot of cultural connections
6 with families but the growing year was awesome this
7 year, cabbage and broccoli and all the cherries and the
8 apples are like grapes this year, so I see a really
9 good return from there, and even the berries and
10 salmonberries, huckleberries and, you know, it was, to
11 me a really productive year.

12
13 You know the bear issue is definitely,
14 I really appreciate that they've opened the season up
15 and leaving that open for black bear. I think it's a
16 good idea to because if you look at the data and the
17 numbers they're -- they're up there, you know, even I
18 grew up in Hoonah and even as a young man I -- 12 years
19 old out running around in the woods harvesting food by
20 myself and never hardly see a bear but now as I take my
21 kids out and I'm 53 bears old I see bears all the time
22 it's like realizing you're getting, you know, five to
23 six bear per square mile. I really think that it's
24 been a tradition, not to the Tlingit people, but to
25 many cultures of harvesting bear, if you didn't have a
26 bear hide on your wall, you know, you weren't a
27 harvester so I truly believe just -- I really like the
28 idea of just opening it up and just trying to drop the
29 numbers. Just an idea.

30
31 And also one thing I did see, like
32 harvesting and being out in the field, I see I'm coming
33 in with some crab and maybe some fish and halibut and
34 I'm watching how the -- we come up on the docks -- and
35 this is just not myself but seeing others where people
36 walk up and they're -- they don't have a uniform on and
37 they don't even talk to you or even ask you a question
38 or even share who they are and they have this pad and
39 they're coming up and some people look official when
40 they come up to you, so sometimes some people; oh, no,
41 what did I do, you know, they have this aura with them,
42 so they're -- that's what it kind of -- kind of
43 something I seen to where I believe that a better
44 relationship between the Fish and Game officers and the
45 community, even to where I noticed that they were just
46 worried about checking on how many fish I had, but I
47 had other things in the boat that they could have
48 taken, they have data on, so I really believe that a
49 better relationship between the Fish and Game officers,
50

0034

1 more understanding of not everybody, you know, has
2 enough money to go out and buy their -- I know now days
3 if you buy your permit or your items for your hunting,
4 your fishing, and your crabbing, and your subsistence,
5 you know, it cost a little bit of money to do that.
6 And being understanding to people that are out there,
7 that, you know, don't have the funds to do that and
8 they're just trying to survive and maybe that the Fish
9 and Game officer actually has a little kitty in his
10 back pocket, you know, to help the family out or even
11 to have the licenses and permits in his possession to
12 help people, you know, get them at that moment so
13 they're not ticketing people. I know that we're
14 supposed to follow the rules and regs and that kind of
15 thing but I just want to see a better relationship
16 between the people and the data entry and we -- the
17 communication with -- or the relationship with the
18 families that are out there, that they understand it's
19 okay to come in and share those things and be more open
20 to share it because that's a really big key to us
21 getting the information we need to make good decisions
22 on what's going on because every community is
23 different. Every area is different. Every -- so
24 having the data is a big key.

25

26 Other than that it's been a really good
27 year and -- and it's good to meet you guys, I'm the new
28 fellow on the Board and really good to be here to learn
29 from you folks. Hurrah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
32 John. Mike Douville from Craig, go ahead, Mike.

33

34 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 I'm Mike Douville, I'm from Craig, Prince of Wales
36 Island, lifelong resident. I'm a commercial fisherman
37 and I do all the fun stuff, hunting, trapping,
38 sportfishing, you name it.

39

40 Our hunting season is just starting and
41 we're not seeing significant success yet anyway.

42

43 The fishing season was actually pretty
44 good with notable lack of king salmon. But the fish
45 (indiscernible) were better than I've seen in probably
46 10 years.

47

48 But one of the most concerning things
49 we have on the island is the wolf ESA. We have a high

50

0035

1 and healthy wolf population with a deer population in
2 decline. So it's more difficult to get deer right now.
3 And I don't know where the future is for that, we will
4 have to wait and see what the ruling is but we don't
5 believe it's necessary to even go there.

6
7 The other concern is the hundreds of
8 thousands of acres of young growth that we have and we
9 are still in the process of losing winter habitat for
10 deer, which is old growth. In any case we had a
11 meeting there a week or so ago, which it seemed to be
12 the consensus and everybody's feelings was pretty much
13 along the same line.

14
15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted)

17
18 MR. DOUVILLE: Having said that, to our
19 students, you know, we may look pretty serious but
20 we're really nice people so don't be afraid to engage
21 us.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. DOUVILLE: So with that, thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
28 Mike. Louie Wagner, Jr., from Metlakatla. Go ahead,
29 Louie.

30
31 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
32 Louie Wagner, Jr., from Metlakatla, lifelong resident.
33 Born in 1948.

34
35 The pink salmon run was pretty good.
36 On Annette Island there's 20-plus streams on Annette
37 Island and the amount of State fleet and District 1 and
38 2 was small, they -- most of them were up by Sitka and
39 a lot -- for a lot of pink salmon to come into the
40 salmon streams but there was no chum salmon or coho to
41 speak of, they didn't really show up. And hopefully
42 our hatchery will get some here through next month,
43 they have a pretty late run. We had a summer run going
44 on in the bay for a terminal harvest there for about
45 six or seven years and I only seen half a dozen jumps
46 that came in and later seen them on the beach. That
47 wasn't enough for a harvest at all.

48
49 Deer populations seem to be real good,
50

0036

1 a lot of people driving from Metlakatla to Annette Bay
2 to catch the ferry out of there and you would see deer
3 quite often.

4
5 A father and his two sons, there's like
6 seven -- seven of the young men that trap the wolves
7 and even they can't keep up with the wolves, the
8 population is surviving quite well. They got a couple
9 of dogs in the fall and everyone had to not let their
10 dogs go off the leash and usually take them out to the
11 beaches on the south end and let the dogs run but they
12 got a couple of them so that stopped that for awhile.
13 But the wolves, they'll travel Merry Island, Cat
14 Island, Percys and then they come over to Annette
15 Island. I go out to Percys quite a lot and I've seen
16 them out there and Cat Island and every island, and
17 they island hop. They're pretty amazing and they're
18 pretty darn good swimmers. And I seen this one group
19 of six or seven out on the Percys and a week, week and
20 a half later they were on Annette Island, I seen them
21 on one of the big open beaches on the back side. So
22 some of those were taken but boy they have no problem
23 multiplying.

24
25 Other than that -- oh, and my son and I
26 we were heading up to the Unuk River to go moose
27 hunting, we always see jumps going to Neets Bay loaded,
28 and people pulling in cohos, out of all the boats I
29 seen one guy dressing out one coho, I didn't see anyone
30 pulling any cohos in. We didn't make it up to the
31 river, we got -- we anchored up that night in Neets Bay
32 and my son wasn't feeling good so we just agreed to
33 come back and so we missed the moose hunting season.
34 So we didn't -- I was really hoping to get up to our
35 cabin because we haven't taken care of it in three
36 years now.

37
38 Other than that it was a good year. The
39 garden did good like I hear at the table here, a lot of
40 potatoes and onions. I think it was from the lack of
41 rain and the warmer days.

42
43 We have to test our clams again, our
44 fisheries department in Metlakatla, they send them out
45 and it might be to Sitka now, since they're still
46 dumping there what they call grey water, as soon as
47 they get off the end of Penny there goes our clams and
48 cockles again. I've met with the Coast Guard as being
49 on the Council and I was Acting Mayor for Metlakatla
50

0037

1 and asked them if they would have them go three miles
2 offshore again, they're destroying our clam beds and
3 cockle beds. So all they told me, is, well, it's just
4 grey water, it's a little more than grey water. The
5 salmon can't even filter out -- there's waste in there,
6 there's paper and you name it in that water when they
7 first start pumping out, we've seen it, it goes right
8 into Annette Bay over here. You know the salmon can't
9 filter that, they need clean water so I don't know. A
10 few years ago -- three years ago I was up at the AFN
11 and we did a resolution with them and to get help to
12 move the -- to put the three mile limit back in place
13 and almost made it but needed more -- they said I
14 needed more villages to step in and help with this.
15 It's an easy fix, they shouldn't be -- you know, the
16 rest of us we have to have treatment plants in our
17 boats or something to take care of our sewage.

18
19 I don't know, I've been to a couple of
20 meetings here, one about two and a half weeks ago up in
21 Fairbanks and I sat with people on the Kake table that
22 I was sitting with, I was the only one from Metlakatla
23 there, the rest of them were from Kake but I've known
24 some of them and they're really, really good, but I'd
25 kind of heard earlier about, they don't get treated
26 very well when they get a moose or deer over on Kake.
27 They're really pressured by the Troopers. They come to
28 the houses, knock on the door and try to intimidate. I
29 know a lot of this because I've been doing this stuff
30 my whole life and they don't realize that they don't
31 have to say anything and they say things that get them
32 in trouble, which shouldn't, but -- so we had a good
33 talk on that. That was University of Fairbanks, I
34 believe that -- I believe put that get together on up
35 there at the meeting.

36
37 And then I'm with that Trans-Indigenous
38 TransBoundary Committee and I was just down to Reno
39 here, I got home -- when was it, Monday, I think. That
40 was a long meeting. The mining that's going on
41 throughout the United States is scary. By the end of
42 the meetings after that week, they showed mining
43 between Hawaii and Mexico, underwater mining and once
44 those people go through with their big ships and the
45 mines it looks like this here, and what they're pumping
46 overboard, their waste, is almost to Hawaii as we speak
47 and it's a big cloud, it's going to destroy the
48 underwater wildlife there. I mean there's so much that
49 a lot of us don't know and it's scary what's going on.
50

0038

1 About 90 percent of the mines are on Native lands that
2 the government gave permits away to without consulting
3 the Natives. Reno's having big trouble with some in
4 that area with the mines and they've had different
5 speakers there and this one guy gave his class on it.
6 There's these minerals that we have stockpiled
7 everywhere that they don't need to be mining,
8 especially uranium and they want that cobalt real bad
9 for the batteries. People are getting worried because
10 how are they going to get rid of that waste, because
11 the batteries don't last that long. It's going to be a
12 terrible waste to deal with.

13

14 So there's been a lot going on in my
15 head with those meetings but it was interesting. But I
16 tell you I was almost depressed after we finished up
17 the meeting and pictures that we seen of the mining is
18 not good. It's going to continue up on the Unuk,
19 Stikine, Taku and they'll wipe out our fish again.

20

21 Anyway, that's a long story. Thank
22 you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Louie.
25 Frank Wright, Jr., from Hoonah. Go ahead, Frank.

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 I'll start off with our ferry system. This summer we
29 had ferries twice a week. What are they planning on
30 doing since the tourists are going to be gone, they're
31 going to cut our ferry system down this winter. When I
32 was a kid, I remember getting stuck in Juneau because
33 we couldn't fly out. When I was a kid the Chilkat came
34 in to play so we eventually we were having a ferry
35 coming from Juneau to Hoonah at least once a week. But
36 now that the tourists are gone they're cutting the
37 ferries back again. When the ferry system was supposed
38 to be there for the local communities in Southeast
39 Alaska, the State decides that they're going to cut it
40 back. They got it, blank, backwards.

41

42 You know it's -- I've already gotten
43 stuck in Juneau twice this year. You know there's some
44 people that just can't afford to be stuck in Juneau,
45 you know, and what are those people supposed to do if
46 they can't afford to get a hotel or anything like that
47 because they're stuck when they had scheduled to fly
48 out. I almost missed my -- our Khu.eex, the (In
49 Tlingit) Khu.eex' because I got bumped on a plane that
50

0039

1 was supposed to take me out the day before to Khu.eex'
2 so I had to charter Ward Air so that I could get in the
3 next day because the next flight was going to be fore
4 -- was full and Saturday, and no Saturday came to
5 Hoonah because of the weather. That's just one thing.
6 Then the ferry system is so important to our community.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: It's like Mr. Howard had
12 said, \$10 a half gallon for milk, can you imagine that.
13 A 10 pound bag of rice, 25 bucks in Hoonah and Costco
14 is 23 -- it used to be 16 but it's for a 25 pounder,
15 you know, so that's the thing, you know, if you end up
16 having to take your vehicle to Juneau, where do we hit,
17 we hit Costco because the ferry is going to be able to
18 bring it back, you know, so that's an issue that's
19 going to be plaguing us this winter because they're
20 cutting the ferries back again.

21

22 This year we had a record number of
23 tour ships. I think we had 230 tour ships in Hoonah.
24 And we don't have enough workers. Hoonah doesn't have
25 enough people to be working those ships. One day I was
26 standing in front of my window, because I live on Front
27 Street, and I was watching some tourists walking by and
28 they were pointing at the back of my house so I went to
29 the back of my house and looked out the window and
30 there was a deer standing behind our house eating some
31 plants. So I went and told some tourists, hey, there's
32 some deer behind my house if you guys want to see it,
33 so this lady says, yeah, it's right there, it's right
34 there and she asked me, is that your pet?

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: And I said, no. And then
39 just on FaceBook they showed there was a bear behind
40 our house and he poked his head out by an oil tank, it
41 was a small one but it poked its head out and it was
42 walking through my wife's raspberry patch, and that's
43 my wife's pride and glory, is her raspberry patch, and
44 she went back working back there and she stepped in it.
45 She said it's not that bad after I stepped in it. You
46 know those are just little things about our little
47 community.

48

49 You know I went tanner fishing this

50

0040

1 February, last February, and the places that I used to
2 set my crab pots, we used to get hundreds and hundreds
3 of female tanners so we used to have to sort through
4 them to get the legal size males. This year and last
5 year we didn't even have to sort because there weren't
6 any females. The females are little, little ones. So
7 we never had to sort through them. Inside Halibut
8 Island, same thing, we sorted -- had to use stump pots
9 there and our pots would come up full with females and
10 our pots are big, they used to be full and we had to
11 sort through them. This year we didn't even have to
12 sort because there were no females. Where are they
13 going. You know that's just some of the things that I
14 experience.

15
16 You know the State, on the king salmon,
17 they opened all the way up to for us to go fishing for
18 them is -- let's see close to South Pass which is about
19 30 miles from Hoonah for us to go subsistence fishing
20 or go catch a fish, do you know how far that is 30
21 miles in Icy Straits, can you imagine getting caught in
22 the weather in that kind of place. An example is this
23 last winter, in February, we went fishing at Pleasant
24 Island which is only about 20 miles away, and my boat
25 is a 58-footer, and it was the worst weather I've ever
26 run in to, the worst. Inside waters, I was taking blue
27 water over my bow, just taking it right over the bow.
28 A couple of my crew members were seasick but they kept
29 working. You know that's the kind of weather that we
30 ran in to. I mean -- but then at that Pleasant Island
31 where I was at, we used to catch quite a bit of crab,
32 we only made one set there and went back and hauled and
33 there wasn't hardly anything in them. That was tanner
34 fishing and that was the worst I've ever been.

35
36 You know this fall, because of the
37 pandemic, we haven't had a Khu.eex' because of it.
38 This year we had a Khu.eex' for two (In Tlingit) and it
39 was beautiful. You know, one of the things that I
40 always say is that when you take one tiny bit away from
41 a culture you're diminishing the identity of those
42 people. You cannot do that. But because of this
43 pandemic a lot of young people didn't go through the
44 learning process of watching a Khu.eex' and picking up
45 what they're learning. This year there was some young
46 people there that were able to watch it and see it,
47 maybe they didn't pay attention but they'll remember
48 it. You know, so this year was a good year for
49 Khu.eex' and I'm hoping we could continue for the rest
50

0041

1 of the clans in Southeast Alaska. It's a learning
2 process. When I was a kid I didn't care. But I still
3 learned even though I was running around crazy.

4
5 Well, you know, the young people that
6 are here, I'm glad you're here, you know, because if
7 you think you see issues that are -- that bother you,
8 you need to speak up. I always said to -- you know,
9 I'm the President of our tribe, I says, don't walk out
10 of here if you have a question. You need to ask the
11 question. And the young people that are here, if
12 you're walking out without asking that question, you'll
13 be walking down a street and say why didn't I ask that.
14 Why didn't I ask that. You know, my Council is always
15 -- you know sometimes they don't speak up but I'll say
16 what do you think; don't think what I think, tell me
17 what you think. If you think my mind is made up, try
18 and change it, what you have to say might be the thing
19 that will change my mind and go toward your way. So
20 young people that are here, you have questions, please
21 ask.

22
23 Gunalcheesh.

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.
26 Cathy Needham, Vice Chair, from Juneau. Go ahead,
27 Cathy.

28
29 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Good morning everyone. My name is Cathy Needham, I
31 live in Juneau, however, I was born and raised here in
32 Ketchikan. I'm an enrolled member of Ketchikan Indian
33 Community. I grew up just on the other side of Saxman
34 and so I would really like to thank and appreciate the
35 fact that both President Bennett and President Williams
36 are here today with us.

37
38 I was thinking about the words that Mr.
39 Williams shared with us this morning and I was thinking
40 about the fact that, you know, I live in Juneau, a lot
41 of times I feel like people wonder what my role is in
42 terms of subsistence because I live in a non-rural area
43 and I'm a non-Federally-qualified -- I'm not a
44 Federally-qualified subsistence users and while I was
45 sitting here listening to my co-Council members and
46 thinking about Mr. Williams' words I was like, you
47 know, I did grow up with a subsistence lifestyle here,
48 in Ketchikan, Alaska. My father worked for the mill,
49 my mother was a home -- she stayed at home and raised
50

0042

1 us children. Her family has been here for longer than
2 all of us and my grandmother was Irene Jones from the
3 Jones' family here, Nettie Jones was her mother, so she
4 was my great-grandmother, and I was talking to Keenan
5 Sanderson this morning as well and thinking about his
6 role in what he's been doing with education and the
7 fact that we have youth here with us today, and
8 thinking about some more recent things that have
9 happened in the Ketchikan School District in terms of
10 teaching the Native indigenous lifestyle and history in
11 the Ketchikan School District and really, actually, I
12 sit here and I'm like I'm proud to be here. I'm proud
13 that we're here, our Council has come here to Ketchikan
14 to deal with the agenda items, or address the agenda
15 items that we are addressing here and I feel like I'm
16 home.

17
18 So I very much sit on this Council with
19 the mind of representing subsistence users across the
20 region, and whether you're in a rural or non-rural
21 area, I think if you are participating, especially if
22 you've had that connection to that land, we should be
23 advocating for the continued uses for that. Especially
24 at a time where we've ready woken, like we've had this
25 pandemic, and we've thought a lot -- we're thinking a
26 lot more about food security issues, things that are
27 very big in terms of what agencies are trying to
28 provide to people in Alaska and how we can move forward
29 with making good, positive food security decisions and
30 ability to be able to provide for people and families
31 in our region.

32
33 So I wanted to make those comments.

34
35 Normally when I give my community
36 report it's like I'm from Juneau, these are the issues
37 that I tend to work on between Council meetings.
38 They're larger subject things. I would say the number
39 1 issue between meetings that I've had the opportunity
40 to basically listen to, people who have approached me
41 over the time have to do specifically with the Unit 4
42 deer proposals that are before us and I've attended
43 meetings for that. I'm looking forward to us coming
44 back together to hopefully provide good recommendations
45 that we can come out of this meeting for as those
46 proposals move, and continue to move, through the
47 process and understand that, you know, we have a lot of
48 opportunity to continue to assure those living in Unit
49 4 have a meaningful subsistence opportunity towards
50

0043

1 that resource. And I think that we're getting closer
2 and closer and that is exciting to me.

3
4 The other sort of issue that I feel
5 like I spent a little bit of time on over the season
6 is, of course, wolf, always working on the issue in the
7 background with my work with Hydaburg Cooperative
8 Association. Also, you may remember that the U.S. Fish
9 and Wildlife Service actually requested -- had a
10 Federal Register publication out to the region for
11 gathering documenting and utilizing traditional
12 ecological knowledge in their Endangered Species Act
13 determination and it was one of the first times that
14 I'm aware of, during that type of a process, where
15 they've specifically solicited that information and I
16 tried to find local knowledgeable people and encourage
17 them to submit comments into that process and share
18 that information back out because I think it just sets
19 a precedence that maybe down the line, as these issues
20 do come before us, that traditional ecological
21 knowledge will be utilized more and more in the
22 decisionmaking process especially as we move towards
23 indigenous co-management. I think it really ties into
24 that aspect of it. The stronger we make the TEK and we
25 make decisionmakers understand what TEK is and how
26 important that it can be, the better decisions that we
27 can make and hopefully that will be a natural
28 progression into assuring that indigenous co-management
29 is taken as a very serious thing.

30
31 So, with that, I'd like to turn it back
32 over. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
35 Cal Casipit from Gustavus. Go ahead, Cal.

36
37 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 just wanted to give a quick summary of stuff that's
39 going on from my community. I know I'm a
40 representative from Gustavus but I do feel like I
41 represent the entire Southeast region and subsistence
42 users. So just kind of a disclaimer up front.

43
44 So things in Gustavus, we had a pretty
45 good summer. I mean it seems like we were back to the
46 same levels of visitors and sportfishermen and the like
47 that we were at before the Covid crises hit. There
48 were lots and lots and lots and lots of charter boat
49 operators and clients and stuff in town. Again, I've
50

0044

1 never seen so many fish boxes leaving our community on
2 Alaska Airlines. In fact, it was common practice down
3 there, I guess, is they would delay putting passengers
4 through the airport screening because they needed the
5 X-ray machine that they send your carry-ons through to
6 look at fish boxes. So, you know, they had their own
7 X-ray machine out there in the back for luggage but
8 they had to use this one too because of all the fish
9 boxes that were being sent out of town. And I just --
10 I know we work on that, we seem to work on that every
11 Board of Fish cycle, it's something we try to address
12 all the time and it's not getting any better from what
13 I've seen. It's getting worse.

14

15 We had a moose season this year, again,
16 like everybody I've heard it's been really warm this
17 fall. They weren't acting like they were -- they
18 weren't acting like they normally did, the normal
19 places where I went to -- where I could always count
20 there'd be some moose around there, it was just so warm
21 they hadn't been driven out of the high country yet and
22 they just weren't around. The quota was -- we did get
23 the quota for Gustavus, 11 moose, but -- 11 or 12 moose
24 or something was the quota this year, we did have one
25 sub-legal harvest which was a bummer. But anyway,
26 that's kind of how the moose season went.

27

28 Not too many people have been, again,
29 deer hunting I've been out a couple times but like
30 folks have said before, they're still way up high, it
31 was warm, we didn't get our first frost until the day
32 we left to come here.

33

34 Kind of -- I'm going to switch gears
35 and take the lead from Cathy, but I've been kind of
36 just thinking, you know, in my head over the summer
37 about things that I was seeing come over email from
38 DeAnna and all, this idea of meaningful preference and
39 what does that mean and how do we provide it.
40 Meaningful preference, is that over the entire region,
41 is it a hunt, is it a population, or is it -- you know,
42 and I thought about all those kind of things and then
43 -- and then like Harvey was talking about, these
44 emergency closures for goats in Unit 4 and it's like --
45 and I'm looking at these things and it's like the State
46 season is closed and at the same time the Federal
47 season, I'm confused about how many people are actually
48 Federally-qualified or not Federally-qualified, and I'm
49 struggling to see where the meaningful preference is

50

0045

1 there for Federally-qualified users. And I'm
2 struggling to see how that's being provided and how we
3 can maybe help that. And I think maybe Staff needs to
4 help us with that a little bit. Help us figure out
5 what this meaningful preference means. We all talk
6 about it, it all gets thrown around but how does it
7 work in practice.

8

9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11

12 MR. CASIPIT: And this goat thing in
13 Unit 4 is a classic example of where I'm getting a
14 little frustrated about how meaningful preference is
15 being provided because it's hard to see. I mean and
16 Unit 4 deer, the whole reason we're going to be talking
17 about Unit 4 deer again is I think is because of
18 meaningful preference. The State took some action that
19 basically took away what I think is the meaningful
20 preference for Federally-qualified users in the
21 remainder of Unit 4 and there was no response from the
22 Federal Program about it. Well, we -- I guess the
23 Federal Program did put in some comments when it was
24 originally deliberated by the Board of Game but that's
25 why we're struggling with these deer proposals that's
26 coming before us again. How do we provide that
27 meaningful preference. So, anyway, I guess I'll just
28 leave it at that. We can talk about that later when we
29 get to the proposals.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.
32 Patricia Phillips from Pelican. Go ahead.

33

34 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
35 Hernandez. I'm going to build on what Cal brought up,
36 is this meaningful preference. And, you know, the
37 Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act passed
38 in 1980 and the way I look at it is my oldest son was
39 born in '82 and, you know, the Forest Supervisor came
40 to Alaska in '82 and the Federal Program's first
41 meeting was in 1994, and after the State, you know, did
42 not comply with rural preference for ANILCA and so
43 we've been building this Program as a RAC, providing
44 our input, and building on the recommendations of the
45 RAC and having reviewed this meeting packet, this
46 meeting material, it is one of the best meeting packets
47 that I've read since I've been involved with this
48 Regional Advisory Council and a lot of that has to do
49 with the Regional Advisory Council member's input and
50

0046

1 brainpower to bring this information to the attention
2 of the Federal Program. And I'm just really impressed
3 with that, Mr. Chair. And even to see some of our
4 leadership of the RAC's words coming -- being presented
5 in this material, you know, to bring their knowledge to
6 us almost in a spiritual way. I see Michael Bangs'
7 name in here, you know, and it's just like wow he
8 really did a good job of representing us and our
9 concerns.

10

11 So that meaningful preference to me has
12 taken on more meaning.

13

14 But getting back to community concerns.

15

16 So we still have wasting starfish going
17 on -- the waters in our ocean are changing. We do have
18 less sea otters, we have locals harvesting scallops and
19 abalone and sharing them within the community. I was
20 born on Mt. Edgecumbe, at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital and
21 raised at Mr. Edgecumbe in Millerville (ph) until I was
22 in 7th grade, my dad was a diver, he used to go diving
23 for abalone, abalone was like food for us so it's good
24 to see it coming back.

25

26 The locals like to harvest shrimp but
27 the commercial fishery came through last year and this
28 year we hardly have any shrimp. I mean we set a pot
29 out, you know, our sons hauled it first and we only got
30 six shrimp and then my husband and I, two days later
31 hauled it, and only got six shrimp. So the shrimp for
32 subsistence is diminished and I think it's a result
33 from overharvest by commercial.

34

35 We had a moose swim from probably the
36 west Chichagof side of the Inlet to east Chichagof side
37 of the Inlet. The boats that like anchor up in, you
38 know, over in Grames or behind Cape Spencer or over by
39 Dundus or even over by Pleasant Island report of
40 hearing all these wolves howling and then so we get
41 these, I guess, we get species from the main land
42 swimming the islands, you know, Indian Pass Islands
43 and, you know, so we get these animals on Chichagof.
44 And so my fear is when are those wolves going to show
45 up especially when I hear they're good swimmers and
46 that'll really affect our deer.

47

48 There's been scouring of our salmon
49 streams. We had poor pink runs. There's been heavier
50

0047

1 torrents of rain and it's been a warmer fall. We
2 didn't hit 40 degrees until this week and finally we
3 are getting some snow on the mountaintops. And the
4 local Pelican Advisory Committee supported a lower
5 sportfish salmon bag limit and the Board of Fish did
6 not support that lower bag limit.

7

8 We had Covid, we went two years without
9 any Covid cases in Pelican, but we were pretty shut
10 down to outside influence and then this summer we had
11 like over 40 cases hit within a six week window. Some
12 of that was during our times when we would
13 traditionally go, you know, harvest our salmon. But
14 there was a lot of return of the charter fleet and
15 their clients.

16

17 We have the Wild Fish Conservancy
18 Lawsuit in Puget Sound which potentially, you know,
19 will devastate our chinook harvest and that's a treaty
20 allocation and that treaty allocation splits between
21 commercial and personal use and charter/sport and, you
22 know, so how is that going to affect us at the local
23 level. I mean we're already facing, you know, shortage
24 of salmon harvest.

25

26 We have large conifer stand die-off. I
27 travel between Sitka and Pelican and just see large
28 swaths of conifer die-off and there's a lot of like low
29 bush shrubs taking over muskeg areas where
30 traditionally there was like cloudberries, it's now
31 being taken over by low shrubs. And so a lot of our
32 community members utilize firewood and so I would
33 encourage, you know, Forest Service to provide more
34 free use logging of these, you know, dead timber areas.
35 My fear is you see all these Forest fires, you know,
36 working their way up the coast, Canada now, that if we
37 have droughts and no rain for extended periods of time
38 and these large stands of tree die-offs, that we could
39 even sometime in the future experience these large
40 Forest fire events.

41

42 The west Chichagof, Cross Sound area
43 chinook, it was like a drought, I mean at least for the
44 month of July. And while I was out there, I fished,
45 you know, we ran our rod and reel for awhile and there
46 were still large pods of humpbacks feeding on herring
47 there but the salmon caught were small and, you know, I
48 used to buy fish back in '79 and '80 and there was
49 nothing but slabs that came across, you know, the scale
50

0048

1 and it's just very rare to see what we call a slab
2 coming across the docks anymore. I think I said we had
3 poor pink salmon returns.

4
5 And somebody asked how bad does it have
6 to get and, you know, we do make recommendations, we
7 followup on those recommendations and we need to
8 continue to build on those recommendations, so thank
9 you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.
12 Ian Johnson from Hoonah. Go ahead.

13
14 MR. JOHNSON: All right, thank you, Mr.
15 Chair. I feel like it's hard to go last because
16 there's so many themes that I've heard that just exist
17 within Hoonah and we're seeing all the inter-
18 connectedness amongst the communities so I have made
19 quite a list of notes and I will try to be succinct.

20
21 Yeah, you heard about the kind of
22 warmth in the Hoonah/Chichagof/Gustavus area, like
23 when I arrived here it was the first snow up high and
24 we hadn't frozen yet so that's pretty late. It's going
25 to affect deer hunting but I also have heard about like
26 late season blueberries being really good. So that's a
27 yin and a yang on that.

28
29 We have been really concerned about our
30 local food security and sovereignty. You heard about
31 the cost of living in Hoonah, one thing that wasn't
32 mentioned was the price of fuel, which has very -- you
33 know, we've been above \$6 a gallon, we're at \$6.30
34 right now all summer, and that's just how it's been the
35 entire year. Actually we did hit about \$5.50 once and,
36 you know, it was like a gas rush to go get fuel. So
37 aside from just the cost of food, which is very high,
38 the cost of fuel, I'm thinking about the activities
39 we're doing on the land are also just exacerbated by
40 that cost.

41
42 Patty's point about the die-offs of
43 trees. It's a pretty unprecedented level of impact
44 from -- it's a trifecta, you know, we had the drought
45 in 2019 and early 2020 which triggered the hemlock
46 sawfly and then that was chased up by the bud worm, and
47 that three hit punches wiped out pretty good chunks of
48 old growth in certain spots and one of the spots in
49 Hoonah is right above town. So thinking about the
50

0049

1 wildfire risk there. We actually just had some
2 communities around natural disasters and that was one
3 of the topics that was hit on quite a bit. And aside
4 from the old growth impact, you know, my understanding
5 of these bud worm impacts is they've been -- you know,
6 they've been here in the past but never when we've had
7 industrial scale young growth and the young growth
8 stand condition around Hoonah is not good. Flying over
9 from Hoonah to Corner Bay or other places, you know, a
10 third of the tree is brown. So yet to be known what's
11 going to happen to those, but my understanding from
12 talking to Forest Service folks is likely top kill is
13 going to exist, you know, in a large majority of that
14 stand and pretty much, you know, there's a good chance
15 it's going to roll over tens of thousands of acres of
16 young growth around the Hoonah area and so we just
17 might see a reset of the landscape or of something. So
18 troubling times there.

19
20 The coho in Hoonah were not great this
21 year and same as everywhere else, the schools and the
22 jumps were just really low. Like last year, you know,
23 just personally I think between me and the people I
24 fish with, you know, we took about 45 coho and that was
25 plenty for us to have ourselves and distribute, and
26 this year I caught three with the same amount of effort
27 and I received two, and so literally like -- just,
28 whatever, you can do the math on the percent reduction
29 that is but it was pretty dramatic for my household,
30 personally, this year.

31
32 Sockeye-wise, I heard hit or miss
33 reports in Hoktaheen, I think they showed up pretty
34 late. It'll actually be interesting to corroborate
35 that with other communities that use that system. But
36 I didn't fish it personally but, you know, it forced
37 people to other systems, you know, so just the shifting
38 windows and fish arrival with the openings and
39 allowances there aren't seeming to line up very well
40 for harvest in those systems.

41
42 And let's see, so one of the themes
43 that I've been thinking about, you know, we have this
44 unprecedented king crab collapse up north and you're
45 hearing about the crab issues in Hoonah and maybe other
46 waters too, tanner crab, we also had issues with
47 dungeness in Hoonah this year. Some folks seemed to be
48 fine, they were finding crab and getting numbers in
49 their pots, just personal use, but it was pretty hit or
50

0050

1 missed. People who were very experienced crab
2 fishermen were not coming up with the numbers that they
3 normally would. And so I just think that, you know,
4 one of the themes I'm thinking about across the state
5 is how much things have been turned upside down by
6 climate change and just ocean change and everything
7 else, you know, these traditional -- you know, we have
8 a traditional management system here, 10,000 years of
9 it, or 12,000 years of it and then, of course, there's
10 like the game management system side of it and it's,
11 you know, evident to me that we can't have confidence
12 in systems these days, like we need to constantly
13 thinking about them and being very critical about
14 trends and actively managing systems because there's no
15 -- there are no guarantees anymore. In fact, that was
16 one of the things I was thinking about with coho this
17 year, it's like in years past you would say, oh,
18 they're late, but, hey, the coho are coming. Now, you
19 say, oh, the coho are late, are they coming? You know,
20 like there is no guarantees anymore, you don't know.

21
22 And let's see, so you have the king
23 crab situation up north and then not that far south of
24 us, unprecedented die-offs in Canadian waters of tens
25 of thousands of fish at a time in rivers where they
26 moved in and then the rivers dried up. You know we're
27 not that far from there. And thinking about those
28 types of impacts and what we need to do to be proactive
29 to think about these drought and heat conditions in the
30 future is going to be really important and we need to
31 -- I think there's things we can do. Make our streams
32 climate ready. It's going to take some human
33 intervention but we need to start thinking about these
34 adaptation strategies now.

35
36 In Hoonah we've had a little bit of ups
37 and downs in terms of our Trooper regulations. We had
38 a long-time Trooper who retired. We had a replacement,
39 Mr. Edenshaw, but my understanding is he is going to be
40 moving on and so Hoonah's going to be without a Trooper
41 again. I'm bringing that up because one of the issues
42 I've been hearing about is I've been engaging on the
43 Unit 4 deer work is just lack of enforcement, you know,
44 people are consistently concerned about enforcement
45 issues in general associated with non-Federally-
46 qualified use, you know, and my understanding is our
47 current enforcement options are going away and I don't
48 know what the plans are to replace those. I haven't
49 asked that question. But, yeah, that's something
50

0051

1 happening in Hoonah right now.

2

3

4 And, yeah, oh, one last thing on a
5 resource point, heard about halibut in the Chichagof
6 area, seeing the same trends in Hoonah. Very
7 experienced people that are running skates are coming
8 up blank, you know, a good amount of times. And that's
9 -- when you think about the cost of fuel and the number
10 of times that you have to go out and make a trip, I
11 know people who typically always have halibut in the
12 freezer are like, yeah, we got a couple packs, you
13 know, it's just a completely different scene for
14 halibut in Hoonah again this year.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And I am excited to see the students here. We are actually doing a similar program in Hoonah, trying to get engagement around dual enrollment [sic] and getting our youth lifted up and engaged in these policy processes.

And, yeah, yep, I think that's it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ian. But actually you're not last because the Chair always goes last.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, so I do the Chair's report but I also do my local report from my community. And as was mentioned earlier I have been a long-time commercial fisherman, 48 years of commercial fishing and 42 of those years I've been gillnetting the waters of Sumner Strait pretty much exclusively. That's my front yard, that's where I do all my fishing and I have seen quite a few changes there over the years.

So I'll start with the good news.

I've kind of watched the Stikine sockeye run, which is one of our major fish runs that comes through there kind of dwindling over the past number of years, probably 10 years or so, and it is also a pretty important subsistence fishery up the river for folks, and this year we had a pretty bad prediction for Stikine sockeyes again, but we had a pleasant surprise. The early run of Stikine sockeyes

0052

1 which go up the Tahltan River actually came in pretty
2 good. And I'm a little unsure of how the subsistence
3 fishery went because I hear the river was very high
4 during that time period so I don't know how successful
5 they were. But then there's also a later run of
6 sockeyes into the Stikine and that was very weak. So
7 one little bright spot there, yeah, tempered by another
8 poor run.

9
10 Local fish runs, Sumner Strait, is, you
11 know, right in the center of Southeast Alaska and I
12 know things were really bad to the north and not so bad
13 to the south and we kind of had a mixed bag. We did
14 not have a good pink harvest. I didn't see a lot of
15 pinks in my net but looking at some local streams I did
16 see some, you know, decent escapements so, you know, it
17 was kind of a mixed bag. I saw some places that didn't
18 do well, and a couple other streams looked like they
19 were doing well. I don't think the local sockeye runs
20 were all that strong, as we've heard from a lot of our
21 other Council members that sockeye runs overall seemed
22 to be weak throughout the region.

23
24 It was a pretty poor coho season. This
25 year was a chum year, it was a big year for chums,
26 hatchery chums. We don't see a lot of hatchery chums
27 coming through our area unfortunately so we didn't get
28 a lot of benefit on that. And just being -- living in
29 a troll community it was kind of amazing that the troll
30 season, which as many years as I can remember has been
31 a fairly short, you know, one week, 10 day season and
32 the kings were so lacking this year that the season
33 never closed. It was open clean up until September
34 20th with no closure, so not a lot of kings, not a lot
35 of big kings, something's going on there.

36
37 So in other things, like other Council
38 members mentioned, a lot of dying trees in our Forest
39 and in my region as well. The sawfly outbreaks were
40 pretty extensive and this year we saw more of the
41 spruce budworm really attacking the young growth as was
42 mentioned so that's a concern.

43
44 Another local concern is the ever
45 expanding non-resident sportfishing industry. In our
46 little community on every single day of this summer
47 season the number of non-resident sportsfishermen
48 outnumber the local residents and it is an impact.
49 We're seeing localized depletions of, you know, stocks
50

0053

1 that are important to subsistence users. Primarily
2 most of the folks that come up, they, as was mentioned,
3 they want to fill fish boxes and we don't see a lot of
4 salmon fishing, everybody's out there jigging. They
5 want to catch the halibut and they catch a lot of
6 rockfish and, you know, as you know those rockfish they
7 tend to be residents and I'm afraid I hear anecdotal
8 reports of, you know, a lot of wasted fish because
9 you're supposed to be releasing the pelagic, or non-
10 pelagic, I always forget which is which, but a lot of
11 people just -- you know, they're not professionals,
12 they're not the guided people. The guides -- the
13 guides are responsible. You know I'm not going to
14 knock guided fishing because I know some of those
15 people and, you know, they're in it for the long haul
16 and they're responsible and they do know how to release
17 fish successfully. But this unguided industry, it's
18 just kind of getting out of hand, and it's not
19 sportsfishing, it's an industry, it's commercial as far
20 as I'm concerned because these operators are making a
21 lot of money with not a lot of investment, you know,
22 all they got to do is provide a skiff to somebody and
23 send them out there and, yeah, the regulations and
24 enforcements is just kind of a joke, I don't know.
25 It's like I talk to enforcement people and, you know,
26 the bag limits that people are supposed to adhere to
27 and all these complicated bag limit regulations, and in
28 my community, you know, the people are fishing right
29 out at the entrance to the harbor and I see them going
30 out at 4:00 or 5:00 o'clock in the morning and they
31 come back and they have breakfast and they drop fish
32 off and then they go out and they fish some more, they
33 come in, they have lunch, they bring in more fish, they
34 go out, you know, have dinner, come back, they're out
35 until dark, they come back, you know, they're dressing
36 fish, they're putting them in the freezer; what a heck
37 is the possession limit when you're fishing like that,
38 I have no idea. You know Troopers, I've talked to them
39 and they say, it's almost impossible to keep track of
40 that. So, yeah, it's a localized problem and it's
41 happening in a lot of communities. We'll keep trying
42 to address it through the Board of Fish because it's
43 not our jurisdiction but it certainly impacts the
44 ability of people to just go out and be able to jig up
45 a fish to eat when they want to which used to be almost
46 a guarantee and now it's not.

47

48 So we're kind of apprehensive about the
49 coming deer season. People are just starting to look

50

0054

1 around out there. It was a pretty hard winter, as we
2 know, not seeing a lot of good sign as, you know, Mike
3 Douville pointed out, on the island, so we'll see how
4 that goes but folks aren't that optimistic.

5

6 So I think that's all I'll talk about
7 for my local report.

8

9 For the Chair's report, kind of a busy
10 year. I'll start out with our Board actions. The
11 Board met after we had our winter meeting and they did
12 the wildlife proposals and it went well for the
13 Council's recommendations, I have to say. Of course,
14 we're going to hear these three proposals that came
15 back on Unit 4, the Board did defer on those and, of
16 course, we'll be dealing with that but we did have some
17 other good results. And I'll just point out that a
18 kind of a detailed discussion of that is on Page 15 of
19 your Council books if anybody wants to see more about
20 that.

21

22 Also this summer the Board asked to
23 have kind of a stakeholders meeting to talk about these
24 Unit 4 deer proposals. I was not able to be involved in
25 that, you know, too busy time of year for me but some
26 of our Council members were and you'll see reports on
27 that meeting throughout the Council book when we talk
28 about those proposals.

29

30 Also we had another working group
31 meeting of the Indigenous Management, Co-Management
32 Working Group this summer. We got together one more
33 time to try and kind of finalize our Council comments
34 from our previous meeting and put it in a form that
35 hopefully Council members can look over. There is a
36 draft of that in the Council books as well. So that's
37 on Page 35 in the book, look that over before we get to
38 that item in the agenda. On that particular meeting,
39 once, again, busy time of the year, I think myself and
40 Cal were the only Council members that were able to
41 make that meeting but we did the best we could of kind
42 of finalizing that letter and we did have a lot of good
43 input because fortunately we had some really good note
44 taking of our previous Council meeting and we were able
45 to incorporate a lot of ideas and concepts that other
46 Council members had contributed at the winter meeting.
47 So hopefully you will have an opportunity to look that
48 over carefully and we'll hopefully finalize that at
49 this meeting.

50

1 I was also involved in the planning of
2 the deer summit on Prince of Wales Island for Unit 2
3 that Mike Douville mentioned. Mike and I both
4 participated in that and I was kind of involved in the
5 planning of it representing the Council with our input
6 and to how it might go. That happened last weekend.
7 And I'll have to say I was extremely pleased with the
8 way it all went. I have to admit I was apprehensive
9 you never know what's going to happen when you try and
10 bring lots of people together from diverse communities
11 and talk about a controversial issue but I don't think
12 it could have gone better. We had, you know,
13 professional facilitators facilitating the meeting and
14 they were just really impressed how everybody conducted
15 themselves and the level of engagement and discussion
16 and, you know, we had a diverse group of local
17 residents, you know, deer hunters, everybody was, of
18 course, a deer hunter, you know, that was why we were
19 there, and we also had the wolf trappers showing up
20 giving us their perspective on what's going on out
21 there. We had Department of Fish and Game personnel.
22 We had a lot of Forest Service personnel from diverse
23 backgrounds and civil culture and we talked to -- a lot
24 of discussion on habitat issues. We did a field trip
25 where we looked at some experimental plots that were
26 going on and trying to restore deer habitat on the
27 island and that was really informative, visually. We
28 also -- I guess I should also mention, we also had non-
29 government agencies there, conservation groups and
30 folks that are putting in proposals on wildlife from
31 Alaska Wildlife Alliance, has a lot of wolf proposals,
32 they sent people to talk to us and we got to talk to
33 them. U.S. Fish and Wildlife was there informing us on
34 endangered species listing. So it was a pretty intense
35 weekend of just talking about all the issues involved
36 with deer management in Unit 2 and it was just a really
37 good opportunity for local people to engage with agency
38 people and have discussions and give and take and a lot
39 of good presentations on latest research that local
40 people got to hear, and then of course they got to add
41 their own observations to the scientific research and,
42 you know, a lot of one on one engagement. It was a
43 really -- it was a really positive thing. If other
44 areas are in need of, you know, that kind of a get
45 together, boy, look at what happened last week in Craig
46 as a good model for how to go about talking about
47 important resource issues.

48
49
50

So, yeah, I think that concludes my

0056

1 report. And I think we need to take a little short
2 break. Let's go 15 minutes. And then when we come
3 back we need to hear public testimony and tribal
4 comments on non-agenda items. I want to stress the
5 fact that we're looking for non-agenda items here and
6 these are all the issues that, you know, people have on
7 any topic dealing with subsistence, this is our
8 opportunity to hear those concerns, observations. I'll
9 remind everybody that if you have a topic that's
10 specific to an issue that's on our agenda, please hold
11 off until we get to that item on the agenda.

12

13 And, yeah, so folks in the room,
14 hopefully you're aware that it's really helpful to us
15 if you fill out a blue card and get it to somebody on
16 the Staff so we know who in the room wants to testify
17 and we can kind of manage that. And then if there's
18 folks on the telephone line I'll check with you and see
19 if there's anybody on the phones before we get started.

20

21 So, okay, let's take a break and then
22 come back for that. Come back at 11:45. We might end
23 up having a late lunch but let's see how we do with
24 testimony on non-agenda items.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (On record)

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, everybody
31 let's find your seats again and we'll get back to the
32 meeting and see who we have for non-agenda public
33 comments and testimony. Public and tribal comments and
34 testimony.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
39 everybody. So now as I said it's time to hear public
40 and tribal comments on non-agenda items and, you know,
41 we did ask if anybody in the room was interested to
42 please fill out a blue card so we kind of get an idea
43 of who wants to come before us and DeAnna informs me we
44 don't have any blue cards handed in. Just kind of one
45 more opportunity, if somebody who didn't understand the
46 blue card system, if you want to come forward and make
47 a comment, if we don't have nobody else lined up, I
48 will go to the phones though in a minute, but in the
49 room if there's anybody that wants to come forward this
50

0057

1 is your opportunity.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

MS. THOMPSON: Mr. Chair.

11

12

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

MS. THOMPSON: Okay. First of all I'd just like to say that my father was a living repository of ancient stories. Auntie Naomi told me one time that they were young and crazy and running around and Matthew had to sit still and listen to the stories his uncles told him and he wasn't allowed to be free until after he repeated the stories word for word and then he was allowed to join his friends to play. So we were fortunate to hear a lot of the stories that he would share over time. He's no longer with us, it's a great loss. I appreciate the people that still express that concern.

But our people are tied directly to different crest signs, the bear being one of them. I am a (In Tlingit). I am a child -- a grandchild of the bear clan here in Angoon. And it is a crest symbol for them, they do revere the animal. Our people, the women would speak to the bears when they went out berry-picking and they would assure them, they'd speak in Tlingit, we're just here to gather food for the winter just like you, we don't mean you any harm, we will leave as soon as we're done and so they would do

0058

1 that.

2

3

4 We have, perhaps, the largest
5 concentration of bears is on Admiralty Island. It's
6 been said we have one bear per mile. Now, these bears
7 are interesting. They're unique, they have a DNA that
8 goes way back, way back in time. It says they -- some
9 40,000 years old remains have been found in the caves
10 of Prince of Wales where black bears, but no brown
11 bears exist today, the DNA research of the bears on
12 Admiralty have a unique DNA lineage. It's believed
13 that the ABC Island bear separated some 300,000 years
14 ago from the old world ancestry stock.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

I'm going to just tell a short story of what happened in my time in the cannery. We had a young boy that shot at a bear, killed a cub, and the mother left her other cub on the beach and went up into the woods. Our oldtimers said that was not good. She has gone to talk to her people and they will be back. So the menfolk used their rifles and escorted the women to and from work in the cannery and sure enough the bears came down and they came down all around the cannery homes, residence, and they came down at the same time. And one of our older guys, actually it's Albert Howard's father, John Howard, Sr., was observed poking one of them in the back, he was telling it to go back into the woods, go back into the woods they're going to kill you. So we have lived around them. We've never had a local person mauled as far as I know. This summer we have not seen -- I have not seen any bears. We've seen small signs but there is nothing compared to the last time I was the Mayor back in '98, and in that summer we had about 18 bears at the dump and we had, of course, bad fishing, so our commercial fishermen stopped what they were doing and they decided to shift gears and go up inside at least to prepare fish for the winter, for jarring, fresh pack, or smokehouse. There wasn't any fish up there in either.

I enjoyed hearing a lot of the Board's comments. I agree with them. We have much to be concerned about, including grey water. We have an area, we see the cruise boats that stop and they dump. Now we have the Japanese that goes by us, whatever is put in the water in the north shore, Hawk Inlet, and that's why Angoon was so active campaigning against enlarging the tailings, because whatever goes into our water, seeps in, makes its way to our shores. And in

0059

1 the summertime with the large cruise boats, they're
2 pulling everything down at a faster rate. So my
3 husband, who is a transplant from Indiana, he's been
4 here probably 50 years now, so he is considered a
5 local. He thinks Juneau is too big, he can't wait to
6 come back to the island. But he always asks me on a
7 regular basis, Max, how come so many of your people
8 have cancer. Well, the climate change is affecting
9 everything, all of our food source. And one thing I
10 have to say about our food source is our food is not a
11 preference -- a pallet preference, it is in our DNA. I
12 spent eight years on the North Slope and I hungered for
13 our food, it just tastes different. So when I gave
14 testimony all those years ago, the only way I can
15 explain to non-Natives is if you've been without water
16 and you're on the desert for awhile, that first drops
17 of water as it sparkles down your throat, that's the
18 same way with our food.

19
20 So anyway, some years ago one of our
21 local subsistence guys reported that the crab shells
22 were getting thin. And I, in mistake, mistook that
23 that, oh, no, we're overharvesting, but it turns out
24 that the shellfish, the crab, the cockles and the
25 clams, because of the change affecting the water, their
26 calcium level is down so their shells are getting
27 thinner. And we've also noticed that our fish is
28 getting smaller too, and I've heard that it's because
29 they're not making it out to the ocean water. I
30 learned a lot about our bears. I had a book given to
31 me several years ago from KJMetcalf, his name is quite
32 familiar with everybody and the book is called; Brown
33 Bears of Admiralty Island. That's where I read about
34 the DNA. But I also was able to, because of this book,
35 relate to what was being shared about when the bears
36 come down from high country. We noticed that they are
37 -- they came later, too. This is the first time I have
38 ever seen it this hot and I was born in Juneau and
39 raised here, we had 74 degree weather for about a week
40 and I really worried about the groundfuel, that's a new
41 word that I learned recently, this summer and it turns
42 out that our Native Americans in California have been
43 having controlled fires since they were on horseback.
44 So I would say they know a thing or two and we need to
45 send a delegation down there to find out what we could
46 do to have controlled fires. We need to manage our
47 resources a lot better and our trees are part of that.
48 Our community has always stepped forward in support of
49 subsistence, our traditional way of life. Our elders
50

0060

1 were asked by our corporation and to their credit they
2 listened, what do you want us to do, and they said,
3 protect our way of life. And they put their hands out
4 and they spread it like somebody's reaching for
5 something, to grab something. They said with fast
6 money it will go through your fingers, it's here today,
7 it's gone tomorrow, our food is here always. And so
8 that is why subsistence is so high with us. We've had
9 bad seasons as Albert has said.

10

11 Like I said earlier, I haven't seen a
12 bear. We've seen small signs, these are small bears
13 now.

14

15 So I agree with all the comments that
16 were made about decline of fishing, we've seen the same
17 thing. We didn't get to fresh pack coho so whatever --
18 we had a local guy that barterers. He harvests and then
19 he sells Christmas Packs, I don't think I'll be able to
20 afford to give out Christmas Packs this Christmas
21 because his take on his jarred fish is going to be
22 small, he'll probably set it aside for his personal
23 use. So all the way around, you know, we're going to
24 be suffering.

25

26 And I also appreciated the comments
27 about the rising cost of fuel. I own Angoon Oil here,
28 or I should say it owns me. And we are concerned every
29 time we place an order what is going to go up. We had
30 a saying up in Barrow, my friend who is from there,
31 says, you need a job to be a subsistence person in
32 order to buy the supplies and especially the gas.

33

34 So those are our people, you know, that
35 were up there in Barrow that were harvesting, I really
36 liked the School District, they have a motto -- a sign
37 they made where they know not everybody is college-
38 bound, they're not interested in college life, they are
39 subsistence harvesters. During Covid, our city had
40 community harvesters so they went out after deer and
41 they butchered and distributed it to the community, and
42 the same thing with the fish. And that was the first
43 time I got to have that, we're too busy to go out, so
44 we rely on our harvesters to provide. It's not just
45 subsistence, they share.

46

47 And I also appreciated the comments on
48 the Khu.eex'. Our Khu.eex' is based around the food
49 that we share with the ones that came forward in our
50

0061

1 time of need and I'm not sure what we're going to
2 serve. I would hate to think that I have to buy turkey
3 to give out because I couldn't afford or there was just
4 no fish.

5
6 So I really would like to talk strongly
7 against allowing hunters from outside, trophy hunters
8 to hunt bear. Some years ago KJ called Angoon all
9 excited, calling different people, there was a hunter
10 that had a permit from the Forest Service, and that's
11 all that mattered to him. He wounded a bear, he didn't
12 pursue the bear. So KJ was that one of our people
13 would encounter that bear. Up inside was on our ANCSA
14 when the State had coastal zone management. My dad
15 used to say, take from our dish but don't break the
16 bowl, that's what he referred to, up inside, is what we
17 call. It's our affectionate place. Years ago when we
18 were singing in in our traditional regalia and that
19 (Indiscernible) the Hawaiian crew that was coming to
20 thank Alaskans for the trees in order for them to make
21 their ancestral canoes, my father taught us a new song
22 and so we were bringing them in with that song and we
23 had some of our people up inside with their singing and
24 when they were pulling it in they could hear our songs
25 echoing. And they said for a moment in time they felt
26 like they were their ancestors, they could feel the joy
27 and the peace of pulling in the food for their family.

28
29 Now, at UAF when I finished with my
30 degree I wrote a paper on the social implications of
31 ANCSA on the Alaska Natives. And in the very back, in
32 a nutshell, what I did is I paired a picture that was
33 taken out of a Pipeline book -- I worked the Pipeline
34 also, and you can clearly tell it's (interruption) and
35 anyway, he's at a bus stop, you could tell he's
36 inebriated and then in the bottom is a Native man from
37 Southwest Alaska, he put it this way; now days we talk
38 about alcohol and drugs being the problem, my personal
39 opinion is that it should be the other way around, if
40 we concentrate on the rapid change, the cultural change
41 more than we do the alcoholism we could help teach
42 backwards in a way, that's my term, you see years ago
43 we were happy hunters, go-getters, we had that pride.
44 In the morning I'd get up at 4:00 o'clock and go hunt
45 all day long and come back with something, say a couple
46 ptarmigan. The strong fact is that I did that for
47 myself and gave it to my family. And we were happy
48 because I have done it. But something happened along
49 the way when all that was jerked away from us, when
50

0062

1 someone said, well, here's the money. Me, I'm hurting
2 way back in my mind, I can't help pretending that I did
3 it when I didn't do it, but I'm pretending and that jug
4 of alcohol covers up the hurt. I'm still trying to say
5 that I'm a provider but I'm not.

6
7 I really thank the Board for putting in
8 the conscientious time. I can tell that you care about
9 the matters that come before you. I encourage you and
10 I will lift you up to make the right and appropriate
11 decisions. I know definition, it looks like it is a
12 concern, and that's a right concern. I ask you to
13 really support and deny bear hunters up inside. There
14 are a lot of bear permits already given and they're all
15 over at Hood Bay. And our guides used to go on Hood
16 Mountain to hunt for deer but now they are apprehensive
17 because if they come across a bear hunter or a wounded
18 bear it's not going to come out good for us. So I
19 encourage you to hear us and to deny any more permits
20 in close proximity of our community. We are a
21 subsistence people. We have less than seven miles of
22 road so we care about what's happening to our
23 environment and to our food source.

24
25 Thank you very much for taking the
26 time.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
29 Ms. Thompson. We usually ask if there's Council
30 members who want to ask you any questions if you're
31 interested in entertaining question. I'll ask the
32 Council if you have any questions.

33
34 Anybody.

35
36 Patty Phillips. Go ahead, Patty.

37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
39 Hernandez. Thank you, Maxine. Does Hoonah -- I mean
40 Angoon -- pardon me -- does Angoon plan on submitting a
41 proposal to restrict bear hunting in the area that you
42 bring up?

43
44 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for that
45 question, Patty, and so good to hear your voice again.
46 As a community we spoke up against it. Unfortunately
47 we have some records that are in a different facility.
48 I just got news about this calling in yesterday, we're
49 in the middle of -- we're having, tomorrow, our
50

0063

1 commemoration on the bombardment of Angoon so we're
2 kind of busy and distracted. But, yes, we opposed it
3 both at the city, the corporation and at the tribal
4 entity at that time. And as far as I know, I have not
5 heard anything else that this is the same position that
6 we're taking. All those bays that are listed on there,
7 that's what we call up inside.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

10

11 MS. THOMPSON: Did I answer your
12 question, Patty?

13

14 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
17 Maxine.

18

19 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other Council
22 members with a question.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
27 Maxine for your comments. Is there anybody else
28 standing by on the telephone that would like to give a
29 comment.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm not
34 hearing anybody. So I think we can take a break for
35 lunch. We ran a little late here, let's see if we can
36 reconvene at 1:30. And when we do come back it's time
37 to get into old business. So we'll start off with old
38 business when we return at 1:30.

39

40 (Off record)

41

42 (On record)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. As soon as
45 we get a couple more Council members seated we'll
46 probably get under way.

47

48 (Pause)

49

50

0064

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, welcome back
2 from lunch everybody. It looks like we all had enough
3 time to go get something to eat. So just missing one
4 Council member and I was told he should be very shortly
5 so I think we can get underway.

6
7 We're going into old business. I'd
8 just like to point out that while we were at lunch, our
9 Council Coordinator had printed up our revised agenda
10 that we approved this morning so it's got all the
11 changes and what not all compiled into one easy to read
12 document here so we can keep up with that. You should
13 have that in front of you.

14
15 We also had distributed the comments
16 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, their draft
17 comments on the Unit 4 proposals. So you should have
18 that and have a little time to look that over before we
19 get into those proposals, hopefully.

20
21 So the first item up on old business is
22 report on our .805(c) report summary and that comes
23 from our Council Coordinator, DeAnna, so go ahead.

24
25 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
26 Chair and members of the Council. For the record,
27 again, my name is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for
28 the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
29 Council. And in your meeting books on Page 15 is the
30 letter and enclosure from the Federal Subsistence Board
31 and its known as the .805(c) report. This report
32 provides the action taken by the Board on proposals
33 affecting residents of the Southeast.

34
35 Now, as a reminder, Section .805(c) of
36 ANILCA provides that the Board will generally defer to
37 recommendations of the Council regarding take unless:

38
39 1. The recommendation is not supported
40 by substantial evidence.

41
42 2. The recommendation violates
43 recognized principles of fish and wildlife management.

44
45 3. Adopting the recommendation would
46 be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence
47 needs.

48
49 When a Council's recommendation is not
50

0065

1 adopted, the Board is to required to provide the
2 reasons and facts for their decision to the Council,
3 and these are provided in that annual .805(c) report.

4
5 You will note that the Board deferred
6 to many Southeast Council recommendations, as our Chair
7 mentioned in his Chair's report. On the consensus
8 agenda, the Board rejected Wildlife Proposal 22-05,
9 which requested establishing a draw permit hunt for elk
10 in the Etolin Island area of Unit 3.

11
12 The Board rejected Wildlife Proposal
13 22-06 which requested establishing a Federal draw
14 permit moose hunt with an any bull harvest limit and a
15 harvest quota of up to 20 bulls on Kupreanof and Kuiu
16 Islands in Unit 3.

17
18 The Board also rejected Wildlife
19 Proposal 22-09 which requested closing deer hunting to
20 non-Federally-qualified users October 15th through
21 December 31st in Lisianski Strait, Lisianski Inlet and
22 a portion of Stag Bay in Unit 4.

23
24 And, again, all those items were on the
25 consensus agenda.

26
27 The Board adopted, with modification,
28 Wildlife Proposal 22-11 which removed regulatory
29 language for mountain goat in Unit 5A stating: A
30 minimum of four goats in the harvest quota will be
31 reserved for Federally-qualified subsistence users. It
32 also -- the modification removed the language
33 describing an announcement of harvest quota from unit-
34 specific regulations and put it in the delegation of
35 authority letter only.

36
37 The Board voted to maintain status quo
38 on Wildlife Closure Review 22-02, which reviewed the
39 closure to moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified
40 users from September 16th through September 30th in
41 Unit 5, except Nunatak Beach -- Nunatak Bench, east of
42 the Dangerous River and from October 8th through
43 November 15th in Unit 5, except Nunatak Bench west of
44 the Dangerous River.

45
46 The remaining proposals and closure
47 reviews affecting the Southeast region appeared in the
48 non-consensus agenda, however, for two of the proposals
49 and one closure review, the Board did take action
50

0066

1 consistent with this Council's recommendations.

2

3 The Board adopted, with modification,
4 Wildlife Proposal 22-03 which requires that all wolves
5 taken in Unit 2 be sequentially numbered, mark with the
6 date of location -- date and location, rather, recorded
7 by the hunter and trapper for each wolf and that all
8 hides must be sealed within 15 days of take.

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12

13 MS. PERRY: And I will just pause for a
14 moment because we are getting some background noise.
15 If folks on the phone could just check your mute
16 button, if you're not muted press star, six, or we will
17 need to isolate your line. Again, star, six.....

18

19 REPORTER: Whoever's pouring water or
20 something right now.

21

22 MS. PERRY:to mute your button
23 please, or mute your phone. Yeah, whoever's pouring
24 water, that's what we're hearing, your line is open.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MS. PERRY: Okay. The Board also
29 adopted Wildlife Proposal 22-04 which established a
30 year-round elk season for Units 1, 2 and 4 and the
31 remainder of Unit 3 with the harvest limit of one elk
32 by Federal registration permit.

33

34 The Board also voted to maintain status
35 quo on Wildlife Closure Review 22-01 which reviewed the
36 closure for deer hunting by non-Federally-qualified
37 subsistence users from August 1 through 15 in Unit 2,
38 excluding ia southeast portion which is more described
39 in that proposal.

40

41 Lastly you'll note that the Board
42 deferred action on Proposals 22-07, 08 and 10 to its
43 winter 2023 regulatory meeting, requesting user groups
44 to work together to come up with better solutions. So
45 this agenda item is just a formal opportunity to bring
46 your attention to the Board's actions in document form.
47 It contains more details than the summary that I just
48 gave but this is just for your information only and not
49 an action item for the Council.

50

0067

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
5 DeAnna. Anybody on the Council have any questions
6 about actions that the Board took at their winter
7 meeting.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I guess not.
12 Thank you, DeAnna. Let's move ahead to the Board's
13 reply to our annual report. And this is something
14 DeAnna also has for us.

15

16 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Again, DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator. The Board
18 has provided a response letter to this Council's annual
19 report and that can be found on Page 20 of your meeting
20 books.

21

22 The Board appreciates your effort to
23 communicate through your annual report, those issues
24 that affect subsistence users in your region that are
25 outside of the regulatory process. This past year the
26 Council submitted six topics of concern in its annual
27 report. And for the record I'll just provide a
28 summary.

29

30 Topic 1. Was the possible impacts to
31 subsistence users because of TransBoundary mining. The
32 Board replied that it had not received a response to
33 the Board's letter that this Council asked to write to
34 the Lt. Governor back in 2017 requesting that he seek
35 assistance to pursue an international joint commission
36 with Canada to proactively study, monitor and mitigate
37 potential environmental effects of water contamination
38 from up stream mining operations in British Columbia.
39 So the Board requested that this Council resubmit its
40 TransBoundary mining concerns in a new letter to the
41 Board, which can then be elevated to the U.S.
42 Department of State, again, requesting that it take the
43 lead in collaborating with Canada to address the
44 TransBoundary mining issue. And this Council could so
45 choose to take that action when they discuss
46 correspondence towards the end of the meeting.

47

48 Topic 2. Was the concern about how
49 information is shared between the Federal Subsistence
50 Management Program and the Alaska Department of Fish

50

1 and Game. Mainly due to the delay in the Council's
2 receipt of the State's comments on three of the recent
3 wildlife proposals. The Board stated that the comments
4 were not in compliance with the electronic documents
5 formatting standards outlined in Section .508 of the
6 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, therefore, could not be
7 posted on any Federal government website or shared as
8 electronic documents. The Board welcomes suggestions
9 for improvements to the informal InterAgency agreement
10 that would not diminish or supersede the authority or
11 jurisdiction of the agencies.

12
13 Topic 3. Was the Council noting the
14 lack of traditional ecological knowledge during
15 explanations of ADF&G data for certain resources during
16 the Council meetings. The Board informed us that one
17 challenge faced by OSM and incorporating TEK is that
18 the Program's analysts do not conduct primary research.
19 OSM relies on the knowledge and observations from the
20 Council. It also notes that the Anthropology Division
21 is now fully Staffed which should contribute towards
22 greater integration of TEK in future analysis.

23
24 Topic 4. Was regarding the Council's
25 concerns for the process for public comments. It
26 sought clarification on this procedure and requested
27 that this information be shared with the public. The
28 Board reported that the temporary public comment
29 process in place for the meetings allowed for
30 reexamination of the program guidelines and feedback
31 from all Councils were solicited in recent meetings and
32 OSM expects to develop a solid and consistent protocol
33 for public participation and testimony during Council
34 and Board meetings.

35
36 Topic 5. Was a request from the
37 Council for the Board to consider presenting one oral
38 or written report on cumulative effects of proposals
39 that may affect the same or similar geographic area so
40 that the Council can consider the effects holistically
41 for an entire management area. The Board reported that
42 OSM this noted this request and will strive to present
43 information spanning multiple proposals affecting the
44 same species and areas more holistically in the future.

45
46 Topic 6. Addressed this Council's
47 concerns over the potential impacts of mariculture
48 permitting. The Council is concerned that these
49 activities will restrict or limit access to subsistence
50

0069

1 resources and it asks that Federal Staff be prepared to
2 comment in the future about the impacts that
3 mariculture permitting has had on subsistence
4 resources. The Board suggested that the Council
5 followup with Mr. Prior, he was the gentleman from
6 ADF&G that gave a comprehensive presentation on this
7 topic during the Council's winter meeting. The Council
8 could ask about baseline environmental information used
9 during the permitting process and may also ask to
10 review existing project environmental evaluations.

11

12 The Board then thanked the Council for
13 its continued involvement and diligence in representing
14 the Southeast region and its users through their
15 concerns in the annual report.

16

17 So, again, members of the Council, this
18 agenda was just to bring your attention to the Board's
19 responses to the Council's annual report and no further
20 action is required.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.
25 Any questions from the Council on our annual report
26 response.

27

28 Ian, go ahead.

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks. I just want to
31 emphasize No. 6, I guess, since we didn't hear that
32 with the award of the mariculture development through
33 the Southeast Conference, this is going to be a more
34 and more relevant topic going forward I think. There's
35 going to be a pretty big pulse in mariculture
36 development within Southeast Alaska. Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
39 Anybody else. Go ahead, Patty.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
42 Hernandez. On the letter to the Secretary of State,
43 where would we bring that up on the agenda?

44

45 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. Member
46 -- Ms. Phillips. Usually at the end of our meeting as
47 we're discussing action items start talking about
48 correspondence and we could certainly do that there.
49 It is not a formal agenda item doing correspondence but
50

0070

1 whatever the Council wishes to do as far as putting
2 that on the agenda, we could do that, or informally
3 towards the end address it at that time.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other
8 questions on the annual report response.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And also at
13 this meeting we will be forming some new topics for our
14 next annual report so keep those ideas in mind if you
15 want to add something to the list for next year's
16 annual report.

17

18 Okay. Let's go to special actions
19 report, and that's Rob Cross from the Forest Service.

20

21 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
22 the record my name is Robert Cross and I'm the
23 Subsistence Coordinator for the Tongass National
24 Forest. The summary of Southeast special actions is on
25 Page 34 of your meeting materials.

26

27 In 2022 the Tongass has taken four
28 fisheries emergency special actions, one wildlife
29 emergency special action, and seven wildlife temporary
30 special actions. Public meetings were held in Yakutat
31 and Sitka prior to the wildlife temporary special
32 actions in those units.

33

34 District 1 eulachon were closed prior
35 to the season due to an ongoing conservation concern
36 but the Unuk River remained open to limited subsistence
37 harvest.

38

39 The Stikine River and Situk River
40 chinook seasons were closed prior to the season after
41 the pre-season chinook escapements did not meet the
42 minimum escapement goals. The Situk River chinook were
43 reopened in late July after an opening was supported by
44 in-season escapement numbers.

45

46 A portion of Unit 5A was closed to
47 mountain goat harvest prior to the season due to
48 conservation -- or sorry -- due to continued low goat
49 numbers in that area.

50

0071

1 Unit 4 mountain goats continue to be
2 managed closely on Baranof Island in partnership with
3 ADF&G through in-season management of small harvest
4 zones. Prior to the 2022 season, the South Baranof
5 zone was closed due to low numbers. That was the only
6 pre-season closure that we had. Throughout the season
7 we've closed the Lisa Creek, Rosenberg Lake, Upper Blue
8 Lake and Clarence Kramer zones as the harvest quotas
9 have been reached in each one of those zones.
10 Additionally goat harvest in the Indian River zone in
11 Unit 4 will be closing this week. So that quota was
12 just reached.

13
14 Finally, Unit 4A west of the Dangerous
15 River, except for the Nunatak Bench, was closed to the
16 harvest of moose once the quota was reached.

17
18 We anticipate continued closures of
19 Unit 4 mountain goat zones as the season progresses and
20 zone quotas are reached.

21
22 So that concludes my report, Mr. Chair.
23 But I'd be happy to address some of the concerns that
24 were raised by Council members about the Unit 4 goat
25 closures. I pulled some information together over lunch
26 if you'd like me to read that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure, go ahead.

29
30 MR. CROSS: Okay. So the current Unit
31 4 goat management strategy is a cooperative effort
32 between the State and Federal managers and it's been
33 pretty successful. So for background, the strategy
34 allows us to close very small zones down to harvest
35 that can't support continued harvest while keeping the
36 rest of the unit open. And one goal of the strategy is
37 to increase harvest opportunity versus if we were
38 managing across the unit then we would be forced to use
39 a more conservative management strategy.

40
41 So we've seen a reduction in the
42 harvest of nannies over billies and we now have a
43 harvestable number of goats in areas that were
44 historically closed. And this is specifically close to
45 town, which are areas that are pretty popular with
46 local hunters and Federally-qualified hunters. And so
47 a product of this success, or the success of this
48 strategy is that now we're seeing more and more zones
49 be open to harvest and so therefore when those zones
50

0072

1 are reaching their quota you're seeing more and more
2 closures. So the perception is that we're closing more
3 zones but it's because we're actually opening more
4 zones to harvest.

5
6 And then concerning Federal preference,
7 at this point the main difference between State and
8 Federal regulations is the Federal designated harvester
9 permit but I just pulled these numbers together, the 20
10 year average is about 73 percent of the Unit 4 goat
11 harvest is by local residents, followed by non-
12 residents at 21 percent and then six percent by non-
13 local residents. So there is a Federal season
14 established, so we could give Federal preference if
15 conditions were to change, however, it seems to be
16 successful and there's no conservation concern at this
17 time. And then finally guided hunts in Unit 4, just
18 for your information, are maxed out at 17 guided hunts
19 per year with an average of 10 to 11 guided goat hunts
20 per year in Unit 4.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all the
23 information I have.

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
26 Rob, for the report and that explanation. Any
27 questions from the Council on special actions that took
28 place this past season. Go ahead, Harvey.

29
30 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 just was curious as to the areas where the guided goat
32 hunters were in relation to the rural hunters out of
33 Sitka?

34
35 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member
36 Kitka. I don't have that fine of detail on that.
37 There are -- the guide use area 04-01, 02, 03 and 04 as
38 far as I understand pretty much encompass Baranof
39 Island. I can say that the quick data that I was able
40 to pull up is that the proportion of Federally-
41 qualified harvesters harvesting goats is higher on the
42 east side around the Sitka area, and then as you move
43 over to the east side of the island like Red Bluff Bay
44 and that area, the proportion of non-Federally-
45 qualified harvesters is higher. I can't say that
46 that's all guide use but that would be my assumption.
47 But I can pull that information together and get that
48 to you.

49
50

0073

1 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other
4 questions. Go ahead, Patty.

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
7 Hernandez. So these zones that you've established more
8 of, you have estimated populations for each zone or how
9 are you determining harvest, or proposed take?

10

11 MR. CROSS: I was going to see if I
12 could pull that map up -- yeah, so it's actually the
13 harvest surveys -- or, sorry, through the Chair.
14 Member Phillips. The harvest surveys are done by the
15 State and I don't believe -- I don't want to speak for
16 them, but I don't believe that they were able to do
17 harvest surveys this past -- or sorry, goat surveys
18 this last year, but, yes, they use aerial surveys to
19 determine the population of each one of the zones and,
20 therefore, the appropriate harvest level. But, again,
21 I can't speak too much in-depth as to how they
22 calculate that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other
25 questions. John, go ahead.

26

27 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Rob.
28 The question here is that the data demographics, does
29 it break it -- do you have that broke down to guided
30 and non-guided, is that in your demographics or no,
31 yes?

32

33 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member
34 Smith. I could find that information out, but in short
35 the maximum harvest at this point by guides or by
36 clients of guides would be 17 in Unit 4.....

37

38 MR. SMITH: Okay.

39

40 MR. CROSS:with an average of
41 roughly 10 to 11 hunts. And each one of those hunts
42 does not represent a successful hunt.....

43

44 MR. SMITH: Right.

45

46 MR. CROSS:that's just the number
47 of hunts that the guides are executing.

48

49 MR. SMITH: Yeah, thank you. Just

50

0074

1 curious on breaking it down, narrowing it even closer
2 to help connect to that data is all. But, hey, thank
3 you.

4
5 MR. CROSS: Yeah, absolutely. And I
6 can pull that together for you, it's a fairly low
7 percentage.

8
9 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other
12 questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Apparently not,
17 thank you, Rob. So now we have an update on what's
18 going on with Sitka Kaagwaantaan's Petition for
19 ExtraTerritorial Jurisdiction and Greg Risdahl will
20 give that to us.

21
22 MR. RISDAHL: Good afternoon, Mr.
23 Chairman and members of the Council. Yes, DeAnna asked
24 if I'd give a little review and update on the Sitka
25 Kaagwaantaan Clan Petition so I'll start with a little
26 bit about what it is.

27
28 The Sitka Kaagwaantaan Clan Petition,
29 the Secretary of Agriculture and Alaska Regional
30 Forester to exert Federal extraterritorial jurisdiction
31 over the herring spawning waters of Sitka Sound on
32 August 16th, 2020. The petition did not make it
33 through the review process and the Secretary and
34 Regional Forester did not respond to the Sitka Tribe.
35 The Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act,
36 Section .802 establishes a priority for the taking of
37 fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and waters
38 for subsistence uses over other purposes. By
39 regulation, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the
40 Interior have authority to extend jurisdiction to
41 protect a Federal interest, and in this case
42 subsistence use on Federal public lands and waters.

43
44 Authority to extend jurisdiction has
45 not been delegated to the Federal Subsistence Board for
46 this purpose. The, Board, in coordination with the
47 Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior developed a
48 policy for addressing extraterritorial petitions. The
49 policy emphasizes that the Secretaries should use a
50

1 very high threshold when making their decision whether
2 to extend Federal jurisdiction. The policy guides
3 Board and Staff review of the issues, ultimately
4 resulting in a confidential recommendation by the Board
5 to the Secretaries.

6
7 Federally-qualified subsistence users
8 have an established history of interest and concern
9 about herring management in Southeast Alaska. Public
10 testimony at Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional
11 Advisory Council meetings has taken place since at
12 least the early 2000s and has consistently indicated
13 that Federally-qualified subsistence users feel their
14 subsistence uses of herring have not been met,
15 primarily because of the State commercial harvest of
16 herring.

17
18 In June 2022, this past June, OSM, with
19 help from Forest Service Staff met and discussed the
20 petition from August 16, 2020 and drafted a letter to
21 go to the Sitka Kaagwaantaan Clan. This letter is
22 still under review and so I cannot share it with you
23 yet at this point. The letter essentially states that
24 no action had been taken on the petition and the letter
25 goes on to provide a process -- it outlines a process
26 for the clan to follow to resubmit their petition.
27 There may be several reasons why no response was
28 provided. As you know the petition was submitted
29 during the previous Administration and with changing
30 Administrations new personnel come into various
31 departments and issues may be overlooked or misplaced.
32 In addition, OSM and Forest Service Staff, upon careful
33 review of the petition found that some of the
34 appropriate steps had not been followed. So the letter
35 goes on to recommend that the Sitka Kaagwaantaan Clan
36 submit a new petition to both the Secretary of Interior
37 and Secretary of Agriculture. There's also an
38 attachment to this letter that will provide an example
39 of a format to use. While not a requirement, the Clan
40 may also want to provide a copy to the Federal
41 Subsistence Board so the Program can followup on the
42 request.

43
44 As I mentioned, because the letter has
45 not gone through the final review process, I'm unable
46 to share the actual letter with you yet. Hopefully
47 that will be done soon.

48
49 However, should the Secretaries decide
50

0076

1 to initiate rulemaking based on the Clan's request and
2 should it become regulation, it will fall then under
3 the Federal Subsistence Board's purview to establish a
4 season, determine the methods and means and to set a
5 harvest limit. We understand everyone's frustration
6 with the delay in addressing this important petition
7 from the Kaagwaantaan Clan, however, resubmitting it in
8 accordance with the instructions provided by the
9 regulations is the best course of action, we believe
10 and while we cannot act as advocates for the petition
11 to the Secretaries, we can monitor progress and assist
12 with coordination and communication as the petition is
13 addressed.

14

15 Thank you, very much.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
18 Greg. Any questions from the Council on this issue.
19 Harvey.

20

21 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Harvey Kitka. I'm the spokesman for Sitka
23 Kaagwaantaan. I would very much like who do we write
24 this letter to and the changes they're asking for, I'd
25 like to see it in writing so I can take it back to the
26 Clan.

27

28 MR. RISDAHL: Absolutely, Mr. Kitka.
29 Through the Chair. That is our intention to do so and
30 we will get that to you as soon as we possibly can. It
31 just has to go through a little bit more review before
32 we can do that.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. KITKA: Thank you, sir.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
39 Harvey. Any other questions on this petition.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

44

45 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, very much.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Greg.
48 Okay. Next up on the agenda is to finalize the
49 Indigenous Management Workgroup letter. So we can
50

0077

1 certainly discuss that now. I guess in my own mind I'm
2 thinking if we get into lengthy discussion on this and
3 need to hold off on taking action until folks maybe
4 think about it a little more we can, you know, do that
5 before the end of the meeting, or maybe we're all of
6 the same mind here. So let's delve into it here.

7
8 As I mentioned we have on Page 35 in
9 your book, the draft letter that was put together this
10 summer. And it's kind of a continuation of a draft
11 letter that was started at our winter meeting. We just
12 kind of expanded on it a little bit, fleshed out a few
13 things. I will make note that even in after having that
14 summer meeting we even still got still one other
15 suggestion to add to this letter which we could
16 consider now as we seek to finalize it.

17
18 So I don't know, I guess kind of need
19 the Council's wishes on this. Do we need to go through
20 the letter paragraph by paragraph perhaps, or are
21 people familiar enough with it they just want to delve
22 into the whole thing at once. I'm open to suggestions
23 on this. So think about it here for a minute.

24
25 Cathy, do you have something to add on
26 this.

27
28 MS. NEEDHAM: I was just helping in
29 terms of process.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure.

32
33 MS. NEEDHAM: I like your idea of going
34 through it maybe bullet point by bullet point. I do
35 have a few comments on some of them.

36
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

38
39 MS. NEEDHAM: I do have one thing to
40 maybe throw out there as a theme as we go through each
41 of the bullet points that I was thinking about when I
42 read the letter and that is the specific ask, like what
43 are we asking them to do. I think it's very clear in
44 some sections in a couple of items, but then it's not
45 so clear in a couple of others. But maybe it's because
46 those are for informational purposes. So I kind of
47 want to make sure that we highlight what the ask --
48 what are we specifically asking them to do and make
49 sure that this is -- maybe this is just writing a
50

0078

1 summary at the end of the letter that says, in summary
2 our specific asks are X, Y and Z, make sure that we
3 capture it. I wasn't on the committee so I'm not
4 exactly sure each of the asks but I picked out at least
5 three that I could see. So maybe thinking about that
6 as we go through each section.

7

8 And then the other thing that was on my
9 mind as a general theme was co -- like obviously we
10 have to come up with a definition for co-management,
11 that's one of the things that is highlighted in our
12 letter. And when I think about co-management, I think
13 about like the decisionmaking aspect of it when you're
14 managing a resource and I don't feel like that theme is
15 very strong throughout the letter, it's a lot of, yeah,
16 we collect data together, we work on projects together
17 but how, as tribes are they making decisions together
18 at the same decisionmaking level that the land owner is
19 doing.

20

21 So those were just two things that I
22 thought about as a holistic thing and then, you know, I
23 had a couple of letter additions that I hope will
24 enhance what is put in the letter from there.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, yeah, thank
27 you for that Cathy. If we go through this bullet point
28 by bullet point, we can hopefully address some of
29 those. I think that's probably what we're going to end
30 up doing.

31

32 Any other kind of initial comments from
33 Council members maybe before we start in on specifics.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we'll take
38 it up then. Then also I noticed that we did have one
39 request for some public comment on this, that's from
40 Wanda Culp from Womens Earth Climate Action Network.
41 Wanda, if you're on the phone I think we'll ask for any
42 comments from you maybe after we go through with the
43 Council here. So if you're on the line out there,
44 please standby.

45

46 So it starts out with kind of some
47 background information, you know, our responsibilities
48 under Title VIII of ANILCA, and what we do. So I think
49 probably one of the key statements there is, it says:

50

0079

1 Over the last several years the Council
2 has learned of meaningful opportunities for indigenous
3 organizations and partnerships to actively participate
4 in resource management. The Council would like to
5 formally enumerate its support for local and regional
6 indigenous cooperative resource management in Southeast
7 and looks forward to supporting co-management
8 opportunities that are present under existing
9 regulations.

10

11 So, Cathy, I think that kind of goes to
12 one of our asks. That's kind of a general ask but it's
13 also one of the things we're asking.

14

15 Any questions or comments on that
16 topic.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's move
21 on. The first bullet point is why co-management and
22 that reads:

23

24 The Council has found through testimony
25 and deliberations at its meetings that co-management
26 strengthens sustainable management of wild renewable
27 resources, engages communities in stewardship of those
28 resources and results in overall improvement and
29 acceptance of needed local strategies to maintain those
30 wild renewable resources. This is because localizing
31 natural resource monitoring leans on the knowledge of
32 that place, puts money into the local community through
33 local hire and increased trust between managing
34 entities and local user groups. Some local entities
35 and Federal agencies are already moving towards co-
36 management to address local concerns and needs.

37

38 If there's no comments on that -- okay,
39 I see Ian has his hand up but I do want to say that at
40 the end of that paragraph is where we're proposing to
41 offer up a good definition of what co-management means
42 to us. So, Ian, you had something.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair.
45 I just think we could -- thinking along Cathy's lines
46 we could just -- we could include, and decisionmaking,
47 after the resource monitoring, just we could integrate
48 that into this portion here.

49

50

0080

1 And I do have a definition -- I worked
2 through the group.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON:this year so, you
7 know, we engaged pretty heavily with the Guardians
8 Network, which is Tlingit and Haida organized effort
9 through Forest Service funding. So I could read that,
10 the definition of co-management that was provided to me
11 by them, if that would be helpful to help address the
12 yellow area.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead.
15 And then if the Council thinks that's a good definition
16 we'll probably add it or amend it to our needs, so, go
17 ahead.

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Yeah, so the
20 definition provided to me was:

21
22 Unique partnerships between tribal
23 governments, Federal government agencies, Alaska Native
24 Corporations and environmental NGOs. These groups have
25 come together in a unified effort that strives to
26 provide support to Alaska Native communities through
27 the incorporation of local, indigenous knowledge in the
28 monitoring, protection, restoration and management of
29 traditional lands.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sounds pretty
32 straightforward. Questions or comments.

33
34 Cathy.

35
36 MS. NEEDHAM: Ian, did that definition,
37 it didn't seem to include State agencies, it said just
38 Federal agencies and so how -- do you know if that was
39 left out and specifically why you wouldn't want to
40 include co-management with State agencies?

41
42 MR. JOHNSON: They're not in here but
43 we should include it.

44
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other
46 comments. Cal.

47
48 MR. CASIPIT: Cathy's comment brings to
49 mind one of the comments I had when we were drafting
50

0081

1 this is I thought that somehow the State should be
2 included on this receiver's list. And I'm not sure if
3 it's the Governor's office or the Commissioner of Fish
4 and Game but, to me, either one would do.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
7 Cal. Somebody else is going to have to answer that
8 question but it's a good suggestion. So we'll keep
9 that in mind along with maybe -- it sounds like the
10 Council maybe is in favor of including in the
11 definition offered by Ian, maybe including the State,
12 so any other Council member's comments on this.

13

14 Frank.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 With Tlingit and Haida's definition, you know, I've
18 always spoke up about corporations. You know,
19 corporations are not tribal entities and the tribal
20 entities should be the ones that are involved with the
21 co-management issue. If they have an explanation to
22 that then I would like to listen to it.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.
27 Is that something, Ian, you could address or anybody
28 else could address.

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: I'm sorry, Mr. Wright,
31 are you just -- are you saying we need to make sure
32 they're in the definition or make sure they're not
33 within the definition?

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

36

37 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair. Like I said,
38 you know, a few years back, the Federal government
39 always looked at the corporations as part of tribal
40 entity but they're not. See the tribal entities are
41 completely different than the corporations. The
42 corporations are profit -- for profit, and the tribes
43 are for tribal existence. You know, so that's the
44 reason why the people have always said, the
45 corporations do not speak for the tribes. And when
46 we're talking about this issue, we're pretty much
47 talking about the existence of the people, indigenous
48 people, in Southeast areas.

49

50

0082

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.
7 Any other Council members expressing an opinion that.
8 John, go ahead.

9

10 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 Pretty sensitive there, you know, trying to be
12 sensitive that maybe, you know, even the tribal -- our
13 community tribal entity and then our corporation entity
14 (In Tlingit) please forgive me, my intentions aren't to
15 hurt anybody, is our tribal leaders are true tribal
16 leaders, are -- kind of get left out of there of making
17 decisions. So just making a point, too, that those two
18 identities are on the table but in some way sharing the
19 tribal leaders that are on the table would be at the
20 table are there to give advice. And so, of course,
21 even this meeting right now, the door is open for any
22 testimony, so I offer and open the door for any clan
23 leader, any spokesman (In Tlingit) the clan leader, or
24 the spokesman to the clan to be on the table to share
25 their perspective.

26

27 Gunalcheesh.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Is there --
30 I see Harvey has something. Go ahead, Harvey.

31

32 MR. KITKA: I just wanted to point out
33 an example of what happened between basically the tribe
34 and the corporation. One prime example is ETJ petition
35 by Angoon, Kootznoowoo Incorporated. They made the
36 petition for the ETJ and they accepted what was offered
37 but the tribe had no say in it even though they were
38 the ones involved. The corporation made the decision
39 and the people didn't. And so you got to be real
40 careful how this is done.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. SMITH: Gunalcheesh. Hoho.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.
47 I guess my question to the people who are a little more
48 knowledgeable than I am is I know we do have some
49 obligations as far as consultation goes with tribes as
50

0083

1 well as corporations. I don't know if that would
2 obligate us to include them in any kind of co-
3 management arrangements we might come up with. I don't
4 know if that's a precedent that would require that. If
5 anybody has an answer to that question.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

10
11 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
12 Albert.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, Albert, yeah,
15 go ahead, Albert.

16
17 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 In regards to why the State wasn't included, it seems
19 like its implying that they've been managing the
20 resources forever now, there's a lot of good examples
21 of why it isn't working. I think if you want to add
22 them to part of the co-management it should be worded
23 that the State be included but not be the last say in
24 everything because they've had the say in everything
25 and look where it has gotten some of us so far. So I
26 agree they should be included but they should also
27 somehow when you're going to submit this letter it
28 needs to be implied that we asked to be a part of
29 management of our resources, the State's not the sole
30 manager of the resource anymore, that they should
31 consider other organizations to be a part of it because
32 we have resources they may no longer have that could
33 help maintain the resource as it should be.

34
35 As far as ANCSA Corporations, the
36 reason Kootznوو submitted the extraterritorial
37 jurisdiction petition was because they had the
38 resources to do it. They had an attorney that looked
39 up the language and everything and got us from A to Z
40 on that. So you're correct, that they should be
41 included, because this Council was created under the
42 creation of Native Corporations -- or not Native
43 Corporations but -- yeah, under Native Corporations, we
44 were a part of that process.

45
46 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.
49 Any other comments on this topic.

50

0084

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think my
4 comment would be that, you know, I think what we're
5 seeking to do here to some extent is to expand our
6 abilities with added resources and, you know,
7 corporations do have resources that could be
8 beneficial. I think what we're not doing at this time
9 and it'll come up later is, we're not seeking to change
10 the regulatory structure. That's kind of ruled by
11 various laws, you know, there's thing that we have to
12 do in accordance with the law in making regulations and
13 nobody's suggesting changing any laws, we're just
14 essentially seeking better input into our decisions at
15 this point. And like I say, we have these -- you know
16 the consultation process includes tribes and
17 corporations and I guess I don't see any hard in
18 expanding that to include corporations and if we seek
19 to gain more resources to get better management.

20

21

So that's my feeling on it.

22

23

Anybody else.

24

25

MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chair.

26

27

28

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mr. Wagner. Go
ahead, Louie.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

MR. WAGNER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Going
back to 2000 after what the RAC Board had passed and it
went on to the Federal Subsistence Board, oh, it was
December, around the 4th or something like that, when
that meeting took place up in Anchorage and they kind
of did what Frank was saying on co-management, and they
didn't put out there to include -- it was -- it'd be
the people from the villages that use the resource and
-- but they did pass that back in 2000 for co-
management, the situation, I was working with them on.

41

42

43

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So you're
saying is there is some precedent here?

44

45

46

47

MR. WAGNER: Yes. If you could find it
in the records back in 2000. It came over concerning
the eulachons.

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

0085

1 MR. WAGNER: Because my son and I and
2 my brother, at that time, we were the ones on the river
3 and nobody was managing it and so, Mr. Bill Thomas.....

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MR. WAGNER:suggested to the
9 Board, the co-management thing and it passed
10 unanimously.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

13
14 MR. WAGNER: So if that helps.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I do remember that
17 now, yeah, thank you. Frank, go ahead.

18
19 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 After listening to the deliberation, you know, I think
21 the corporations could be involved but then leave
22 pretty much a lot of the decisionmaking up to the
23 indigenous people. You know the corporations do have
24 resources and they would be able to help with the
25 process of dealing with the co-management. You know,
26 it's like I always said, if you can change my mind,
27 change my mind, but I think that resources of the
28 corporations would help.

29
30 Gunalcheesh.

31
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.
33 Anybody else want to add anything at this point. I
34 guess we're kind of focused in on the wording of this
35 definition that we hope to include. Anybody else.

36
37 Ian, go ahead.

38
39 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I
40 mean if I -- you know, when we came out of the meeting
41 last cycle it was acknowledged that it was important to
42 have this letter submitted. You know it was suggested
43 -- this is still a suggestion, whether the definition
44 of co-management needs to be in there. So if we're
45 boxing ourselves into a corner or something like that
46 or by creating this definition here, on the fly, or
47 adopting this one, I'm just wondering if it needs to be
48 in there or not, just as another discussion point. Do
49 we want to include the definition of co-management with
50

0086

1 this document or do we want to move the document
2 forward without it. I'm neutral on tha -- actually I'm
3 not neutral, I think it needs to be in there but it
4 just still seems that we could discuss that even.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
7 Ian. John, go ahead.

8
9 MR. SMITH: Yeah, thank you, Ian. I
10 think to just kind of clarify what I was saying, I
11 think all should be on there, all teamwork, and us all
12 working together would be really -- really good to have
13 that in there somewhere. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.

16
17 Cathy.

18
19 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Listening to Ian's suggestion, you know, it is hard to
21 write, like sit at a table and write a definition for
22 something that, you know, you don't want to get boxed
23 in, you don't want to like be -- I don't know that we
24 want to necessarily say this is -- have somebody come
25 back to us five years later and say this is how you
26 defined it, and I'm wondering if we can -- rather than
27 have a specific definition of co-management, say, the
28 Council believes that the following should be
29 considered with co-management. Whether it be
30 indigenous, like enhancing ways for indigenous folks to
31 participate in monitoring projects and then, again, add
32 that decisionmaking in there so just have it be -- the
33 common themes that are in this letter already just --
34 instead of having a definition saying co-management to
35 the Southeast RAC means including Federally-recognized
36 tribes in these aspects of co-management.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I kind of got
39 distracted there for a minute, could you just say that
40 last point again.

41
42 MS. NEEDHAM: I'm not going to remember
43 what I just said, Mr. Chair.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MS. NEEDHAM: That's what happens when
48 you're shooting from the hip. Instead of offering like
49 a quoted definition of co-management, saying something
50

0087

1 to the effect that co-management to the Southeast
2 Alaska Regional Advisory Council includes data
3 collection opportunities -- or like Federally-
4 recognized tribes being involved in data collection
5 opportunities and being at the table for decisionmaking
6 for management. Like the components of it but not
7 saying -- like Tlingit and Haida's definition was truly
8 a definition and already we've already said, oh, you
9 might have forgotten some people and then maybe you had
10 some people in there that we didn't -- we don't
11 necessarily agree on and so not having a defined
12 definition but just having a, this is what it means to
13 the Regional Advisory Council. This is what co-
14 management means -- what we think co-management means.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay,
17 that's a different approach. Something to add.

18

19 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. Like in the
20 interest of time maybe at a break we can craft
21 something and come back with it, of what it says, so
22 we're not trying to do it at the table. So go through
23 the rest of our bullet points and then when we have a
24 break, a couple of us can put those words to paper and
25 bring it back.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I can see
28 that we'll have to kind of go through this. There
29 might be a few other suggestions, we'll have to come
30 back to it.

31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think
36 we've got that pretty well -- people's minds pretty
37 well wrapped around that so keep considering that.

38

39 Go ahead, DeAnna.

40

41 MS. PERRY: This is DeAnna, the Council
42 Coordinator. I just wanted to interrupt for just a
43 moment and remind folks on the phone to please mute
44 your phones. We are getting background noise and it's
45 being disruptive. If you don't have a mute button on
46 your phone, please press star, six, and that will mute
47 your phones. We don't want to have to isolate any
48 phones so if you could help us out by doing star, six
49 or using your mute button that would be appreciated.

50

0088

1 Thank you.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, DeAnna. So let's move on and like I say, I see DeAnna is taking notes so we can come back to some of these and make final decisions on them. And as you said, maybe people could discuss it amongst themselves and get clear on their thoughts and we'll come back to it before we move on to new business, but we can hold off for a little while on this.

So let's move on in that same bullet point. It goes on to say:

Since the inception of Federal management of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands, Federally-recognized tribes in Southeast Alaska have been an important participant in the Federal Subsistence Management Program. In Southeast Alaska tribes regularly comment on regulatory proposals that come before the Council and they provide information on the state of subsistence in their traditional territories. Tribes actively cooperate in tribal government to government or ANCSA consultation opportunities and dedicated tribal liaison, Orville Lind, and with the Council in addressing proposed changes to the Roadless Rule, which has served Tongass communities very well. Tribes have been active participants in Forest Service and National Park Service land use planning and actions. They have also addressed the herring depletion and other issues important to their members. The Council has had a very positive relationship with tribes and has supported cooperative fisheries harvest and escapement data gathering, analysis projects with tribes. In recent years tribes are moving effectively to reestablish indigenous management of their traditional territories that have been theirs under traditional law. Tribes and tribal citizens are organizing through the Indigenous Guardians Network Project, the Sustainable Southeast Partnership and Womens Earth and Climate Action Network and other groups to prepare for more active land and resource management responsibility.

In its role providing a forum to gather and discuss matters related to subsistence, the Council has heard from these groups. At this time our responsibility under our Federal Advisory Committee Act charter is to report what we have learned about this

0089

1 movement towards co-management to Office of Subsistence
2 Management, Forest Service and National Park Service
3 and to suggest near term program changes that may
4 enhance subsistence protections. The Council also
5 embraces our responsibility to develop a policy
6 direction and how co-management might take place in our
7 region by including more involvement by local tribes.

8

9 So I just kind of would like to give a
10 little explanation of why some of that is in this
11 bullet point.

12

13 You may have noticed that we're kind of
14 focused on a lot of tribal activity over the years and
15 what this is doing is kind of laying out what has
16 happened in the past and is happening now. It doesn't
17 preclude expanding on this in the future but we are,
18 you know, to this point there's been a lot of
19 involvement, you know, with tribal entities in existing
20 co-management projects so we're kind of laying those
21 out. It does mention, you know, cooperative
22 arrangements we have had with ANCSA corporations so
23 it's kind of laying out the present situation and
24 what's been happening up to this point and does expand
25 on what we think our ongoing, you know, policies might
26 be. So that's kind of the focus of this paragraph.

27

28 Any questions, comments there.

29

30 Go ahead, Patty.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
33 Hernandez. It seems to be an outgrowth of this
34 building capacity that the Program has been doing, like
35 for example.....

36

37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted - placed on hold)

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS:like the Hydaburg
41 Cooperative Association.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, Patty,
44 we got telephone interference again.

45

46 REPORTER: Go ahead, Patty.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: Like, you know, Hetta, I
49 mean where we have Hydaburg Cooperation Association

50

0090

1 doing all the research and then consulting with the
2 Department and then possibly with the Federal
3 Subsistence Program for, you know, policy changes. So
4 we've been building capacity through fisheries
5 monitoring so we need to continue to build on that and
6 go to the next step to more of a management level. So
7 the knowledge that they've gained, you know, from doing
8 this resource research, you know, their input into a
9 management decision at, you know, a more regional level
10 rather than stream by stream level.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.
15 Right. I think as we move through this we'll get into
16 some more examples there. We talk about, you know,
17 things that are happening now and how possibly we might
18 expand that into areas like you were saying where
19 indigenous groups or other people we have co-management
20 agreements with can actually add their traditional
21 ecological knowledge to our analysis and things like
22 that. And how they might be able to incorporate their
23 expertise into developing land management plans, you
24 know, like a lot of what happened with Roadless Rule.
25 Yeah, so those are likely places that this can go in
26 the future. And, you know, I do think we bring some of
27 those out later on in this letter.

28

29 So anybody else with comments on where
30 we are up to this point.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's move
35 on. Bullet Point 2 has to do with the Council's
36 authority to support co-management and to recommend
37 management changes to OSM, Forest Service and the
38 National Park Service.

39

40 So under ANILCA Sections .801(1) and
41 .805(a)(3), the Council has the authority to provide
42 recommendations on management of fish and wildlife
43 resources within the region and this extends to co-
44 management of these resources. The Council has
45 regularly provided its recommendations on fish and
46 wildlife management proposals, rural determinations,
47 Forest Service management plans, program customary and
48 traditional use determinations, extraterritorial
49 jurisdiction, cultural special use permits and
50

0091

1 regulations governing ceremonial use Khu.eex of fish
2 and wildlife resources and other matters.

3

4

5 Further, ANILCA, .805 grants broad
6 authority to evaluate proposals, policies, plans,
7 provide for public participation and to report our
8 activities to the Secretaries of Interior and
9 Agriculture. We respect the limitations to our
10 authority dealing with the taking of fish and wildlife
11 under Section .805(a)(3)(C), however, in order to
12 fulfill RACs authority as assigned in .805(3)(C) and
13 (D), the Council looks forward to supporting co-
14 management opportunities that exist under existing
15 regulations.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So I do want to point out that we pretty much state specifically that we respect the limitations to our authority dealing with the taking of fish and wildlife. And that's the regulatory process, that's where laws govern what we can do and, you know, we can't really change that. But in all these other matters that are mentioned in that paragraph we feel we do have the authority to enter into these co-management agreements. So any questions, comments on that section.

Go ahead, Patty.

MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, thank you, Chairman Hernandez. So what is the ask because I mean Cathy's saying that some of these, you know, numbers need an ask, so are we asking the agency to build in, or what?

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Cathy wants to answer that, go ahead, Cathy.

MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't think every bullet point that they did has an ask and it doesn't necessarily need to. I think it's important for us to -- because we're sending this letter on and it's important for them to know what our authority is so it's like background and just the formatting of the letter has it as a numbered bullet point. That was why I recommended that we tease out what the asks are and summarize them at the end of the letter because some of the bullet points have asks and some of them don't. And so unless you're really looking for that sometimes it's a little bit hard to tease out, what are we asking for. So otherwise I

0092

1 would just put it as a background section but.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
4 Patty with a followup.

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Thank you Council Person Needham. So I think there is
8 -- I mean there's a natural ask at the very end. And
9 we urge the Federal agency to seek out ways to
10 implement this request for co-management within their
11 oversight or their authorization. You know I'm just
12 throwing that out, I'm not saying it has to. It might
13 be in the letter further on, I don't remember.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think as I
18 recall I think we do pretty much address that further
19 on.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think
28 we're comfortable with that wording. Bullet Point No.
29 3.

30

31 History of the Federal Subsistence
32 Management Program and request to examine greater
33 incorporations of tribes in management activities. So
34 here's an ask, I believe.

35

36 Federal management of subsistence fish
37 and wildlife resources on Federal public land has been
38 in place since 1990 when the State of Alaska failed to
39 comply with ANILCA provisions to provide a rural
40 preference for subsistence. Few of us at the time
41 thought that the Federal Subsistence Program would
42 become a virtually permanent Federal responsibility.
43 At this 32 year mark the Council continues to support
44 the examination of management structures that have been
45 implemented and to recommend incremental changes in
46 Federal management of subsistence harvest and land
47 management activities. The Council has extensive
48 experience in participating in field data gathering,
49 land management issues in Southeast Alaska and working
50

0093

1 productively with our region's 20 Federally-recognized
2 tribal communities as well as with the Central Council
3 of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska.

4
5 Over this 32 year time period the
6 Council has supported 14 fisheries monitoring projects
7 undertaken with Hydaburg Cooperative, Chilkoot Indian
8 Association, Hoonah Indian Association, Klawock Heenya
9 Corporation, Organized Village of Kake, Ketchikan
10 Indian Association, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Angoon
11 Community Association, Alaska Department of Fish and
12 Game, Takshanuk Watershed Council and Skagway
13 Traditional Council. These fisheries projects take
14 place in the following areas of Southeast Alaska. Neva
15 Lake, Kanalku Lake, Klag Lake, Kook Lake, Sitkoh Lake,
16 Redoubt Lake, Falls Lake, Klawock Lake, Eek Lake, Hetta
17 Lake, Hatchery Creek, Gut Bay, Unuk River, Northern
18 Southeast Eulachon Project.

19
20 Forest Service management -- let's see
21 FSMP, I think that's Forest Service Management Projects
22 or -- has supported subsistence harvest surveys in most
23 of our regions communities. The Council led a multi-
24 year planning effort concerning Prince of Wales. The
25 cooperative monitoring and subsistence use projects
26 undertaken with Southeast Alaska indigenous communities
27 have been particularly successful. These co-management
28 projects have been cost effective and have resulted in
29 tribal capacity building and the Council would like to
30 request that land management agencies examine their
31 programs to identify additional opportunities for
32 greater incorporation of tribes in management
33 activities.

34
35 So there's a list of things that have
36 happened and are happening and an ask for additional
37 and greater incorporation of those efforts. So any
38 questions, comments on this paragraph.

39
40 Cathy.

41
42 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 just have a couple wordsmith things. At the end of
44 Page 37 it says the Council has extensive experience in
45 participating in field data gathering, and that, to me,
46 makes it seem like we all go out there and actually
47 collect that data but really it's the partners under
48 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program that collect
49 that data so it's a little bit of -- when I read it I
50

0094

1 was like, we do? We do that? And I don't know if it
2 makes that much of a difference but, later, on the next
3 paragraph it does say supported, that we support it,
4 data field gathering and so I would almost -- it's up
5 to you guys how you feel about stating that we
6 participate in data field gathering. We do participate
7 in land management, you know, engaging with land
8 management issues in Southeast Alaska and working --
9 and also we work productively with the 20 Federally-
10 recognized tribes but I don't think we data collect.
11 So maybe it's just like changing that sentence a little
12 bit.

13

14 And then the other wordsmith I had was
15 on the last paragraph, the second sentence. It says
16 the Council led a multi-year planning effort concerning
17 Prince of Wales Island but I don't understand what that
18 multi-year planning effort is. We do a lot of planning
19 with Prince of Wales Island so was there a specific,
20 was it multi-year planning effort concerning Prince of
21 Wales Island deer, is it Prince of Wales Island wolves,
22 is it Prince of Wales Island fisheries, we do a lot
23 with Prince of Wales Island, and so it left me hanging
24 and I was wondering if we needed to complete that
25 sentence.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
30 Yeah, I think I can respond to that. I think your
31 first point about just editing, maybe the Council has
32 extensive experience in supporting field gathering, I
33 think that would be more appropriate. Good catch.

34

35 Yeah, my recollection was that we were
36 on the Prince of Wales planning effort, that was the
37 Deer Subcommittee that, you know, if you're not too
38 familiar with it, that's the only real multi-year
39 effort that we've put together. I don't know that was
40 -- the term planning effort, you know, as opposed to
41 just working with -- I mean obviously we work the
42 stakeholders and what not, but this was a formal
43 subcommittee, you know, of the Council, it followed all
44 the FACA requirements for committee work and public
45 process and all that so it was a little above and
46 beyond. That's what we were thinking of when we
47 included that. But as you say it may not be very clear
48 so either clarify it or it doesn't really need to be
49 mentioned specifically. So go ahead.

50

0095

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 would just add to the end of the sentence then, multi-
3 year planning effort concerning Prince of Wales Island
4 deer populations or deer strategy; however you want to
5 do it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay, we'll
8 take that as a note. Thank you. Any other comments on
9 this section, catches.

10
11 John, go ahead.

12
13 MR. SMITH: Just maybe a comment. A
14 comment about the indigenous knowledge liaison position
15 that's on the -- I know we're going through a lot of
16 these about traditional law and traditional,
17 traditional, I'm just letting people know that that
18 position's opened and -- just a thought.

19
20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I guess I'm not
21 familiar enough with that to comment on it but we'll
22 take note of it and add that to our later discussion.

23
24 Anything else.

25
26 Oh, excuse me, somebody told me that --
27 I'm sorry, but Albert you were trying to join in on
28 this and I think your phone line might have gotten cut
29 off because we had interference. Are you there Albert.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hum. Might be
34 having phone line difficulties with Albert but we'll
35 keep an ear out for him.

36
37 MR. HOWARD: Okay, I was muted.

38
39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, there you are
40 Albert, you had something you wanted to comment on.

41
42 MR. HOWARD: Well, I was listening to
43 Patty and all of a sudden the next thing I knew I was
44 listening to elevator music, Mr. Chairman. So I'm not
45 sure what happened after that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, sorry about
48 that, I don't know how the phone systems work. But is
49 there something, a comment you did want to make earlier
50

0096

1 that we could go back to?

2

3

4 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman. I can
5 remember talking about Hyda and how they've collected
6 data and they figured out how to work with the State of
7 Alaska on opening that area for seining once there's
8 enough fish past the fall. I think all the work on
9 Prince of Wales can demonstrate -- is a good
10 demonstration on, and a good example of how working
11 with the State will benefit the resource. So I think
12 you could use that as an example of which way the State
13 could look at this, and not look at it as though we
14 want total control of it, we just want to make sure
15 that the next generation can at least experience what
16 we experience today at a minimum. I mean I'd like the
17 next generation to see what I saw but I don't think
18 that's possible now.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

19 But I guess my comment is, you know,
20 you can use everything that's been done down there as
21 an example of how we can work together to manage a
22 resource as co-managers.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.
27 I think you're right, that is an excellent example of
28 how the process can work and it is kind of mentioned
29 briefly in here. But, yeah, that's some good detail on
30 that.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

32 Let's move on to Bullet Point No. 4,
33 Land ownership under Traditional Law.

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

35 The Council considers that all
36 Southeast Alaska, including all Federal land in the
37 Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Park, the
38 Admiralty Island and Misty Fjords National Monuments
39 and other Federal land designations to be Haa Anni, our
40 land, traditional and tribal clan territories, also
41 known as Federal public lands under ANILCA.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

43 The Council notes that traditional
44 Native land ownership is well documented in Kwaan and
45 Clan traditional law and in documentation studies done
46 by Goldschmidt and Haas in 1946. Traditional ownership
47 boundaries have been reaffirmed in tribal community
48 studies undertaken within many of our region's tribes
49 since the passage of ANILCA. This is to say that Clan

0097

1 and Kwaan boundaries are generally known and
2 established. Under traditional law, access to owned
3 land and harvest of natural resources was controlled by
4 the owning clan as with other At'oowu (something owned
5 or purchased). Co-management acknowledges this tribal
6 stewardship and knowledge of the land since time
7 immemorial.

8
9 I think the purpose of this paragraph
10 is sort of a justification why we're entering into
11 these and obviously other Council members know a lot
12 more about this than I do so any questions or comments
13 here.

14
15 Go ahead, Ian.

16
17 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just
18 think we could make the -- I think this one could have
19 the last sentence be an ask and just that we ask co-
20 management acknowledges -- just -- right now it's kind
21 of an open-ended statement of what we think just co-
22 management is but just make it a little more explicit
23 about an ask on this one.

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we'll take
26 note of that. Any other comments on this paragraph.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, sounds like
31 everybody's happy with it. No. 5.

32
33 Tribal land issues in our region need
34 to be addressed.

35
36 The Council believes that the Federal
37 government's approach to managing the land, water and
38 fish and wildlife resources of our region should
39 address and engage tribal co-management in protecting
40 the continued viability of fish and wildlife resources
41 on their traditional territories and the public lands
42 of Southeast Alaska. The Council's long-term goal is
43 to enhance hands-on land and resource management
44 activities in our region by including input from the
45 tribal entities that traditionally owned Haa Anni.
46 This change would be similar to changes that have taken
47 place where tribes actively manage land and resources
48 with limited technical oversight by the Bureau of
49 Indian Affairs. It is also similar to the Federal
50

0098

1 government's trust obligations to tribal entities which
2 now effectively manage health, housing and other trust
3 obligations and to the empowerment of tribal courts.

4

5 Another paragraph that was added that's
6 not very much in my expertise so any comments from the
7 Council. Patty, go ahead.

8

9 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
10 Hernandez. I wrote this note while I was reading this
11 letter so I don't know what made me spur it but over 32
12 years the RAC has garnered a degree of trust with
13 tribal governments and have advocated for ongoing
14 building of tribal capacity and subsistence management
15 of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands,
16 including TEK on Haa Anni.

17

18 What I'm trying to show is that, you
19 know, we're not just supporting what the tribes bring
20 to us we have actively sought after that from tribes in
21 our RAC activities.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty,
24 good observation. Anybody else with a comment on this
25 paragraph, bullet point.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, it sounds
30 like we're happy with that one.

31

32 No. 6. Existing indigenous cooperative
33 management activities.

34

35 Over the past year and a half the
36 Council has heard from the Indigenous Guardians
37 Network, the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy
38 Partnership, the Womens Earth and Climate Action
39 Network and other groups. Very broadly, these groups
40 support co-management of our regions natural resources
41 and ensuring subsistence foods security. We support
42 these ongoing efforts and encourage future food
43 sovereignty concepts.

44

45 Just a simple paragraph of
46 acknowledgement I guess. Cathy, go ahead.

47

48 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 This is -- when I first read this it was existing

50

0099

1 indigenous cooperative management activities. And what
2 came to mind for me at the forefront was actual
3 examples of projects where I believe Federally-
4 recognized tribes have been engaged in working towards
5 co-management. The examples that sit out to me are the
6 Hoonah Native Forest Partnership and the Kwaan
7 Community Forest Partnership Projects where the
8 communities themselves and the land owners within the
9 lands that are important to them are working together
10 to collect data and then make decisions about what can
11 happen across that landscape and providing better
12 habitat for fish and wildlife populations. And so when
13 I think about existing activities, I think that we
14 should highlight them or add them or, like put them at
15 the forefront because those are actual co-management
16 type projects in my mind. You know they've gone
17 through the capacity building part, they've trained
18 crews, they've collected data and then they're actually
19 making those decisions. This is where the
20 decisionmaking -- my comment about decisionmaking kind
21 of came from. They're making decisionmaking in those
22 project areas of what should happen and that's managing
23 what's happening on the land.

24
25 I don't have anything against the other
26 groups but I'm like these are organizations that we've
27 heard from but I don't know like specifically what
28 they're doing with co-management, other than right now
29 we're having a conversation kind of thing, and so that
30 was a little bit of a disconnect between maybe the
31 header of the paragraph and then what was contained
32 within. But somewhere in the letter I would like to
33 potentially have those two projects highlighted or
34 mentioned in there because I think they are good
35 examples of what we are thinking co-management could
36 look like.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.
39 Thank you, Cathy. Those are darn good suggestions
40 sounds like to me, so, yeah, obviously I guess we
41 couldn't have thought of everything that's going on in
42 the region when we were drafting this so thank you for
43 that.

44
45 Anybody else. Harvey, go ahead.

46
47 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
48 kind of struggling with this co-management and I know
49 it's something that's been talked about for a couple of
50

0100

1 years, maybe longer. But our closest attempt is the
2 ETJ where we asked the government to step in.
3 Basically are we talking co-management of just Federal
4 lands or is this everything?

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Under the
7 jurisdictions we work under it would only be Federal
8 lands, that's correct, Harvey. Federal lands and
9 waters, there are some Federal waters.

10

11 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, anything
14 else. Thank you. Ian.

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: Sorry, just one thing. I
17 think there might be a confusion on the Southeast
18 Alaska.....

19

20 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 MR. JOHNSON:Sustainability
23 Strategy Partnership. I think that's a merger between
24 the Southeast Sustainable -- the Sustainable Southeast
25 Partnership and the SSI(ph), or I think those two
26 things got merged and I think we mostly engage with the
27 Sustainable Southeast Partnership folks. So that's
28 just a wordsmithing thing.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ian,
31 we'll take a note of that and get it right in the final
32 final. Anybody else.

33

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

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

38

39 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Your answer to Mr. Kitka, I was sitting here thinking
41 when he was asking the question there's a lot of things
42 that -- decisions that are made that affect Federal
43 lands and waters, decisions are made at the State
44 level, so what they do in State waters actually affects
45 everything Federal. A good example is a lot of what
46 happens to our sockeye, I believe, happens in State
47 waters and under State management. So then you get
48 into the cross jurisdiction of resources. A good
49 example I like to use is my Uncle Al McKinley used to
50

0101

1 say, hey, hurry up and shoot that deer before it gets
2 into State lands, or shoot the deer before it gets out
3 of Federal lands. The resources don't know if they're
4 in Federal or State waters, we do so we know what the
5 impact is on it. Another good example is being in
6 Sitka. The herring don't know what State waters and
7 Federal waters. So I think, you know, we got to look
8 at it different because if we don't we're going to end
9 up back to where we're managing just Federal areas and
10 have no say over anything like we do now.

11

12 That's my thought.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.
17 You know everything you say is correct but
18 unfortunately I think we are pretty constrained in what
19 we can do. So, you know, I think we'd have to leave
20 that up to the State whether they'd want to enter into
21 cooperative agreements. We have cooperative agreements
22 with the State, you know, maybe some day it can all
23 come together but I don't think we're there yet.

24

25 Anybody else.

26

27 MR. HOWARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, if I
28 may on your comment.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. HOWARD: I could be wrong but I
33 think it's our responsibility to find a way to bring
34 them to the table and say, hey, this isn't working, we
35 cannot just except it anymore. I've heard that
36 comment, this is probably the second time that I've
37 heard that, well, that's just the way it is and that
38 comment in itself almost -- I almost made the decision
39 to walk away from this Council after hearing that
40 comment but seeing the impact that that would have on
41 this community of walking away and not staying in it to
42 try to make some positive changes that have a positive
43 impact on everyone, not just the community of Angoon, I
44 think -- I could be wrong, it may be our responsibility
45 to fix this now or it'll never get fixed.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert

50

0102

1 for those comments. I guess it's just something we all
2 have to consider in this broader context here of what
3 we're doing. I guess I don't know how to respond to it
4 though. Anybody else on the Council want to respond or
5 bring up anything else.

6

7

(No comments)

8

9

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, let's move
10 on. Bullet No. 7 is a request, and it states Request
11 for active engagement by OSM, U.S. Forest Service and
12 National Park Service with the Southeast Alaska tribes
13 concerning subsistence management.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

In the short and near term, the Council requests OSM, U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service, as our region's lead Federal agencies, to actively engage our region's tribes in co-management agreements concerning subsistence research and planning as well as active subsistence management. We call on OSM to enter into co-management with our region's tribes to 1) monitor the status of fish and wildlife populations and their harvest used for subsistence; 2) analyze regulatory proposals that may be submitted to OSM and the Council; 3) issue licenses and permits that may be required; 4) engage their constituents on management issues. OSM and U.S. Forest Service should also enter into co-management agreements to address the looming threat posed to the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses to address climate change and environmental justice and glooming threats from resultant pressure on subsistence resources identified in ANILCA, Section .801(3) as the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses of resources on public and other lands in Alaska is threatened by the increasing population of Alaska, with resultant pressure on subsistence resources, by sudden decline in populations of some wildlife species which are critical subsistence resources, by increased accessibility of remote areas containing subsistence resources and by taking of fish and wildlife in a manner inconsistent with recognized principles of fish and wildlife management.

So there's a request and it also kind of spells out some of the responsibilities under ANILCA, Section .801(3).

So that's kind of a big paragraph with

0103

1 a number of asks, questions or comments on this one.

2

3 MR. WAGNER: I have a question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Louie.

6

7 MR. WAGNER: The herring in Sitka, what
8 is being done to protect the subsistence area, if the
9 herring are spawning in the Federal waters there, along
10 the shores, it sounds like there's a problem where the
11 boats went in and fished on some of the traditional
12 subsistence areas, and with all this language in here,
13 is there -- are the tribes getting any help from the
14 RAC Board and is there co-management between the
15 Federal Subsistence and the State on their commercial
16 because they seem to have no limit on what they take.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Louie.
21 I might defer to Mr. Kitka if he has any, you know,
22 better knowledge of what happens over there between
23 State and Federal managers during the subsistence
24 harvest. We do know that there are Federal waters in
25 Sitka Sound where the herring do at times spawn at
26 Makhnati Island and I guess I'm not real well versed on
27 what happens as far as cooperation on how that's
28 managed. So, Harvey, I don't know if you have some
29 more knowledge about that.

30

31 Yeah, go ahead, I don't want to put you
32 on the spot but it's kind of a complicated issue, I
33 know, but if you have any insights, go ahead.

34

35 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
36 far the only help we got is the closure of the waters
37 of Makhnati Island, which was a traditional spawning
38 area for the herring. When they closed the waters, the
39 commercial industry basically blockaded the herring
40 from coming that direction and forced them to go to the
41 west into Hayward Straits and Kurzof Island. So we
42 don't really have any protection other than that. And
43 this was the reason we applied for the ETJ.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
46 Harvey. That's pretty helpful. You know, I think
47 questions like that, I mean they're important and, you
48 know, they speak to this, you know, holistic view of
49 management when you've got State and Federal

50

0104

1 jurisdictions and it all affects subsistence uses. I
2 know there's some real important questions to be asked
3 there and answered, but, you know, for right now it
4 really goes beyond the scope of what we're trying to do
5 here. We're trying to get something started -- well,
6 it's already started, we're trying to move it, move it
7 along. And like I say, those types of issues, at this
8 point, I think are just kind of beyond our capabilities
9 to really address right now. They're big important
10 issues and, you know, I know Albert was referring to
11 this extraterritorial jurisdiction petition and how
12 they worked in his community, and Harvey, you're
13 working through a petition now, you know, they have
14 legal implications and they're all kind of above our
15 pay grade, they go right to the Secretaries of Interior
16 and Agriculture and I just don't think it's something
17 that we need to be addressing right now. It's just
18 kind of beyond what we're trying to do. But, you know,
19 it's a process and we're just getting started in it so
20 let's not rule anything out but let's not get ahead of
21 ourselves either. So that's my view on that.

22

23 Anybody else.

24

25 Cathy.

26

27 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
28 this like one big ask and this is that we call on OSM
29 to enter into co-management agreements with our
30 region's tribes. I'd like to see us put something in
31 there saying that, you know, if a tribe decides to --
32 it doesn't have to be this wordy but, it comes down to
33 money for tribes to be able to participate, or to co-
34 manage with the Federal government. Tribes don't have
35 money to pay for staff to work on this particular
36 issue, you know, and so they're already piecing
37 together and they're overworked on actual project based
38 things because they rely on grant funds and so -- and
39 there are no grant funds that I know of out there that
40 just would pay for tribal staff to engage in co-
41 management pieces, or work with the Federal government
42 on co-management kind of thing. And so if we could add
43 a bullet point that those agreements between a
44 Federally-recognized tribe and the Office of
45 Subsistence Management that, you know, OSM will help
46 them secure funding so that they can have a staff in
47 order to work on that. I think it would make it a
48 stronger ask and recognize the fact that we can't just
49 ask them to go into co-management agreement and not
50

0105

1 give them resources to be able to participate in it.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
5 Cathy for that suggestion. Comments, questions. Ian,
6 go ahead.

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair.
9 And, Cathy, I'm skipping ahead a little bit but the
10 last sentence of Bullet Point 8, thinking about the
11 same lines around that, just it's asking for capacity
12 building essentially but, you know, we do need to -- we
13 could either consolidate those into one ask amongst
14 them or whatever, but, yeah, the funding side of
15 capacity building, the training of tribal residents
16 through internship programs is what's listed here
17 specifically. But, yeah, there's the funding capacity
18 and the personnel capacity both that need to be
19 addressed and could ask for those. Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,
22 those are both really good suggestions and we'll have
23 those added in there for further discussion.

24

25 John, go ahead.

26

27 MR. SMITH: (In Tlingit) Please
28 forgive me. I'm just thinking of, you know, this is
29 really important and it's an issue that's been going on
30 and just listening to some of the talk and this is my
31 big brother right here, we're both Kaagwaantaan and
32 have a personal, but also a collective perspective
33 about this. So I share and encourage of movement, that
34 is a historical location and goes back -- we can take
35 it back and share that history but it's a historical, a
36 traditional location, that whole bay, Sitka Sound, and
37 that we make it traditional and historical and that our
38 Kaagwaantaan and our tribal people take ownership and
39 caretaker and manage that area, and then withhold any
40 fishing, commercial fishing from that area and
41 encourage them to move to different areas or use a
42 different strategy. Just a thought.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
45 John. And, you know, this Council does draft proposals
46 that do go to the Board of Fish, you know, we have a
47 role there. That's something we could always do. We
48 also support proposals, or oppose proposals that come
49 from other groups, organizations, individuals that go
50 to the Board of Fish. So we do have a role there. We

50

0106

1 have no direct management authority but we do have
2 input, just as well as the rest of the public does.
3 So, you know, we can engage that way. We can also, you
4 know, in our process reach out to all kinds of
5 different entities, indigenous and otherwise who want
6 to put input in to those -- to the State Board of Fish,
7 Board of Game, we can work with them cooperatively in
8 developing proposals, supporting proposals so it's all
9 -- you know, it's all part of a big package that, you
10 know, once you start down this road and start expanding
11 opportunities and resources and, you know, us working
12 with other groups to increase our knowledge and
13 abilities, you know, it can all work towards a common
14 goal. Just because we don't manage the -- you know,
15 lands and waters that the State does, doesn't mean that
16 we don't have input into that process and it doesn't
17 mean that we can't reach out to other groups to help us
18 in that process.

19

20 So, you know, I think it all eventually
21 all starts coming together once you start down that
22 road. So I think we ought to keep that in mind as
23 well. And, you know, I think we got some good
24 suggestions on this as far as, you know, what to ask
25 for. Any other comments on this request in Item No. 7.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, let's move
30 on to No. 8. It's another request. This is request
31 for active engagement by Forest Service and Park
32 Service with Southeast Alaska tribes concerning
33 cooperative and co-management for land management.

34

35 In the short and near term, the Council
36 calls on Forest Service and Park Service to enter
37 cooperative co-management agreements with our region's
38 tribes on all matters concerning land management of
39 traditional lands. The goal of these agreements should
40 be driven by the community and would include space for
41 co-decisionmaking and extensive local resource
42 monitoring. These could include delegating authority
43 to prepare review materials for Federal plans and land
44 use actions, to perform data gathering on Forest
45 resources, to assess and implement restoration
46 activities, and to enable tribes to become effective
47 guardians of public land resources. These agreements
48 will require a long-view on meeting the gaps of
49 communities, tribes and Federal entities. Both

50

0107

1 agencies should recruit qualified tribal residents to
2 their internship programs to grow a new generation of
3 natural resource managers.

4

5 So, this, I think, Ian, you kind of
6 added to this so any other comments on this one from
7 Council.

8

9 Patty.

10

11 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I think we should reference Section .802(3), except as
13 otherwise provided by this Act or other Federal laws,
14 Federal land managing agencies in managing subsistence
15 activities on public lands and in protecting the
16 continued viability of all wild renewable resources in
17 Alaska shall cooperate with adjacent land owners and
18 land managers including Native corporations,
19 appropriate State and Federal agencies, and other
20 nations. Or we could put that under the Section 2.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And that
23 was coming straight from Title VIII of ANILCA, correct?

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: .802(03).

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Okay.
28 That's a good suggestion. I think could you maybe
29 spell it out again, which bullet points do you think
30 could be added to?

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: That one we just read,

33 8.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: 8 for sure. Yeah.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Or under No. 2, where
38 you.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You also mentioned
41 No. 2.

42

43 MR. CASIPIT: No. 2 has.....

44

45 MS. PHILLIPS: Gives us the authority.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do you think it
48 would be better added in addition to the other Sections
49 of ANILCA in that second bullet point, do you think

50

0108

1 that might be a better place to put it?

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: As you choose, Mr.
4 Chair, either one.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Okay,
7 well, let's take note of that. And any other
8 discussion on that topic, does everybody agree that
9 would be a good -- after hearing that, a good addition.

10

11 (Council nods affirmatively)

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. It sounds
14 like we got consensus on that. Anybody else, comments
15 on this request.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's move
20 on to the conclusion, there always has to be a
21 conclusion, right.

22

23 In conclusion, the Council is
24 appreciative of the 32 year old program of Federal
25 management of subsistence resources in Southeast Alaska
26 and believes that incorporating our region's tribes in
27 active land and resource management provides meaningful
28 opportunities for Alaska Natives residing within the
29 region to contribute in a meaningful way to the
30 protection of subsistence resources on Federal public
31 lands and will result in greatly improved management in
32 our region.

33

34 The Council knows it will take some
35 time to implement co-management agreements. The
36 Council would like to hear what progress has been made
37 toward co-management efforts by the agency at its
38 winter 2023 meeting and to receive regular status
39 updates at each future meeting.

40

41 So that's the conclusion and a request.
42 So any comments or additions to that paragraph, those
43 paragraphs. Cathy.

44

45 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.....

46

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

49

50

0109

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Albert can go.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah, go
4 ahead first Albert.

5

6 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 I'm looking at the language, oh, one, two, three, the
8 third sentence towards the end, meaningful
9 opportunities for Alaska Natives residing within the
10 region. Can we change that to meaningful opportunity
11 for Alaska Federally-qualified subsistence users
12 residing within the region.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think that's a
15 pretty good suggestion, Albert. Anybody else with a
16 comment on that. A little change in wording there, a
17 little more inclusive.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 (Council nods affirmatively)

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Everybody's
24 nodding their heads. Okay, good, thank you Albert.
25 We'll add that to our proposed language.

26

27 Cathy.

28

29 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
30 just wanted to let the work group know how appreciative
31 I am of the time that they put into this. There is a
32 lot of really good points made, I like how it was laid
33 out and I do like that we were able to enhance some of
34 the asks in there. So the folks that actually put the
35 time in to get it to this stage, really, admiration of
36 you and appreciate that workgroup. It's important to
37 acknowledge the fact that there is just a lot that goes
38 on between meetings and this was like a couple of
39 meeting cycles worth of work that really has come
40 together.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
45 Cathy. Yeah, it was kind of a big effort actually and
46 a lot of it happened during the time of year when
47 people are pretty darn busy so, yeah, I think this
48 little session here was pretty necessary to kind of
49 fine-tune things because it's just not possible to

50

0110

1 incorporate everybody's ideas that were discussed
2 previously. So I think where we are now, DeAnna has
3 been taking some good notes and I know we have some
4 good suggestions, you know, to add to this, sometime
5 here, hopefully maybe before we get too far into new
6 business, we'll see how it goes, but we'll bring this
7 back to the table, hopefully we'll have had time to --
8 maybe DeAnna to change the draft with some of the notes
9 that she's been taking and if those changes are
10 acceptable to everybody, we'll have a motion in some
11 form to make this an official action and so for right
12 now we'll all just think about it, what we've heard and
13 done here today and then after we think about we'll
14 actually have a chance to read it and, yeah, we'll act
15 on it.

16

17 Think about it, read it, act on it, or
18 read it, think about it, act on it.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: One of them, but
23 somehow we'll finalize it here at the end of the
24 meeting. But before we move on from this topic, I know
25 we don't have a motion on the floor yet, we haven't
26 gotten that far, but we have had a request for public
27 comment on what we're working on here and I think this
28 would e an appropriate time to ask for that public
29 comment before we actually get into deliberations. It
30 might be helpful to us. So, Wanda Culp, if you are on
31 the telephone line we would like to hear from you at
32 this point.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't hear
37 Wanda. Let's take a short break, we'll try and get her
38 on the line, we'll come back, hear public comment and
39 then we will move on to the next item on the agenda,
40 which, if the folks for this item aren't available
41 we'll get an update on the Endangered Species listing
42 for the Unit 2 wolves and an update from Fish and Game
43 on what they foresee for this year wolf trapping
44 season, I believe, is that what that item is about. So
45 let's take a 10 minute break and come back.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

0111

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's 4:00 o'clock.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
7 everybody. So when we took our break there I was
8 waiting to hear if Wanda Culp was on the phone because
9 she had wanted to give some comment on this topic, we
10 haven't been able to get in touch with her but we will
11 and I'll probably looking forward to hearing from her
12 tomorrow morning and we haven't finalized anything yet
13 so hopefully we can incorporate anything she has to say
14 in any of our final deliberations and we can do that
15 tomorrow. It's 4:00 o'clock this afternoon. We'll get
16 through a couple other items here before we break for
17 the evening.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So next up is a update on what's
happening with wolves in Unit 2, and for that we have
Sarah Markegard is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service and then we also have Tom Schumacher with
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, they're both on the
telephone. We will start with Sarah Markegard first.
Are you there Sarah.

MS. MARKEGARD: Hi, yes, can you hear
me?

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

MS. MARKEGARD: Okay, great. Thank
you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon everyone. My name is
Sarah Markegard and I'm a Biologist for the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service based out of our Anchorage Field
Office. So I'll be providing a summary of the
Alexander Archipelago Wolf Species Status Assessment
that we've been working on for the past several months.
And throughout my talk I'll refer to the Alexander
Archipelago Wolf as AA wolf, and species status
assessment as SSA, just for ease. So I just want to
make everyone aware of that. And apologies to Chairman
Hernandez and Council Member Douville as I will be
repeating much of the information that I shared at the
Prince of Wales Deer Summit a couple of weeks ago. And
also before I get started I just want to note that
because the SSA is still in draft form and because no
decision has been made on the listing, I will only be
able to provide generalities about the information in

0112

1 the SSA and I won't be able to share any preliminary
2 results or specifics about our methods or models at
3 this time.

4

5 All right. So, first, I just want to
6 give a quick summary of the timeline for the AA wolf
7 listing determination. So we were petitioned on July
8 15th of 2020 from the Center for Biological Diversity,
9 Alaska RainForest Defenders, and Defenders of Wildlife
10 requesting that the AA wolf be listed as a threatened
11 or endangered subspecies under the Endangered Species
12 Act and we published a 90 day finding on the petition
13 on July 26th of last -- I'm sorry, of 2021 and in that
14 finding we determined that the petition presented
15 substantial information such that listing the AA wolf
16 may be warranted and therefore announced that we would
17 be conducting a 12 month finding or a listing
18 determination for the species.

19

20 So as part of the 12 month finding
21 process we kicked off the SSA at the beginning of this
22 year. The draft SSA went out for peer and partner
23 review in mid-July and we're now in the process of
24 incorporating comments and finalizing the document.
25 And I'll talk a little bit more about the final steps
26 of the listing determination process at the end.

27

28 So just to give a quick summary of the
29 purpose of an SSA, it's an analytical framework that we
30 use to characterize a species viability, or their
31 ability to sustain populations in the wild over time.
32 And we base that off of information about species
33 habitat and demographic needs and any threats or
34 conservation actions that are influencing those needs.
35 And then we kind of describe the current and future
36 abundance and distribution of populations within the
37 species ecological setting.

38

39 So SSA use the best available
40 information to inform a number of decisions and
41 management activities under the Endangered Species Act,
42 such as this listing determination for the wolves.
43 And, importantly, the SSA itself doesn't make a
44 determination of regulatory status. So nowhere in the
45 SSA does it state whether or not the wolf is warranted
46 for listing, that comes later in the 12 month finding.

47

48 So in our wolf assessment, we assume
49 that the AA wolf is a sub-species of grey wolf. We
50

0113

1 knowledge that AA wolves harbor unique ecological and
2 genetic traits that are specific to the coastal region
3 they inhabit and that they do appear to constitute a
4 different group compared to their Continental
5 counterparts. So the AA wolf range extends across all
6 of Southeast Alaska except the ABC Islands and also
7 across coastal British Columbia, or everything west of
8 the Coast Mountain Range in British Columbia except for
9 the Haida Gwaii Island. And we also acknowledge that
10 the boundaries of the AA wolf range aren't defined
11 sharply, they're porous and major transboundary river
12 drainages that connect Interior BC with Southeast
13 Alaska and Coastal BC, and also the Southern Mainland
14 Boundary between BC and the Lower 48. The all appear
15 to serve as zones of integration between the AA wolf
16 and it's Continental counterpart.

17
18 And since a species status assessment
19 was previously completed for the AA wolf listing
20 petition in 2015, for this SSA we relied on information
21 that was included in that previous report and then we
22 basically just incorporated new information that has
23 come available since then. And it's important to note
24 that SSAs are meant to be a living document and so our
25 intent is to continue updating this document as new
26 information comes to light, regardless of whether a
27 listing determination is underway.

28
29 So whenever possible we use published
30 literature in our SSAs to better understand various
31 aspects of AA wolves natural history and taxonomy, any
32 threats and when we didn't have information that was
33 specific to the AA wolf we did use grey wolf literature
34 for insight. And then we also did use unpublished
35 reports if published literature wasn't available and we
36 also used personal communications with species experts.

37
38 And then, finally, the Fish and
39 Wildlife Service worked with social scientists at the
40 University of Alaska-Anchorage, the Bureau of Ocean
41 Energy Management and the Alaska Heritage Institute to
42 conduct a rapid appraisal study of AA wolf indigenous
43 and traditional ecological knowledge or ITEK in
44 Southeast Alaska. So open-ended conversations and
45 semi-directed interviews were conducted with nine wolf
46 and cultural experts. We also used notes from tribal
47 consultations to inform our study and we conducted a
48 literature review that was focused on the cultural
49 significance of wolves in Tlingit culture as well. So
50

0114

1 the nine interviewees for the ITEK study represented
2 six community areas across Southeast Alaska. So those
3 communities were Yakutat, Excursion Inlet, Kake and
4 then on Prince of Wales Island, Klawock, Craig and
5 Hydaburg and five of the indigenous research partners
6 provided information about cultural connections to
7 wolves and nine provided traditional ecological
8 knowledge about wolves.

9

10 So just to share some of the key
11 insights from that ITEK study, first the report
12 provides extensive TEK about wolf health and abundance,
13 about their distribution and territories and how they
14 move. We also learned about denning behaviors and wolf
15 habitats and their prey and the needs and conditions of
16 those prey as well and also about wolf pack
17 characteristics. And then the results also include
18 detailed information about the cultural important and
19 indigenous understanding of wolves as well as the
20 relationship between humans and wolves and the position
21 of wolves in Tlingit social organization. Some of the
22 wolf experts that we interviewed also have Western
23 scientific knowledge of and experience with wolves.
24 And based on the information that was collected in the
25 interviews, the primary motive for wolf trapping and
26 hunting is really to achieve balanced populations of
27 deer or moose, in some regions, and wolves and the
28 local objective is to ensure adequate deer or moose
29 abundance in proximity to communities for subsistence
30 harvest. And then, finally, indigenous experts possess
31 knowledge and skills that can improve techniques for
32 estimating abundance.

33

34 So although we felt that this ITEK
35 study was really successful and provided valuable
36 information for the SSA, we also acknowledged that
37 there's potential for improvement in the future. And
38 so in our ITEK report we outline a few recommendations
39 so I'm going to talk about a couple of those here.

40

41 First we just recommend extending and
42 expanding the study. We had about five months to
43 complete a study that should really take two or more
44 years. There needs to be enough time allocated for
45 interaction, feedback and trust building between the
46 research participants and the study team and also to
47 complete comprehensive data collection and analysis.
48 We are hopeful that we can expand this study in the
49 future to fill some gaps and clarify outstanding
50

0115

1 questions. Also ideally to include more voices, and
2 especially those from indigenous experts in Coastal
3 British Columbia.

4

5 So we also recommend investing more
6 time and funds on indigenous knowledge in general. We
7 think this will help agencies better understand the
8 needs and priorities for fisheries and wildlife
9 research and management in indigenous homelands and we
10 feel that indigenous knowledge should be included in
11 all specie status assessment conducted by the Fish and
12 Wildlife Service whenever possible.

13

14 And then there should also be more
15 local outreach and local hire for agency sponsored
16 wildlife research, co-production will allow indigenous
17 experts and agencies to create new knowledge together
18 and, therefore, capitalize on the complimentary nature
19 of indigenous peoples understandings and scientific
20 understandings of wildlife and their ecology.

21

22 Okay, so I'm just going to wrap up and
23 finish by talking about where we're going with this
24 SSA. So as I mentioned at the beginning of the
25 presentation, the draft SSA went out for peer and
26 partner review in mid-July and we're now in the process
27 of kind of finalizing that document. Once it has been
28 finalized we conduct briefings so the Alaska Regional
29 Director and Headquarters, Fish and Wildlife Service,
30 and then using the information provided in the SSA and
31 the briefings, Headquarters makes the listing
32 determination and then Fish and Wildlife Service
33 publishes the 12 month finding in the Federal Register.
34 So the SSA and the 12 month finding are expected to be
35 published concurrently in the Federal Register during
36 the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 so that would be
37 sometime between July and September of next year.

38

39 That's all I have, and, thank you and I
40 can take questions if there's time for that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
43 Sarah. And I also do want to thank you for taking the
44 time to go to Craig last week and spend two days with
45 the locals down there and have a lot of interesting
46 discussions, I'm sure, and listen to folks and were
47 able to explain to them your role in all of this at a
48 local level so that was really appreciated, you know,
49 by those of us who were involved in that deer summit.

50

0116

1 So thank you, once, again.

2

3 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any questions from
6 Council members.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I guess
11 we're all pretty knowledgeable on this process now so thank
12 you once again.

13

14 MS. MARKEGARD: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, wait a
17 minute, I didn't see a question from Ian Johnson, go
18 ahead Ian.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: Sorry, Don, for the long
21 fuse on that one. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
22 wondered, when will the next sort of actionable
23 items for this come up to us, just curious about what
24 will be asked from the Council next?

25

26 MS. MARKEGARD: Sure.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
29 Sarah, and answer that one.

30

31 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, through the
32 Chair. Member Johnson. Really it is kind of going to
33 just be a waiting game until we end up publishing the
34 decision. At that point if we end up moving forward
35 with a warranted listing, listing the wolf, there will
36 be a proposed rule and there will be a public comment
37 period. So at that point it would be available to the
38 public to comment on. If the decision is not warranted
39 and the wolves -- we decide not to list the wolf there
40 is no public comment period for that so it's kind of an
41 interesting process but, really, there isn't much to do
42 other than if you have any questions for the Fish and
43 Wildlife Service, please, feel free to reach out to me.
44 I can share my email address with folks if they'd like
45 to chat about anything.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
48 Anybody else with a question.

49

50

0117

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I guess that
4 answer did raise a question in my mind. What would be
5 the purpose of having a public comment period should
6 there be a listing? What do you hope to gain from
7 public comment at that point?

8

9

MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, so we -- once we
10 issue the 12 month finding we'll complete a proposed
11 rule and publish that. So that's really what the
12 public comment period is for, for the proposed rule.
13 There is the possibility that we could withdraw the
14 proposed rule based on public comment and so it could
15 -- it could make a difference. It doesn't necessarily
16 mean once we publish the 12 month finding that isn't
17 set in stone so there is a public comment period to
18 discuss anything before issuing the final rule.

19

20

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that's
helpful, thank you. Any other questions. One more,
Mike Douville. Go ahead, Mike.

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
This is an unrelated question. We seem to have trouble
finding the registered tanners on the Fish and Wildlife
website for marine mammals, so if that could be more
accessible we'd be all -- or some of us would at least
be appreciative.

33

34

35

36

37

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. MARKEGARD: Sorry, would you remind
repeating the registered what did you say?

38

39

40

41

MR. DOUVILLE: The tanners that are
registered and certified, if you will, or whatever, to
tan marine mammals, Federally-licensed tanners.....

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

MS. MARKEGARD: Oh, I see.

MR. DOUVILLE:of marine mammals.

MS. MARKEGARD: I see, yes, okay, thank
you.

49

50

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody

0118

1 else.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you once again Sarah for keeping us informed. That's where we are at this point, just staying informed so thank you.

8

9

10

11

MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you for your patience.

12

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, wait a minute, one more comment from Mike Douville. Go ahead, Mike.

16

17

18

19

20

MR. DOUVILLE: I concur with Don, I appreciate you coming with Craig and spending the time with us to listen to all the parties concerns there. It was nice to have you there, thank you.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you, I agree. It was really great to be there. Wish I could be there in-person for this RAC meeting as well but, yeah, I concur with what Don said earlier about how positive it was. It was a really good experience and I hope it won't long before I can be back again.

28

29

30

31

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, hopefully in a more pleasant context, not talking about endangered species listing. Okay.

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, yeah, thank you once again. And is Tom Schumacher available with the update on what's happening with the wolf for this season.

39

40

41

42

43

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there Tom Schumacher.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Maybe somebody will give him a bump here and let him know we're ready.

0119

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I know he's a busy
4 person, especially now.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

9

10 MS. PERRY: Oh, he's talking but not
11 being heard.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, I guess he's
14 on the line but we can't hear him for some reason so we
15 got a phone issue.

16

17 REPORTER: He could try unmuting his
18 phone, that generally works.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Tom, if you can
21 hear me check all your mute options there, you might
22 have to push star, six or something.

23

24 MR. SCHUMACHER: Oh, okay that was it.
25 I unmuted myself on this end but I guess it was muted
26 on that end as well. So Tom Schumacher here, so
27 greeting to Chairman Hernandez and the rest of the RAC
28 members. Can you hear me now?

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, yeah, yeah, we
31 hear you now, Tom, go ahead.

32

33 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. All right,
34 thank you for confirming that. I thought I'd start out
35 with saying a few things about deer and then get into
36 wolves.

37

38 So just wanted to let everyone know
39 that we've updated our State's comments on the Unit 4
40 deer proposals and I believe you have hard copies and
41 digital copies of those. They've been updated with
42 primarily 2021 harvest data. 2021 was a good year in
43 Unit 4. Harvest was about 6,600 deer, oh, about 800
44 higher than the 10 year average. We had -- as
45 everybody knows we had early snow last year and that
46 really helped push deer down to the beach and
47 concentrate them.

48

49 But the good news about the snow is not

50

0120

1 just the harvest but we did mortality surveys in the
2 spring and we really didn't end up with much in the way
3 of winter mortality. So we don't expect the deep snow
4 that we had to have much effect on the Unit 4
5 population. We found about one deer per mile of beach.
6 Our surveys in walked beaches looked for winterkill
7 deer in the spring, that turned out, you know, one --
8 one carcass that was winter killed, not hunter killed
9 or something like that. You can tell by cracking
10 marrow in the long bone and, you know, if it's red and
11 gelatinous it's a winter kill rather than, you know, an
12 animal that was wounded and lost by hunter might have
13 -- would have marrow but it would be fatty, you know,
14 pink or white. So we found not too many winter kills
15 and compared to the winter of 2006, '07 when we had a
16 big die-off, we were finding about four carcasses per
17 mile. So last year in spite of the deep snow really
18 wasn't that bad.

19

20 So that's where things are in Unit 4.

21

22 I'd also like to let everyone know that
23 the Department is producing a video on the topic, to
24 cover both the proposals and what information we can
25 bring to that discussion regarding effective solutions
26 to the decline of harvest in these communities because
27 that's really our focus, is, what's going to be an
28 effective solution that really doesn't inconvenience
29 people if you don't have to. And that video should be
30 available to the public by about the end of the month.
31 So we will make that available to everyone and let you
32 know where to find it as soon as it's ready.

33

34 Now, for Unit 2 deer harvest last year
35 was about similar to where it's been, oh, since about
36 2018, below average, below -- sorry, harvest objectives
37 and as was discussed in the Unit 2 deer summit, you
38 know, there are a number of things exerting downward
39 pressure on deer in that area, you know, the big one is
40 habitat. Predation, no doubt, has some effect. And as
41 is hunting. I think it's important for the RAC to
42 recognize that, you know, the long season and doe
43 harvest were brought up at that meeting and, you know,
44 the one thing -- you know, as a wildlife manager if you
45 have too many animals on the land, too many ungulates
46 primarily like, you know, in Gustavus a few years ago
47 -- well, actually 20 years ago now we had too many
48 moose so we needed to reduce the population. Moose
49 were skinny in the fall, going into the winters,
50

0121

1 they're wrecking the habitat so we and the Board of
2 Game worked together to create a cow season because the
3 most effective way to bring an ungulate population down
4 is to kill the females. You know, doe harvest that's
5 reported in Unit 2 is quite low. Last year it was 34.
6 But people at the meeting seem to think it's a little
7 higher than that. So while Federal regulations do
8 allow doe harvest, you know, nobody has to shoot a doe
9 and the RAC may want to think about that in the future.

10
11 Anybody have any questions about deer
12 before we move on to wolf?

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
15 Tom. Are there any questions from the Council in
16 regards to deer issues here.

17
18 Ian, go ahead.

19
20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
21 Schumacher, I was wondering on the mortality surveys
22 that were done, do you know if any of them were in
23 Hoonah area, though, I'm not confident they were but do
24 you know that for sure?

25
26 MR. SCHUMACHER: I do not know for sure
27 but I can -- you know we can answer that for you easy
28 enough. I'm not sure if I have your contact
29 information but if you'd like to know I can tell you.

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. That would be
32 helpful. I mean I have been in contact with Mr. Bethune
33 in the past and I know it can be hard for him to do the
34 surveys in Hoonah and so I don't think he was in our
35 area, and I guess I wanted to put that into the -- it
36 can be kind of -- you know, to just look at the deer
37 per mile mortality without like thinking about the
38 spacial distribution of that too. It seems like
39 there's still a spacial component that could be in play
40 there.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, we made a larger
45 than normal effort last year to survey, just because we
46 did get a lot of snow early. And so many surveys were
47 conducted out of Juneau both by boat and by plane so
48 it's -- you know, I don't know if anyone went into Port
49 Frederick but, yeah, it's entirely possible that, you
50

0122

1 know, along that Icy Straits or Chatham side surveys
2 were done but we'll find out and I'll let you know.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
5 for that Tom. Other Council members with a question
6 relating to deer.

7

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

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
12 Albert.

13

14 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
15 guess I have the same question as Mr. Johnson as far as
16 Admiralty Island and I hear beach surveys and I'm
17 trying to figure out what beaches were surveyed and who
18 did it. Because even -- we spend a lot of time on the
19 water and we know when we see someone that isn't from
20 the Angoon area. So I'm just kind of curious how the
21 survey was conducted and who did it. Because even when
22 I'm flying home from Juneau I watch the shoreline,
23 seeing a deer is difficult let alone seeing any bones.

24

25 MR. SCHUMACHER: The surveys are
26 walking surveys so it's two people walking on the beach
27 and one inside the wood line, inside the treeline. So,
28 yeah, they're not doing it from a boat or from a plane.

29

30 MR. HOWARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, they
31 do have to get there somehow I guess.

32

33 MR. SCHUMACHER: Right, the boat and
34 plane are how you get there but then when you get there
35 you walk on the beach.

36

37 MR. HOWARD: Okay. Can I get the same
38 information emailed to me and I think my contact is
39 with DeAnna.

40

41 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I'm -- we'll
42 get our area biologist Steve Bethune to provide that
43 information for both of you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
46 Tom. It sounds like there's some interest there so if
47 you can get out some more specifics that would be
48 great. Another question from the Council.

49

50

0123

1 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair, this is Jim
2 Slater.

3
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Jim.

5
6 MR. SLATER: Yeah, Mr. Schumacher, just
7 a question. In a case like last year where there was a
8 early snow and I saw some deer die early, especially
9 some young ones, how would you differentiate deer kill
10 from how you mentioned, the wounded hunter where you
11 broke the long bones open and looked at the marrow
12 because -- I mean if they're wounded and lost by a
13 hunter, in the case like last year where they would
14 have died early on, where kind of the snow came fast
15 and hard and they died early, would -- was still a fair
16 amount of, I guess, nutrition, they were just kind of
17 in shock it looked like. They still looked somewhat
18 healthy. I mean I saw two or three die right within a
19 few hundred yards of my house.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, what we saw was
24 mostly what you saw, you know, the deer that died
25 tended to be fawns and fawns are most vulnerable
26 because they've been growing all summer and they
27 haven't had time to put on fat and they're not as big
28 and strong as adult deer so they're the ones most
29 likely to succumb. It's not always definitive to look
30 at the marrow composition, you know, you may see, you
31 know, broken bones from a bullet wound or you may not
32 see anything and you just have to assume that it was a
33 winter kill. So you know something that's obviously --
34 or the winter -- or, you know, still has fat in the
35 bone marrow then that's probably something that died
36 from some other reason but if it's red and gelatinous
37 marrow then it certainly died of starvation.

38
39 There's no definitive way to say
40 everyone died -- you know, how exactly each deer died.
41 So we assume that most of what we found was winterkill.

42
43 MR. SLATER: Yeah, thanks. I just
44 wondered if there was a second layer of method so thank
45 you for that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
48 Patty Phillips has a question.

49
50

0124

1 MS. PHILLIPS: I have more of a comment
2 than a question. I was going to bring this up under
3 the discussion about the deer proposals so -- but it is
4 related to the study of deer deaths, deer mortality. I
5 don't know is Fish and Game going to be on during our
6 discussion about the deferred deer proposals?

7
8 MR. SCHUMACHER: I don't know when
9 that's going to happen so it's -- I think someone from
10 the Department will be listening, it may not be me
11 because I'm meaning to leave.

12
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm pretty
14 certain that we're going to be taking up those
15 proposals fairly early tomorrow morning so, Tom, I
16 don't know if you're going to be the one available at
17 that time, do you know?

18
19 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think I'll be here
20 tomorrow morning so I'm available for that and I think
21 Steve Bethune, the Sitka Area Biologist will also be on
22 the line.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, like
25 I say, the way it's looking right now tomorrow morning
26 we'll be working on those proposals. Any other
27 questions.

28
29 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
30 Albert, just a comment or idea.

31
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

33
34 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Yeah, it seems like any presentation like this should
36 have a hardcopy to go along with it then we don't have
37 to go back and ask for one. Also, thinking about it, I
38 used to run a trap line for a lot of years, snow or no
39 snow, I don't recall seeing any kind of kills around
40 here but that could be because everything's starving
41 around here and if anything dies naturally all the
42 mink, martin, otter, and eagles and everything else
43 seem to pick up all the scraps and pretty soon there's
44 nothing left. That's just my thoughts, thank you, Mr.
45 Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you all for
48 those observations. Let's move on with your wolf
49 report, Tom.

50

1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. It's been a
2 busy year with wolves. You just heard about the ESA
3 process from the Fish and Wildlife Service. In
4 addition to that the State of Alaska was sued by a
5 private individual and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance in
6 2020. Both the ESA listing and the lawsuit were
7 largely generated by the high wolf harvest in 2019.

8
9 Both of those have taken up a good deal
10 of our time, preparing for suits and addressing the
11 ESA, it's a lot of work. But the Department, you know,
12 does feel these are two very important things we need
13 to address to maintain management authority.

14
15 You know, a listing decision under the
16 ESA takes management authority away from the State so
17 you would be dealing with the Fish and Wildlife Service
18 as the managing agency. The lawsuit that was filed is
19 a civil matter but it's also Constitutional. The
20 contention of the suit is that the State of Alaska is
21 not managing wolves in Game Management Unit 2 in
22 accordance with the sustained yield clause in the
23 State's Constitution. We had a trial for a week in
24 April, myself, the Commissioner, Ryan Scott, who I
25 think most of you all know, and our statistician Jason
26 Waite were witnesses for the State, and we had the
27 trial and then several months later the judge came out
28 with a ruling and ruled in our favor. After the trial
29 the plaintiff submitted a request for reconsideration
30 which is asking the judge to reconsider his decision.
31 You know after a couple of weeks he denied that request
32 and subsequent to that the plaintiffs have appealed the
33 suit to the Supreme Court. So that case will be held
34 in the Supreme Court sometime in the coming year, I
35 don't know when but, again, like the ESA, that would in
36 some ways take management out of our hands if they
37 think what we're doing is wrong.

38
39 So those are two things operating
40 outside the regulatory setting that are going on with
41 wolves. The ESA, of course, is for the whole region,
42 and the lawsuit is specific to Unit 2.

43
44 So now to get to the big news. Wolf
45 season in Unit 2 for this year. We just completed a
46 population estimate and, again, we had some delays with
47 lab work getting -- you know, getting lab work done and
48 so we got data a little bit late, but the population
49 estimate we came up with is 268, that's an estimate.
50

0126

1 That's the midpoint of the estimate. With a confidence
2 interval going from 216 to 332. Based on that
3 estimate, the Department believes we can have a one
4 month trapping season from November 15th to December
5 15th.

6
7 And I guess that's the news and, you
8 know, I'm here to take any questions about that.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
11 Tom. Yeah, some of us were pretty anxious to hear what
12 those numbers were and the season. So questions from
13 the Council in regards to the Endangered Species
14 listing or the present season.

15
16 Patty.

17
18 MS. PHILLIPS: Was that -- thank you,
19 Mr. Chair. Was that the U.S. Supreme Court or the
20 Alaska Supreme Court?

21
22 MR. SCHUMACHER: It's the State of
23 Alaska Supreme Court. It's an Alaska Constitution
24 issue so it goes to the State Supreme Court.

25
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
27 Other questions. Mike Douville, go ahead, Mike.

28
29 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 268, I think last year we had a mid-range population of
31 either 323 or 316, so we had a harvest of
32 approximately.....

33
34 MR. SCHUMACHER: The.....

35
36 MR. DOUVILLE:20 percent.

37
38 MR. SCHUMACHER: So, yes, last
39 year.....

40
41 MR. DOUVILLE: And that's the number we
42 have sitting before us is 268, so if you minus 20
43 percent off to last year's quota, so.....

44
45 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, there's no
46 quota.

47
48 MR. DOUVILLE: It looks like we're
49 still on the roller coaster only the ride's not quite
50

0127

1 so steep. It doesn't make sense to me that we didn't
2 gain in population with a harvest of only 20 percent.

3

4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, that -- that is
5 true. We had a population estimated of 316 in 2019.
6 Now, we had 164 wolves or something removed in 2019 and
7 yet in 2020 we ended up with an estimate of 386 for a
8 midpoint. So, you know, it goes both ways. You know,
9 estimates, one thing you could say about an estimate is
10 it's wrong. All estimates are wrong so it's really the
11 confidence interval around the estimate that we need to
12 look at it. Now, it's possible -- it's possible, even
13 probable that the estimate in 2019 was low. You know
14 we had a big harvest out of there and we still had a
15 lot of wolves the next year. It's possible that the
16 2020 estimate was high. You know, everybody needs to
17 keep in mind is that it's an estimate and an estimate
18 is wrong, however it's the best information we have.

19

20 Something else that we've been working
21 on, you know, we recognize that the estimates jumping
22 up and down the way they do is a little disconcerting
23 for the public. We've seen some things in the
24 estimates that don't make sense or are difficult to
25 explain. Primarily what we've been looking at are big
26 jumps from year to year so we're actively analyzing
27 this sort of thing, seeing, you know, why is that. And
28 the most likely explanation is that when we have a lot
29 more data to work with we end up with a higher
30 estimate. Now, that's -- you know, from a statistical
31 point of view isn't how it should work. If you have
32 more data you should have a more precise estimate so a
33 smaller confidence interval and it shouldn't really
34 change the estimate much. What we had in 2016 -- in
35 2015 we had a low estimate, in 2016 we had a much
36 higher estimate. What also happened in 2016 is that we
37 first began working with the Hydaburg Cooperative
38 Association so, you know, they operated their hair
39 board lines and I think the Department also expanded
40 its hair board work so we had more data to work with in
41 2016, we got a higher number. The other year there was
42 a big jump in population was from 2018 to 2019. What
43 was different about 2019, well, we had 164 wolves
44 harvested so we had a lot more data to work with. So
45 that indicates that when we have more data we end up
46 with a higher estimate. And like I said, that's not
47 really how it should work so what does that mean?

48

49 Well, it probably means that our

50

0128

1 detectors, our hair boards are not as effective as we
2 always assumed they were. Ideally hair boards, all
3 wolves have the same chance of being detected at a hair
4 board. However, that does not appear to be the case.
5 There are some wolves that apparently do not roll on
6 hair boards or are much less likely to do so. We don't
7 know if that's something to do with age or sex or
8 social position in a pack or it could even be pack
9 specific behavior. We've been trying to learn about
10 that for the last few years by putting cameras on hair
11 board sites and recording wolf behavior. There are
12 some wolves that'll come up and roll and sometimes you
13 can tell sex, and sometimes you can tell age, you know,
14 pups versus adults, and we see all those different
15 types of wolves rolling. But you also see groups of
16 wolves come by, you know, they walk by, they know the
17 hair boards are there but they don't really interact
18 with them, and others will pick them up, paw with them,
19 play with them but not roll on them, so I guess what
20 that means for us is that the hair board estimates,
21 there's estimates derived from data gathered at hair
22 boards, is more likely to be biased low than biased
23 high. So that means that for the years we've been
24 doing this it's more likely that estimates have been
25 biased low, or lower than the true population. It
26 doesn't mean every year they're biased low, it just
27 means they're likely to be biased low. If that's the
28 case harvest has been conservative and we think that
29 should count toward an ESA decision.

30
31 This year's estimate, we had less data
32 because as folks on Prince of Wales know, it snowed,
33 and, you know, late November into December when we're
34 normally doing hair board work, we couldn't get to some
35 of them because of snow. And even if we could many of
36 those boards were covered up by snow which makes them
37 ineffective, you're not really collecting hair if
38 they're covered by snow so we had less data to work
39 with. Our partners with Hydaburg Cooperative
40 Association also had some Staffing trouble and weren't
41 able to run all their lines so we ended up with less
42 data, we ended up with a lower estimate. However it's
43 still the best information we have for management. And
44 we think given that, a month long season, should allow
45 ample opportunity for harvest.

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
48 Tom, for that explanation. Any other questions with
49 regard to that. Go ahead, Mike, followup.
50

0129

1 MR. DOUVILLE: So at best your hair
2 board system has got flaws in it, either snow or smart
3 wolves or -- has the Department considered other means
4 of trying to assess the wolf population? My suggestion
5 would be more cameras, they don't get snowed in and
6 they work in real-time. On a personal level I never
7 felt that hair boards are going to be a consistent
8 means of trying to get good samples with any percentage
9 level, if you will, from year to year.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. SCHUMACHER: We're always looking
14 for a better way of doing things. Like maybe some
15 folks on Prince of Wales are aware we're supporting a
16 graduate student project to investigate cameras as a
17 wolf abundance measurement tool. A student started
18 work -- well, he started work two falls ago, didn't get
19 much done because he -- there were various reasons,
20 Covid, funding problems, things like that, and then
21 last summer he and one helper anyway were on the island
22 and they set about half the cameras that he intended
23 to, however, recently here the PhD student decided that
24 this project wasn't for him so he decided to step away
25 from it. That will delay things for a little bit. But
26 at this point we're working with the University of
27 Alaska up in Fairbanks to make sure that field work
28 gets done in the next summer, so cameras get deployed,
29 cameras that are out get serviced and get images from
30 them and we're also recruiting for a new PhD student.
31 So given the constraints of the University's
32 application deadlines and things like that they may not
33 have a student on by the next fall. We'll see about
34 that, it's more likely to be the following spring
35 semester before they have a new student on. So we're
36 hoping to have -- it'll be about a year and a half
37 worth of data there and then that student would be
38 working in the field for two years. The good thing
39 about cameras is, is they take pictures of lots of
40 things so we may also be able to use cameras to monitor
41 things like deer and bears. It's also possible to use
42 cameras in an integrated approach with hair boards to
43 look for trends.

44

45 So there's options out in front of us
46 there, they're going to take some time to work on. For
47 now hair boards are the best thing we got so that's
48 what we're going to use but, yeah, as soon as we can
49 get something better we'll use it.

50

0130

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

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not seeing
7 any, Tom, so thank you for all that information. It's
8 all been very interesting so thanks again.

9
10 Okay, I think that wraps up wolf
11 discussions. We have a little bit more time today, I
12 think I'll take the opportunity to move forward a
13 little bit, get as far into this agenda as we can
14 today. I will take note that next up on the agenda is
15 the Unit 4 deer proposals and then the last item in old
16 business is an update on the Roadless and Sustainable
17 -- Southeast Sustainable Strategy. Regional Forester
18 Dave Schmidt has been with us all afternoon, Dave, I
19 hope you find this as interesting as we have and are
20 you going to be available tomorrow morning.

21
22 MR. SCHMIDT: (Nods affirmatively)

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes?

25
26 MR. SCHMIDT: Yes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good.

29
30 MR. SCHMIDT: I'll be here most of the
31 day tomorrow.

32
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, great.
34 We'll probably get to you tomorrow morning but if we
35 could, for right now, at least get the Unit 4 deer
36 proposals introduced so the Council all knows what our
37 options are here, I think there are some options. It's
38 not set in stone of what we're doing here at this
39 meeting so if we could hear about that and have a
40 chance to at least get our minds wrapped around it
41 tonight and we'll have to come back. I know that
42 anything, any actions we might take could take awhile
43 but if we could at least figure out what our action
44 alternatives are here I think would be really helpful
45 this evening. So let's get a preliminary introduction
46 on where we are in this topic right now.

47
48 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 For the record my name is Jake Musslewhite and I'm a
50

0131

1 Biologist for the Forest Service. And next to me I
2 have Rob Cross, Subsistence Coordinator for the Tongass
3 National Forest. These Unit 4 deer proposals, which
4 I'm sure you're all familiar with at this point, but
5 just to reiterate, were developed by Southeast RAC
6 during their winter 2021 meeting and were submitted
7 following further discussion in the fall 2021 meeting
8 and then in its April 2022 meeting the Federal
9 Subsistence Board unanimously voted to defer these
10 proposals and requested user groups to work together to
11 come up with, quote, a better solution supported more
12 by some of the evidence. So the Board will reconsider
13 these deferred proposals during its winter 2023
14 meeting.

15

16 So in response to this request, OSM
17 organized an open meeting this last August to gather
18 more information and to facilitate discussion amongst
19 all the user groups. Staff also updated the analysis
20 for these proposals to reflect additional developments
21 and information that had become available since the
22 original analysis were prepared, including expanded
23 sections on cultural practices, TEK, two additional
24 years of harvest data and summary of the public meeting
25 that was held.

26

27 So the updated analysis are included in
28 the supplemental materials for this meeting. And as
29 Mr. Schumacher mentioned, ADF&G also updated their
30 comments on these proposals and I believe those updated
31 comments are available in the supplemental materials as
32 well.

33

34 So for those of you that didn't have a
35 chance to attend the open meeting I've got a quick
36 summary of that. In its deferral of these proposals,
37 the Board asked user groups to work together to come up
38 with better solutions so OSM organized an open meeting
39 in August 2022 to gather more information and to
40 facilitate discussion amongst user groups. The press
41 released announcing the meeting included several
42 questions for participants to consider to help focus
43 and guide the discussion. Participants were asked to
44 discuss their recent deer hunting experiences in Unit
45 4, their plans for future harvest and how the proposals
46 could affect them. Additionally, participants were
47 asked if they had specific recommendations on these
48 proposals or if they had any other suggestions for the
49 Board that would help resolve these issues. OSM,

50

1 Forest Service and ADF&G Staff as well as members of
2 the public participated in the meeting. 11 members of
3 the public provided comments and all commenters either
4 opposed the proposals or did not give an explicit
5 position. A common theme mentioned by nine of the
6 public participants was that they have not experienced
7 any difficulties harvesting deer in Unit 4, including
8 several participants with 30 to 50 years of experience
9 hunting deer in the area. Several participants
10 emphasized that there are plenty of deer for everyone
11 in Unit 4 and that the data, as well as local
12 observations, indicate a healthy abundant deer
13 population. One participant further stated that the
14 available data does not support a closure for either
15 conservation or continuation of subsistence and that
16 non-Federally-qualified users are not the problem.
17 Participants also commented on potential impacts of
18 these proposals including decreased hunting opportunity
19 for non-Federally-qualified users. Two participants
20 stressed that if these areas are closed the non-
21 Federally-qualified users will have to hunt the beaches
22 would likely result in more user conflicts since the
23 beaches are a popular hunting area for subsistence
24 users. Other participants stated that an unintended
25 consequence of these proposed closures is that it would
26 prevent family members who have moved to non-rural
27 areas from returning to their traditional areas to hunt
28 with relatives. The President of Territorial Sportsmen
29 expressed concern over the precedent adoption of these
30 closures would set for potential closures in other
31 areas since Unit 4 has the highest deer population in
32 the state. ADF&G maintained its opposition to these
33 proposals stating that these closures do not meet
34 requirements set forth in ANILCA. ADF&G also provided
35 updates on 2022 biological surveys and 2021 harvest
36 reports. Mr. Schumacher just covered some of that,
37 such as the winter mortality surveys. They're also
38 summarized in the updated analysis.

39
40 Some discussion occurred about the
41 proposal process and how the Board considers differing
42 recommendations from OSM, ADF&G and the Council. The
43 Forest Service Board Member stated that he appreciated
44 this meeting to gather more information and was
45 listening to everyone's comments to inform his decision
46 on these proposals.

47
48 Alternative solutions provided by
49 participants included submitting proposals to the Board
50

0133

1 of Game, developing a cultural training program and
2 taking a step back to look at the larger picture.
3 Specifically, one participant mentioned that he had
4 submitted a proposal to the Board of Game to lower the
5 harvest limit for Unit 4 deer under State regulations
6 from six deer back down to 4 deer. Another participant
7 suggested closing Unit 4 to non-resident deer hunters.
8 Dividing Unit 4 into three subunits, Admiralty,
9 Baranof, Chichagof since the landscapes are different,
10 and increasing the locking tag fee to \$500 per tag.
11 However, ADF&G clarified that increasing tag fees is a
12 Legislative function requiring a statute change.
13 Another person mentioned that an aging population could
14 be contributing to decreased hunting efforts by
15 Federally-qualified subsistence users because the
16 younger generation is not interested in hunting. To
17 that end he suggested the Board, in cooperation with
18 knowledgeable hunters, develop a cultural training
19 program to help inject deer hunting back into the
20 subsistence lifestyle. A representative of the
21 Juneau/Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee their
22 willingness to work with Federally-qualified
23 subsistence users and the Southeast Council to come up
24 with alternative solutions through the State process.

25

26 So the Council now has the opportunity
27 to discuss these deferred proposals and make
28 recommendations to the Board for when they are
29 reconsidered at the winter 2023 meeting.

30

31 So I can briefly summarize each
32 proposal, I know you guys are -- already heard a lot
33 about them but I can go through them really quick if
34 you'd like just to reiterate.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

37

38 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

41

42 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Okay. So WP22-07
43 requests that the Federal public lands of Admiralty
44 Island draining into Chatham Strait between Point
45 Marsden and Point Gardner in Unit 4 be closed to deer
46 hunting September 15th through November 30th except by
47 Federally-qualified subsistence users and it was
48 submitted by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional
49 Advisory Council and so we have that updated analysis
50

1 in the supplemental materials.

2

3

4 The RAC recommendation was to support

5 this proposal with modification to remove Wildlife

6 Analysis Areas 4044 and 4043 from the closure area.

7 And then so OSM's interpretation of the intent was to

8 modify the area to drainages of Admiralty Island

9 flowing into Chatham Strait between Fishery Point and

10 Point Gardner except drainages flowing into Thayer

11 Lake, Hasselborg Lake and Hasselborg Creek would be

12 closed to deer hunting September 15 to November 30th

13 except by Federally-qualified users.

14

15 So the OSM conclusion remains to oppose

16 this proposal. The proposed closure of the Federal

17 public lands to non-subsistence uses does not meet the

18 criteria in Section .815 of ANILCA. There is no

19 conservation concern as deer populations are among the

20 highest in the state. The closure is also not

21 necessary to continued subsistence users, success rates

22 of Federally-qualified users has been favorable for 20-

23 plus years. Therefore, the proposed closure represents

24 an unnecessary restriction on non-Federally-qualified

25 users as it's not expected to substantially benefit or

26 be necessary for the continuation of subsistence uses.

27

28 Then for WP22-08 which requests that

29 the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area annual deer

30 harvest limit for non-Federally-qualified users be

31 reduced to two male deer. It was submitted by the

32 Southeast RAC. An updated analysis is in the

33 supplemental materials. The RAC recommendation was to

34 support 22-08 stating that the restriction was

35 necessary for the continuation of subsistence use,

36 would limit competition in the Hoonah area and would

37 not be an inconvenience to non-Federally-qualified

38 users. The OSM conclusion remains to oppose the

39 proposal. The proposed restriction does not meet the

40 criteria in Section .815 of ANILCA. There's no

41 conservation concern as deer populations are healthy.

42 The restriction is also not necessary for the

43 continuation of subsistence uses based on the available

44 evidence. Hoonah deer hunters experience high success

45 rates and the proposed restriction is not likely to

46 significantly reduce competition from non-Federally-

47 qualified users.

48

49 Then finally Wildlife Proposal 22-10

50 requests that the deer harvest limit for non-Federally-

0135

1 qualified users in Lisianski Inlet and Lisianski Strait
2 be reduced to 4 deer. It was submitted by Patricia
3 Phillips of Pelican. And, again, we have an updated
4 analysis for that. The RAC recommendation was to
5 support it with modification to the area and harvest
6 limits so the modified regulation should read:

7
8 On Federal public lands within
9 drainages flowing into Lisianski Inlet, Lisianski
10 Strait and Stag Bay south of a line connecting
11 Soapstone and Column Points and north of a line
12 connecting Point Theodore and Point Yura non-Federally-
13 qualified users may harvest up to three bucks.

14
15 The OSM conclusion remains to oppose
16 this proposal. The proposed restriction does not meet
17 the criteria in Section .815 of ANILCA. There's no
18 conservation concern as deer populations are healthy.
19 The restriction is also not necessary for the
20 continuation of subsistence uses based on the available
21 evidence. Pelican area deer hunters experience high
22 success rates and the proposed restriction is not
23 likely to significantly reduce competition from non-
24 Federally-qualified users.

25
26 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
29 Jake. So at this point I just want to remind the
30 Council that this was kind of a review of what has
31 happened up to this point. Moving forward, I think I
32 want a little bit of clarification here but we do have
33 options for the Council. I think I heard that we could
34 essentially revisit these proposals given that there
35 was some new information and analysis and results from
36 the public meeting. So we could essentially offer up a
37 new recommendation based on the new information, that's
38 an option for us. I guess another option would be to
39 take no action and turn it back to the Board for them
40 to make a decision. So I don't know maybe there's
41 another option out there but I see those two for sure.

42
43 And at this point in the process I
44 think offer up an opportunity for Council members to
45 ask questions on what Mr. Musslewhite has just
46 presented us, and I want to remind Council that this is
47 not the time to deliberate on anything he provided us,
48 we'll hopefully get to that later if the Council
49 decides to take that route. Right now questions,
50

0136

1 questions only based on the new information he's
2 provided us.

3

4 So, Ian, go ahead.

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Jake
7 could we -- or Mr. Musslewhite, could we get a copy of
8 the public -- that summary of the public meeting. I
9 tried to take notes as fast as I could but I didn't see
10 it in the supplemental material, I guess, or maybe I'm
11 missing it if someone can direct me to the summary of
12 that.

13

14 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, through the
15 Chair, Member Johnson. Actually I think a lot of what
16 I -- that summary I just gave you is in the analysis, I
17 know for 22-07 so it's kind of included in that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, and that
20 would be in our main meeting book, not the supplement.
21 Other questions.

22

23 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: I do believe it's in
24 the supplement.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It is in the
27 supplement, sorry, okay.

28

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

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It is in the
33 supplement, yeah. Thank you all for the
34 clarifications. Any other questions.

35

36 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
37 Albert.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Who do we got,
40 Cathy?

41

42 MS. NEEDHAM: Albert.

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: I think Albert was first
45 -- let Albert go first.

46

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

49

50

0137

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Albert, we
2 hear you on the phone, go ahead.

3
4 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Can I get a copy of the process of how OSM came to
6 their conclusion and who was a part of it because it
7 seems like when we go through our process everyone
8 votes and OSM is basing their decision on someone
9 else's process. To give you an example, they're saying
10 that the Fish and Game says this, so that's part of
11 what they're basing their decision on. They're also
12 saying that the 50 year process -- there's been deer
13 everywhere, what they fail to mention is that what I
14 see, boats coming in, big boats with three or four
15 other boats behind them, that's left out of that
16 process. And to hear about the Territorial Sportsmen,
17 are they Federally-recognized tribes or ANCSA Native
18 Corporations. I thought that's who this Council
19 represents. So I think this process is flawed in that
20 regard, Mr. Chairman, that a lot of things are left
21 out.

22
23 And I guess my question to Mr.
24 Musslewhite is where do you live and where do you hunt?

25
26 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry, Albert, I
29 think that last question's an inappropriate question,
30 that kind of gets into somebody's personal affairs
31 there and it's not really relevant to what we're doing.
32 Sorry.

33
34 MR. HOWARD: But, Mr. Chairman.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: But your question
37 on.....

38
39 MR. HOWARD:part of the process
40 would be (cuts out).....

41
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, I
43 didn't hear that last comment.

44
45 MR. HOWARD: I think I'm old enough to
46 figure out that there may be a conflict of interest as
47 far as coming up with a decision on opposing it or not.
48 I'll be honest with you, I don't agree that someone
49 that lives in Juneau should be deciding to oppose this
50

0138

1 without due process. Also a lot of Angoon residents
2 are busy in August putting fish away and everything
3 they need to do for the winter so a lot of us couldn't
4 make it. I was given the choice of working so I have
5 enough money to make it through the winter and subsist.
6 Like someone says, you got to work to have a
7 subsistence lifestyle, to pay for gas and everything.
8 So I think the question isn't really out of order, it's
9 just a valid question, and it isn't intended to be
10 personal, it's just the fact that we have someone
11 working to help us find a solution to an existing
12 problem.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Albert, I
17 think we're going to have to direct that question to
18 DeAnna Perry, our Coordinator, she was involved in
19 these public meetings more than anybody. So, DeAnna,
20 do you want to answer that?

21

22 MS. PERRY: I'd be happy to Mr. Chair.
23 Council Member Howard, I would like to remind you and
24 everyone that these proposals have already gone through
25 the entire regulatory process up until the Board
26 deliberation so the process that you see on Page 41,
27 the same process we go through with every proposal,
28 that has gone through every step except -- well, every
29 step for the Regional Advisory Council, it's now with
30 the Board, the Board deferred it back to the Council
31 for more information, the public meeting was conducted.
32 As far as how did OSM process that new information and
33 come up with a conclusion, I would have to defer to
34 Lisa Grediagin, she's the Wildlife Supervisor at OSM
35 and, yes, I would concur that asking where someone
36 lives from a Staff member is inappropriate and I would
37 ask you to refrain from those kind of comments in the
38 future.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Howard.

41

42 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 did ask the question at the last meeting and got an
44 answer so I'll just assume the answer is the same.
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
48 Albert. Anybody else have a question on the
49 presentation.

50

0139

1 Cal.

2

3

MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Thanks Mr. Cross, Mr. Musslewhite. I've sat at that
5 end of the table before and I appreciate what you guys
6 are doing. You know I know what you're recommending is
7 based on what ANILCA says and the law says and what
8 Federal attorneys have interpreted and instructed and
9 so I know where you're coming from and I know what's --
10 so thank you.

11

12

But I did have a question about the
13 public meeting. Unfortunately I wasn't able to
14 participate or I would have asked the question myself
15 and I'm wondering if anybody from the public had
16 thought about this and I think maybe based on your
17 presentation, maybe some people were thinking about
18 this, as far as reducing the State bag limit back to
19 four. But did anybody in the public, and this is going
20 back to what I was talking about earlier in the meeting
21 is, did anybody talk about how we provide that
22 meaningful priority for subsistence users? I mean did
23 any -- anybody from the public, Territorial Sportsmen,
24 blah, blah, blah, all the people who participated, did
25 anybody mention the need for us to provide a meaningful
26 priority and how we might accomplish that, you know,
27 from their perspective?

28

29

Thank you.

30

31

MR. CROSS: Through the Chair, and for
32 the record my name is Robert Cross. Through the Chair.
33 Member Casipit. I would have to go back through the
34 transcripts, I couldn't tell you specifically if
35 anybody mentioned that. And it was more so -- the
36 hearing was -- or the public meeting was a chance for
37 us to collect traditional ecological knowledge and more
38 of a listening session for us. So, yeah, again, I
39 would have to go back through the transcripts and look
40 to see if that was specifically mentioned.

41

42

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank
43 you, Rob. I see we have somebody else who came up to
44 the table and there is her name tag, Lisa Grediagin.

45

46

MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

49

50

0140

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, I'm the
2 Wildlife Division Supervisor for the record. And I
3 would just encourage all the Council members,
4 hopefully, it won't take very long, it's just a page
5 and a half, but the open meeting summary is included in
6 the WP22-07 updated analysis and it's a summary but it
7 really includes all the general comments and ideas that
8 were discussed during that meeting. And I don't think
9 that specifically came up. I mean I just read it on the
10 plane ride here and I mean maybe it skirted around the
11 issue but, no, not specifically, it did not come up.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
16 Other questions. Ian, go ahead.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 This is just a really quick clarification but we've
20 referred to the OSM process as meetings and meeting, it
21 sounds like there was just one meeting, can you just
22 clarify, there's been one meeting on this?

23

24 MS. GREDIAGIN: (Nods affirmatively)

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that was an
29 affirmative, one meeting. Cathy, go ahead.

30

31 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Also, I mean it was one meeting, I just kind of want to
33 address that but then I have a specific question for
34 these guys. It was one meeting for public comment, but
35 I believe in the reanalysis that I read there was a lot
36 of work that the OSM did to go back through and go
37 through our transcripts and a lot of the stuff that
38 this Council has said, not just during this process but
39 back years, they went back to the last time Unit 4 deer
40 kind of was talked about within the Council and they
41 integrated all of that and I really appreciated being
42 able to go through the analysis and hear a lot of TED-
43 based information that reiterated in, and from our
44 transcripts and I found that very helpful and I wish
45 that we kind of had that for every proposal. It was
46 difficult for me to think about the fact that, you
47 know, we've already been through this process of -- we
48 built our recommendation and it went all the way to the
49 Federal Board and we didn't have that in our analysis,

50

0141

1 and when the Board deferred for it to come back then
2 the reanalysis actually really captured a lot of that
3 information and I thought it was helpful and I think
4 that there was a lot of really good information in this
5 reanalysis that I read on the plane ride down here.

6
7 And my question to Staff is, you know,
8 we're trying to decide what our options are and Don
9 said that they were, you know, we have the option to
10 make a new recommendation or we have the option to take
11 no action, and I want clarification from the Staff if
12 we make a new recommendation, that's just on the
13 proposals as they were written, as they were analyzed
14 and as they are before us, right, we're not changing
15 proposals at all at this point in time, and so the only
16 new recommendation that we necessarily could take would
17 be to go in the opposite -- if we supported a proposal
18 and we now oppose the proposal; is that what you're
19 kind of getting at?

20
21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin
22 for the record. It would be the same sort of options
23 that you had last time, as you normally have for
24 proposals so you could straight support as written,
25 support with modification, defer, take no action,
26 oppose. So, yeah, you still can make a modification
27 but it has to be somewhat within the sideboards of the
28 original request. I mean similar to the modifications
29 you made last year.

30
31 And I guess just to go back a little
32 bit and address the question about how OSM comes to the
33 conclusion, I mean we address -- we try to account for
34 all information and address it and, you know, weigh
35 that against each other and so hopefully, as Cathy
36 mentioned, the effects section was a bit expanded and
37 tried to respond to feedback that the Council provided
38 last fall specifically about providing more traditional
39 ecological knowledge in the analysis and incorporating
40 feedback from the Council members and local residents
41 and, you know, as Member Howard mentioned, you know,
42 there is a paragraph in the effects section about how
43 only one or two boats in an area can negatively affect
44 the success of subsistence hunts because that can clog
45 up a bay and a drainage and prevent people from meeting
46 their subsistence needs. So we did take that into
47 account, not -- but, you know, into our conclusion as
48 well.

49
50

0142

1 And I think that hopefully answered
2 your question about the process and options.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.
7 Followup.

8
9 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
10 do have a quick followup then.

11
12 If we take no action then our
13 recommendations that have gone to the Federal
14 Subsistence Board remain the same and then it kicks
15 back to them in this process and there isn't
16 necessarily anything going to be happening between this
17 meeting and when the Federal Board takes these
18 proposals back up again?

19
20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Correct. I mean it is
21 a pretty short turnaround because the Board's meeting
22 in January to reconsider these proposals. You know
23 there's probably little tweaks OSM might do to just
24 update any more additional information we get from this
25 meeting and I also just wanted to mention another
26 update to the analysis was the other alternatives
27 considered section. One thing that was mentioned in
28 there I'd like to highlight was establishing a Unit 4
29 working group and while that's beyond the scope of this
30 specific proposal, that would certainly be an action
31 the Council could take. For example, you know, taking
32 no action on this proposal or opposing the proposals
33 but then in your comments or justification you saying
34 we're interested in establishing a working group or
35 something like that. So even if you do end up opposing
36 it or taking no action or something like that, in your
37 comments you could explain that your intent is to have
38 a working group, or your intent is to submit an
39 additional proposal next spring, or at your winter
40 meeting when the call for wildlife proposals opens
41 again. So it definitely, you know, it can be
42 inclusive, your comments and rationale and your actions
43 can be pretty encompassing.

44
45 So thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
48 Other questions from the Council. Patty, go ahead.

49
50

0143

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
2 Hernandez. Under the open meeting summary it states
3 that the meeting was organized to gather more
4 information on these proposals and to facilitate
5 discussion among user groups. And if you do a
6 reevaluation of how that meeting actually, you know,
7 was conducted, were those goals met because most of the
8 comments from the non-Federally-qualified users were
9 onboard to just say, no, we do not support these
10 proposals and there didn't seem to be much of an effort
11 to facilitate discussion among user groups. I just,
12 you know, would you agree with that statement?
13

14 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Through the Chair.
15 Member Phillips. Correct me if I'm wrong but I think
16 that quite a few of the people who attended the public
17 meeting, members of the public were, in fact,
18 Federally-qualified subsistence users, I believe. I
19 don't have a breakdown or anything like that, but, you
20 know, I think a pretty -- an effort was made to
21 basically bring everybody to the table as much as
22 possible. That was the entire intent of that exercise,
23 at least, if that helps, I guess.
24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I would just add
26 a little bit on to that. Lisa Grediagin for the
27 record. The open meeting was a new format that OSM's
28 never done before and basically we were just trying to
29 carry out the direction of the Board. I mean the Board
30 said do this and that was our best attempt that we
31 could come up with to carry out the Board's direction.
32 And we recognize the timing of the meeting was
33 horrible, it was fishing season, people are out hunting
34 and fishing and not available to sit in an open meeting
35 but just given our deadlines and timelines, you know,
36 that was the best we can do. You know you put out a
37 press release and hope people respond and call in and
38 participate and there definitely were some Federally-
39 qualified users as well as organizations and people
40 that called in -- or non-Federally-qualified users that
41 called in but as it says in the summary it was only 11
42 people total that provided comments. And you know at
43 your meeting last fall, I mean it was hours and hours
44 of testimony and we had 100 pages of written comments
45 on these proposals last time so, yeah, honestly I think
46 we were hoping participation would be better but the
47 timing in August was probably just not great and like I
48 said it was a new thing, OSM's never done, this open
49 meeting format because we were really trying to
50

0144

1 facilitate discussion not just have a public hearing
2 where we're just getting comments from people, but
3 we're actually able to discuss amongst people and
4 respond to questions. But I think people are so used
5 to that public hearing format it may have reverted back
6 to that a little bit and, you know, we'll see if that's
7 something we continue in the future. But, you know, it
8 -- I think it was informative and helpful but, yeah, it
9 certainly could have been better. But it's what we had
10 given our constraints.

11

12 Thanks.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else.

15

16 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
17 Albert.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

20

21 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 I think going forward, I think maybe doing a public
23 comment meeting in Angoon might be a good idea just due
24 to the fact that it does impact Angoon residents and
25 we're all Federally-qualified.

26

27 I've got to backtrack a minute and that
28 was uncalled for what I did and I'll agree with the
29 Chair and DeAnna Perry.

30

31 That comes out of frustration of living
32 here in Angoon and watching my people suffer and
33 hearing that somebody opposes something that we're
34 trying to do so we can take care of ourselves and no
35 longer become what I call the Food Stamp culture.
36 That's where my frustration comes from. We're teaching
37 our kids how to do this but when you teach our kids how
38 to hunt and fish and do what we do and then you get out
39 there and you take them to your normal hunting area and
40 there's a boat parked there with four or five other
41 boats towed behind, all of a sudden a whole new reality
42 sets in. I don't know if you heard me talk about this
43 before but it's similar to my grandfather going to the
44 river and doing what they've always done to take care
45 of their family and one day somebody came there and
46 told him he couldn't do it anymore. That's a similar
47 feeling when you pull into a bay where you've always
48 hunted and there's a boat there. Now, granted there
49 may be deer everywhere but one thing I learned as a
50

0145

1 young man hunting with my dad at 8 years old until now,
2 is, you shoot at a deer and miss you're never going to
3 see that deer again and that seems to be what's
4 happening on Admiralty Island. There's a lot of young
5 people coming in on these boats and it's all fun and
6 games after fishing season's over and you shoot and you
7 miss, no big deal, I shoot and miss, that's my dinner
8 running away. So that's my frustration, Mr. Chairman.
9 I see it daily and I see it every time I leave my
10 house, that people are having a tough time here, we're
11 80 percent unemployed. You heard Mayor Thompson say
12 you've got to be -- you've got to have a job to subsist
13 and she's correct in that regard.

14

15 So sometimes out of frustration I say
16 what's on my mind. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
19 Albert. I think we all feel your frustration and I
20 guess at this point I wouldn't rule out the possibility
21 that, you know, these proposals might come back to the
22 folks in Angoon to have more input into. So we'll just
23 have to see where we go from here, has yet to be
24 decided. And thank you for, you know, retracking your
25 question there, I appreciate that.

26

27 Any other Council members with a
28 question.

29

30 Cal, go ahead.

31

32 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
33 have a question for the Staff. You had mentioned the
34 possibility of having a Unit 4 work group. I know what
35 the Unit 2 work group was and the resources that needed
36 to be expended for that, does the Federal Program have
37 the financial resources to finance a Unit 4 type work
38 group because that's going to take multiple years and I
39 -- I don't know how much the agency spent on Unit 2 but
40 it was a significant amount of money.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: 200,000 I think.

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: So I just want to make
45 sure if we do go down that road of asking for a Unit 4
46 work group that there's actually funding to make that
47 happen.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0146

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you.
2 Through the Chair. This is Lisa Grediagin. And I
3 cannot speak specifically to budget and funding but I
4 think -- I'm guessing the Unit 2 work group, I'm not
5 familiar with it, that was before my time, was a lot of
6 in-person meetings and probably spent a lot of money on
7 travel whereas now we're getting used to this
8 teleconference and MSTeams environment, which isn't
9 ideal, you know, it's nice to be in-person for sure but
10 it's also a lot of money. So I can confidently say
11 that if the Council's okay with teleconference
12 meetings, you know, that's not much expense and time to
13 participate in a couple hour teleconference versus
14 traveling days to a meeting and spending hotels, per
15 diem, airfare on meetings. So that might be something
16 to consider, you know, or a caveat if we do go down
17 this Unit 4 work group road, it might just be a virtual
18 sort of working group, not so many in-person meetings.
19 And, again, I mean I don't know I'm not the one that
20 makes budget decisions at OSM but that is certainly a
21 possibility. So thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. John,
24 you had a question.

25
26 MR. SMITH: Just a comment. I think
27 that would really bring the numbers up on the
28 participation, being able to do that online, and even
29 -- not even -- I mean just think you could do it more
30 than once, do it once a week for a whole month and get
31 as much information from the community as possible. I
32 think that's great. I think that's great, and we can't
33 be afraid of not doing that, you know.

34
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
36 Question from Ian, I believe. Go ahead Ian.

37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Thanks. I don't want to
39 dabble into deliberation but there is some -- we can
40 talk about this tomorrow but we have some opportunity
41 to facilitate these types of discussions so I'll leave
42 it at that without dabbling in deliberation.

43
44 MS. NEEDHAM: Teaser.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's not
49 dabble too much here this evening.

50

0147

1 (Laughter)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So any other questions. It looks like Frank, you have a question, go ahead.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, just a comment. I think 11 participants in this is kind of -- I mean goodness, hardly anything. So, you know, if we're going to be talking about qualified people there hasn't been -- I don't know if you guys have talked to Hoonah or Angoon or Kake or all these Federally-qualified areas. So if it was a vote for only 11 people to make a decision then that's not too good.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you for the comment, Frank. Any other questions or comments.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, here's where I think we're are. You know, we've been presented with where the process stands at this time. We've heard some new analysis. We have more stuff that we can read tonight if we want, that was just given to us this afternoon. So I think we're prepared to come back tomorrow and hear some motions on how people think we ought to proceed and that could lead to deliberations and could be more discussion on information presented but I think that's all going to have to happen tomorrow and, of course, it's all dependent on what the Council thinks ought to be done with these three proposals. So let's leave it there for this evening, a good chance to mull it over.

And I will remind everybody that we only have one other item of new business and that's, you know, updates on the Roadless and Sustainable Strategy. Tomorrow morning, when we reconvene at 9:00 o'clock it will be an opportunity for more public comment on non-agenda items so if there's anybody out there in the public or in the room that wants to take advantage of that opportunity I'll just remind everybody again that if you're wanting to comment on say the deer proposals or you want to comment on, say, the rural determination, please hold off on those until

0148

1 we actually get to those topics. What we want to hear
2 tomorrow is comments on non-agenda items. So we're
3 going to have probably lots of comments moving forward
4 with some of these proposals but I don't want to take
5 time away tomorrow morning from folks that want to get
6 into non-agenda items.

7

8 So let's recess for the evening and
9 let's all go back to our rooms and do our homework.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

