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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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.

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

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

For all participants on the phone,

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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

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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.

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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.

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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



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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  
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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

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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  
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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 Guyana.

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

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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. Edgumbe 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.

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(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  
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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.

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1 (No comments)

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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.

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1 (No comments)

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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

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

20

21

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

23

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

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40 So I'll start with the good news.

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

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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  
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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

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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.

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So, yeah, I think that concludes my

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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  
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0057

1 is your opportunity.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, apparently  
6 not. How about on the telephone line, is there anybody  
7 that wants to testify, give a comment on non-agenda  
8 items.

9

10 MS. THOMPSON: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

13

14 MS. THOMPSON: My name is Maxine  
15 (Indiscernible) Thompson from Angoon. My real name is  
16 (In Tlingit) My bloodline comes from Klukwan. My  
17 grandmother came directly from Klukwan to marry the  
18 youngest Johnson brother here. What I wanted to speak  
19 on and I need to know if it's permissible is I wanted  
20 to speak on how our subsistence area, up inside is what  
21 we call it, is going to be impacted if you allow bear  
22 hunters to have activity up there. Would I be allowed  
23 to talk on that?

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

26

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

39

40 But our people are tied directly to  
41 different crest signs, the bear being one of them. I  
42 am a (In Tlingit). I am a child -- a grandchild of the  
43 bear clan here in Angoon. And it is a crest symbol for  
44 them, they do revere the animal. Our people, the women  
45 would speak to the bears when they went out  
46 berry-picking and they would assure them, they'd speak  
47 in Tlingit, we're just here to gather food for the  
48 winter just like you, we don't mean you any harm, we  
49 will leave as soon as we're done and so they would do  
50

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.

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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

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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

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

9

10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted)

12

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

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

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

(Laughter)

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

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

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

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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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.

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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

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1 would just put it as a background section but.

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

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

Thank you.

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

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else.

(No comments)

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

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

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

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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

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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.

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

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.

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



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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  
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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

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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

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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  
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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

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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.

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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

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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

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Thank you.

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

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

45

46

47

48

49

50

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

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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



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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

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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

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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

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

42 No. 2.

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: No. 2 has.....

45

46 MS. PHILLIPS: Gives us the authority.

47

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

50

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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



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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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46

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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

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

16

17

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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

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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

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

32

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MS. MARKEGARD: Right.

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

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41

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43

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there Tom Schumacher.

44

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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

0125

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

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

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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

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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

0134

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

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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

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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

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But I did have a question about the  
public meeting. Unfortunately I wasn't able to  
participate or I would have asked the question myself  
and I'm wondering if anybody from the public had  
thought about this and I think maybe based on your  
presentation, maybe some people were thinking about  
this, as far as reducing the State bag limit back to  
four. But did anybody in the public, and this is going  
back to what I was talking about earlier in the meeting  
is, did anybody talk about how we provide that  
meaningful priority for subsistence users? I mean did  
any -- anybody from the public, Territorial Sportsmen,  
blah, blah, blah, all the people who participated, did  
anybody mention the need for us to provide a meaningful  
priority and how we might accomplish that, you know,  
from their perspective?

Thank you.

MR. CROSS: Through the Chair, and for  
the record my name is Robert Cross. Through the Chair.  
Member Casipit. I would have to go back through the  
transcripts, I couldn't tell you specifically if  
anybody mentioned that. And it was more so -- the  
hearing was -- or the public meeting was a chance for  
us to collect traditional ecological knowledge and more  
of a listening session for us. So, yeah, again, I  
would have to go back through the transcripts and look  
to see if that was specifically mentioned.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank  
you, Rob. I see we have somebody else who came up to  
the table and there is her name tag, Lisa Grediagin.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

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.

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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  
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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

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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  
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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.

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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.

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0147

1 (Laughter)

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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

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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)

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