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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
VOLUME II

BP Energy Center Conference Room
October 13, 2022
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Greg Encelewski, Chairman
- Donna Claus
- Ed Holsten
- Andrew McLaughlin
- Michael Opheim
- Hope Roberts
- Diane Selanoff
- Gloria Stickwan
- Angela Totemoff
- Donna Wilson
- Dennis Zadra

Regional Council Coordinator, Jessica Gill

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 10/13/2022)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good morning, everyone. Hope you had a restful night and are ready to rock and roll. We're going to go ahead and get back to it. We do have a quorum here. Angela is going to be a little late I know and she requested that. Other than that, do you got anything, Jessica, you want to say before I get rocking?

MS. GILL: Sure. I just have one thing, Mr. Chair. Donna Claus messaged me this morning. She won't be able to make it. There's three feet of snow at the house, so she's got to deal with that.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Tina, would you tell me who's on the phone or who's calling.

REPORTER: Can the people online introduce themselves. Is there anybody online?

MS. D'AMICO: Yeah. Good morning. This is Ruth D'Amico with the Chugach National Forest, Seward Ranger District.

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Tina, and members of the Council. This is Eva Patton, Subsistence Program Manager for the National Park Service. Good morning.

MR. CHRISTENSEN: Good morning. This is Bret Christensen from the Chugach National Forest.

REPORTER: Anyone else?

MS. JAMES: Good morning. This is Andrea James from Chickaloon Native Village.

REPORTER: Anybody else online?

MS. TOTEMOFF: This is Angela Totemoff calling in.

REPORTER: Angela is online.

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're
2 ready to roll. I have a request for the first -- a
3 9:00 a.m. request if it's okay with everyone. Grant
4 needs a time certain one. Is he here? Okay, there you
5 are. Okay. We'll let you go ahead and get started. I
6 will take non-agenda public testimony here in a bit.
7 I'll announce that, okay.

8
9 MR. HILDERBRAND: Good morning, Mr.
10 Chairman. Thank you so much for making time for us
11 today. My name is Grant Hilderbrand. I'm the
12 associate regional director for the Park Service here
13 in Alaska. I'm joined by Andee. I'll let you
14 introduce yourself.

15
16 MS. SEARS: Good morning. Thanks for
17 having us. My name is Andee Sears. I'm the regional
18 chief ranger for the National Park Service for the
19 Alaska Region.

20
21 MR. HILDERBRAND: We know you've got a
22 busy agenda, so we really appreciate you making time
23 for us. I want to talk to you a little bit about some
24 likely pending wildlife harvest regulations on Park
25 Service lands that will be under consideration.

26
27 Last winter the Park Service was
28 directed by the Department of the Interior to initiate
29 a new rulemaking process to consider the 2020 hunting
30 rule that was passed. Some of you are familiar with.
31 The 2020 rule allows for the baiting of bears by sport
32 hunters. By sport hunters we mean under state
33 regulations in national preserves as well as several
34 other activities that were previously banned by both
35 the Park Service and the State. It includes harvest of
36 wolves and coyotes during the denning season, the
37 taking of black bear cubs and sows at den sites, the
38 harvest of swimming caribou as well as some other
39 practices.

40
41 Two points that we're specifically
42 looking at in this process and we're looking for
43 feedback from the public and from bodies such as this.
44 One is we're re-examining the risk associated with bear
45 baiting on Preserve lands just because these are areas
46 where you have a convergence of different types of
47 users.

48
49 And then we're also looking at
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1 different practices, in particular harvest at den sites
2 and harvest of wolves and coyotes during the denning
3 season and swimming caribou as to whether or not these
4 should be authorized for sport hunters. They are
5 authorized for Federal subsistence users. None of what
6 we're talking about or considering will impact Federal
7 subsistence use under Title VIII.

8

9 We did go through some informal
10 communication in the spring once we knew we were
11 directed to take a look at this. So we did reach out
12 to quite a few of the affected tribes and the Native
13 corporations to get their feedback and their thoughts
14 on the 2020 rule and some of the things that we're
15 considering. I would say that the feedback we got was
16 not uniform.

17

18 One of the concerns that we heard was a
19 desire to not have competition from non-locals coming
20 into areas to hunt regardless of what they-- what
21 practices they were engaging in. But then there are
22 other areas where certain activities, in particular
23 bear baiting, in Wrangell was something that folks
24 really wanted to see continue.

25

26 So the reason we wanted to talk to you
27 today is we wanted you to know this rule will be
28 published in the near future. We're looking for
29 feedback. We're looking for input. I think in general
30 we're probably not looking for a thumbs up/thumbs down
31 the whole rule. We really want to get input from folks
32 that are local in terms of the different types of
33 practices and what fits or doesn't fit with you
34 experience in your area. So the more nuance your
35 response, the more useful it will be to us.

36

37 Again, the thing we want to clarify is
38 we're looking at prohibiting certain practices that are
39 authorized under State hunting regulations. We're not
40 looking at addressing anything under Title VIII of
41 subsistence.

42

43 So again the rule is not yet published.
44 They should be shortly, but if it had been ready we
45 would have shared it with you now, but we just want you
46 to be aware that it's coming and we're looking for
47 feedback. So I'm going to pause for a second to see if
48 Andee wanted to clarify anything I may have missed and
49 then we're happy to take questions.

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1 MS. STICKWAN: There's litigation,
2 right?

3
4 MS. SEARS: I'm sorry. Can you repeat
5 the question, please.

6
7 MS. STICKWAN: There's litigation going
8 on and that's what's holding it up?

9
10 MS. SEARS: We are in litigation on the
11 rule. What we're looking at doing is still being
12 reviewed by the Department of Interior at this point,
13 so there's really kind of two different things going
14 on. So the 2020 rule, as Grant had mentioned, it
15 repealed a 2015 rule. We were sued in that 2020 rule
16 and we're currently in litigation on that.

17
18 The judge has issued a ruling in it.
19 Part of that ruling directs the Park Service to -- it
20 identified some errors in our 2020 rule and it directed
21 us to reconsider and correct those errors. We are in
22 litigation, but the delay is really operating
23 independent of that.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy, you would
26 like to talk. Go right ahead, ask a question.

27
28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: No, I just had some
29 comments.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, go ahead.

32
33 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Yeah, just kind of hearing what you're saying. There's
35 bag limits on these things and whatnot and the methods
36 and means and the seasons of those to me is kind of
37 irrelevant in the State arena. We're talking Federal
38 here, right, so it's a completely different thing.

39
40 I don't have a problem with a swimming
41 caribou myself or what time of year wolves are. I mean
42 even the bag limits are like 10 a day in some places
43 because the managers are prescribing, hey, you know, we
44 want to -- people in Ruby aren't getting any meat in
45 their freezers because wolves coming out of the Park,
46 whatever, you know.

47
48 So they want 250 wolves taken out of
49 14,000 wolves that are in the state, right. So a lot
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1 of uproar about, oh, no, they're shooting wolves from
2 planes or they're doing whatever and it's like it's 250
3 wolves out of 14,000. So it's a prescription. The
4 managers are prescribing a take. How it's done, when
5 it's done, even if it is during denning season, even if
6 it is the puppies of those. I mean to me you're taking
7 out this number. You've got to remove the emotion from
8 -- oh, it's a fuzzy animal or whatever. That's my
9 opinion.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: Until we hear from the
12 litigation I don't think we should make any comments
13 until we hear what the judge has to say officially and
14 I think we should -- it affects my area because we have
15 two parks in my area. Ahtna people do. The Denali
16 Park and the Wrangell-St. Elias Park and they're all
17 preserve lands. It affects us and I would like to wait
18 to make comments and work on them with -- I don't know.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I understand
21 that. Your thoughts, Grant and Andy. She wants to
22 hold off on comments on this.

23

24 MR. HILDERBRAND: You know, I think one
25 thing just to be really clear is we don't have a rule
26 for you to look at or comments on yet. So we just
27 wanted to be sure you knew that it was coming. And
28 then we definitely, you know, would appreciate comments
29 from this group as well as individuals, other
30 organizations, tribes, corporations. We want feedback.

31

32

33 The reason we looked at this in 2015
34 and again in 2020 and again now is it's complicated. I
35 think we get more informed each time we take a pass at
36 this, so meaningful feedback is definitely welcome.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I could give you
39 some feedback in my area. I'll go ahead. It has
40 nothing to do with the rule or the lawsuit. You know,
41 we're in State land in the Ninilchik area mostly and
42 then we do have bear baiting that goes on there and
43 goes on in the local areas. Our biggest problems is
44 bear baiters getting in other bear baiters stations and
45 trespassing on Native land and so on and so forth.

46

47 We encourage our people to have -- they
48 feel that they have too many bears and too many wolves.
49 We do have some trappers in there. I will tell you

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1 this. Darrell he's here with us and he could talk to
2 it, but we have taken out a fair amount of wolves in
3 one year and we have seen a big increase in the moose.

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7 The west side of Cook Inlet, you know,
8 I hang around there a little bit, but not a lot. The
9 brown bears eat the clams. They compete with me. They
10 leave me a mussel. But anyway that's a whole other
11 story. But I do know that in the parks, you know, they
12 like to view them and look at them, so it's
13 controversial, but I'm not going to get into any of the
14 legal stuff. Bear baiting is controversial. I know
15 the State down there wanted to put a stop to it,
16 whatever.

16

17

Anyone else want to comment?

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19

MS. SELANOFF: I do.

20

21

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Great, Diane. Go
22 ahead.

23

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MS. SELANOFF: Okay. I had a couple of
questions. First of all, when you said that you've
contacted corporations via email or mail, was that the
Regional Corporations, was that the village
corporations or was that all of them or how did -- what
was the method?

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MS. SEARS: My answer is probably not
going to be as precise as I would like to offer you.
Each of our Park areas -- so we're in our regional
office. Each of our Park areas have relationships with
tribal entities and corporations in their area and
those specific Parks reached out to their contacts. In
terms of what those contacts were, I would have to go
back and look at our records. I'm happy to follow up.

40

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MS. SELANOFF: Was that a specific Park
then that you reached out? Okay. All right. So it
didn't encompass all of them.

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MS. SEARS: That's correct.

MS. SELANOFF: My village is actually
from the Cook Inlet in Port Graham and traditionally we
do harvesting of bears from hibernating bears, so
that's been a common practice for our area. One of the

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1 problems that we've had with bears, whether they're
2 hibernating or not hibernating is trespassers coming
3 in. When we've made the confrontations and stuff, they
4 said, no, we just stayed on the water line, which has
5 been difficult because it's not monitored well enough.

6
7

8 Our areas of land are vast, so we are
9 continuously dealing with trespassers. Not only for
10 bears, but for goats too. Because of some of the
11 regulations that are provided allows hunters to hunt
12 and then they trespass on our lands and it puts us in a
13 position that if somebody was up, you know, bear
14 hunting and they were trespassing on our lands and they
15 didn't have permission, we could be held liable for
16 what happens to them and we don't want them on our
17 land.

18

19 So my initial -- my first quick
20 response is no and I'm specifically talking about bears
21 because of the issues we've had previously with a
22 number of trespassers and it's kind of embarrassing
23 because there's a hunting page on Facebook where
24 they're advertised and we can see the location they're
25 in, but every time they're confronted they're we were
26 on, you know, the waterway, we were on the beach.

27

28 So it's difficult for us. My gut
29 response is I clench and oh, no. But if you're saying
30 this is already coming forward, thank you for the heads
31 up to give me time to prepare in our location about
32 more of the difficulties we're going to have to deal
33 with going forward. I apologize to sound so
34 negatively. I want everybody to be successful in
35 hunting, but I don't like being put at risk.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

40

41 MS. STICKWAN: I think I'm the only one
42 on this Council that has National Park Lands and
43 Preserves it looks like from the map. It affects
44 National Preserve Lands.

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46 MS. SELANOFF: Actually Port Graham
47 banks National Forest Lands also, so we have maybe a
48 few feet easement in our area.

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MS. STICKWAN: But this is National Park Lands, not Forest Lands. This rule affects National Park Lands, not Forest Lands.

MS. SELANOFF: Okay. All right.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And Preserve to my knowledge. Preserves and Parks, yeah, but not -- I get the non-trespassing thing. I would just like to add that, you know, I've had that registration with the State for being a bear baiter. I have not bear baited for a few years, but I'm an advocate for that method and means of take. There's very stringent training.

You have to become kind of like a certified or registered or whatever that you take. You've got to put a sign up. There's so many feet from the road, half a mile from this and that, no dwellings, maintain trails and public access roads. So there are already some very strict rules about when you do bear bait that had to be followed and I would assume the Federal follows in alignment to a great degree with the State on those. Bear baiting is bear baiting. It's an Alaskan practice.

MR. HILDERBRAND: I'll just add a few comments to let folks know maybe sort of the decision space and the scope of what comments will be useful. I've done a lot of bear baiting too. I've worked for the State for 12 years and managed a lot of bear baiting programs.

For clarification, we're just talking about National Preserve Lands for this particular set of regulations. Qualified rural residents will be able to bait under Federal subsistence regulations. The nuance there is that they're limited to baiting with natural food items. So whether it's carcasses or freezer-burned fish or whatever.

Right now under State regulations folks can come in and utilize more typical baits that we see, whether it's pastries or doughnuts or dog food. So there's -- if we were to authorize bait, there certainly would be a permit consideration. To be blunt, we've had some challenges in the past with folks abiding by the requirements of those permits.

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1 I think one of the reasons we're
2 looking at this in Preserve lands -- and it's largely
3 an issue on the McCarthy Road -- it's an area we have a
4 convergence of different types of users. So certainly
5 hunters and bear baiters and folks that want to utilize
6 trails. We're trying to think about ways to be
7 thoughtful relative to public safety.

8
9 The other thing is, again, this
10 wouldn't affect Federally qualified users. What we do
11 see in terms of pattern abuse of bear baiting on
12 McCarthy Road is the vast majority of folks that come
13 into bait there are coming from Anchorage or Fairbanks.
14 So again it's under State sport hunting regulations.
15 So that's what we're seeing.

16
17 There are so many nuances to bear
18 baiting. I'd love to talk to you about it more, but I
19 think it may not be a red light/green light. There's
20 room for discussion in there also. I really appreciate
21 that you're coming with that perspective and that
22 background. Thank you.

23
24 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say that
25 we had bear baiting too, you know, traditionally and we
26 had caribous with swimming in lakes and killing them.
27 That was part of our -- and that these two are on --
28 what they're talking about, caribou swimming and
29 shooting them. And bear baiting, traditionally we did
30 that and other Native cultures in the Interior have
31 done that too. So that kind of conflicts with our way
32 of -- I don't know how to address that, but it's going
33 to have to be looked at.

34
35 MS. SEARS: If I can respond to your
36 comment. It's a great point and as this group has
37 recognized, several of you have recognized, this rule
38 just pertains to National Preserves and it wouldn't
39 restrict harvest under Title VIII for rural residents.

40
41 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, but there's
42 hunters that come back from Anchorage and people from
43 Anchorage, Native people that can't hunt, come back in
44 National Preserves and they'll have restrictions on
45 them or can't do bear baiting anymore.

46
47 MS. SEARS: That's correct. One of the
48 things that we're looking at in this rule on National
49 Park Service lands there's two different types of
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1 wildlife harvest that's allowed. There's the Title
2 VIII, which we're not talking about here for rural
3 residents under Federal subsistence regulations. Then
4 under ANILCA the terms are harvest for sport purposes.

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7 So the conversation that we're having
8 is what is really appropriate for a harvest under --
9 for sport purposes. We don't have discretion to expand
10 beyond that point. When we talk to rural users, one of
11 the things that we hear as a fairly consistent theme is
12 that concern with competition with non-local residents.
13 And even if there's not discomfort with harvest of
14 predators, you know, concern that increased harvest of
15 predators might boost moose and caribou species.

16
17

18 What we heard from a lot of people is
19 people coming into harvest moose and caribou might not
20 just be there to harvest moose and caribou. So it's
21 still introduced -- let me correct myself. I misspoke.
22 Might not just be coming in to harvest wolves and
23 bears. They're also coming in to harvest moose and
24 caribou. So concern about having competition over
25 those resource
26 that was just one of the themes that we heard.

26
27

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

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29

30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Just real quick. You know, you're talking State versus
32 Federal. I totally -- but it could be someone -- this
33 is not the case with me, but if I was to be hunting the
34 McCarthy Road and I lived there like Gloria, then I
35 could go in under the Federal, but I can't even though
36 I live in kind of a different place even though I'm a
37 Southcentral rural subsistence users. It's a proximity
38 where you live type thing.

38
39

40 So I still would like to have the
41 option to, in my view, still do subsistence out there
42 under the State sport regs. It's like so there's a
43 transfer even though you go to a different place
44 sometimes and you're bound by these more restrictive
45 things. So there's that is very applicable to a
46 situation like this, you know, especially for -- I used
47 to hunt preserve for sheep, okay.

47
48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I hope that
50 helped you out a little bit. You've got very narrow

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1 orders for us to work with here. Appreciate that.
2 Appreciate you giving us a heads up. Thank you.

3

4 MR. HILDERBRAND: Thanks very much for
5 your time. Appreciate your company this morning.

6

7 MS. SEARS: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Just to
10 stay on track, Jessica, we're going to -- I'm going to
11 open it up to anyone public testimony on non-agenda
12 items this morning.

13

14 (No response)

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I hear
17 none. So we're going to go ahead and get back to where
18 we left off. I think we were on C, Fisheries Request
19 for Reconsideration for 22-01.

20

21 MR. KOLLER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
22 Council members. Justin Koller here again with the
23 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm presenting on
24 Request for Reconsideration RFR22-01 and the Lower
25 Copper River subsistence salmon fishery. This is a
26 briefing and not an action item.

27

28 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
29 accepting written public comments leading up to and
30 public testimony at their January meeting when they
31 take this up. I'll begin by explaining the request for
32 reconsideration or RFR process. An RFR can be
33 submitted in response to Federal Subsistence Board
34 determinations and Board actions regarding the
35 subsistence take of fish and wildlife.

36

37 The first step in the RFR -- or, excuse
38 me, the first step in the review of an RFR is for a
39 threshold analysis to be conducted by OSM and
40 considered by the Board. This is an administrative and
41 legal step to evaluate whether any of the claims in the
42 request meet the criteria for acceptance as noted in
43 our regulation.

44

45 Those criteria for acceptance are,
46 number one, the request provides information not
47 previously considered by the Board. Number two, the
48 request demonstrates that existing information used by
49 the Board is incorrect, and, number three, the request

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1 demonstrates that the Board's interpretation of
2 information, applicable law or regulations is in error
3 or contrary to existing law.

4

5 The Board will accept an RFR only if
6 the threshold analysis demonstrates that the request
7 meets at least one of these criteria. If the Board
8 determines that the claims do not fit any of the
9 threshold criteria, the original Board action is final
10 and the request will be denied.

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If any claims are accepted by the Board, a full analysis will be conducted and presented to the Board for consideration. Also, if any claims are accepted by the Board, the affected Councils are notified and may make recommendations on the accepted claims based on the full draft analysis.

The Federal Subsistence Board initially adopted Fisheries Proposal FP21-10 at its April 2022 regulatory meeting establishing the Lower Copper River subsistence salmon fishery. The Federal Subsistence Management Program received a request for reconsideration specific to that action and is currently in the process of reviewing the request, identifying substantive claims and drafting an assessment of the merit of those claims.

The threshold analysis will be presented to the Federal Subsistence Board in January, at which time they will determine if any of the claims meet the threshold for further analysis. So that's the status of RFR22-01. Since we're in the middle of the threshold analysis phase I don't have any specific information to share with you about that request, but I can answer any questions that the Council has related to the RFR process.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right. Council members, any questions on the RFR process for Justin.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think they got it. Okay. Thank you kindly. I have number D here, Fisheries Resource Monitoring information. Justin.

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1 You got help this time too.

2

3

4 MR. KOLLER: You get me for the next
5 two agenda items, Mr. Chair. Good morning. Justin
6 Koller here again with the Office of Subsistence
7 Management. The materials for this agenda item begin
8 on Page 187 of your meeting book.

8

9

10 For the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
11 Program we would like to start with an update on the
12 2022 Monitoring Plan, which was finalized during the
13 spring of 2022. One new project was funded and that is
14 the continuation of the Copper River Chinook Salmon
15 In-River Abundance Project run by the Native Village of
16 Eyak.

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There are also two ongoing projects for the Southcentral Region. The Klutina River Sonar Pilot Project also run by the Native Village of Eyak and Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. And a project monitoring the abundance and run timing of salmon at Tanada Creek run by the National Park Service.

The Office of Subsistence Management will announce the 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Monitoring Program this winter. We will be seeking proposals for projects that gather information to manage and conserve subsistence fisheries resources in Federal public waters. The Monitoring Program is also directed at supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural organizations and promoting collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native and local organizations.

The first step in the process is for the Regional Advisory Councils to identify the Priority Information Needs for their respective regions. These are research needs or gaps in information needed to manage Federal subsistence fisheries. The Priority Information Needs provide the framework for soliciting, evaluating and selecting projects for funding through the monitoring program.

The development of the Priority Information Needs is an important process for the Council. Your final version of Priority Information Needs determines the types and subjects of project proposals that are sought for your region.

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1 Research topics and issues that are not
2 eligible for funding include habitat protection,
3 mitigation, restoration and enhancement, hatchery
4 propagation, restoration, enhancement and
5 supplementation, and contaminant assessment, evaluation
6 and monitoring. These activities are most
7 appropriately addressed by the responsible land
8 management or regulatory agency.

9
10 Additionally, projects for which the
11 primary objective is education or outreach, such as
12 science camps, technician training or intern programs,
13 are not eligible for funding under the monitoring
14 program.

15
16 Council Member Gloria Stickwan and
17 several OSM Staff members met on August 17th to discuss
18 Priority Information Needs for the Southcentral Region.
19 We will discuss the results of that meeting now and
20 then ask this Council to finalize and adopt the 2024
21 Priority Information Needs for the Southcentral Region.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair. This concludes
24 the FRMP, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,
25 update. Are there any questions before we begin
26 reviewing that list of Priority Information Needs.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions anyone
29 before we look at what they came up with.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: None. Go ahead.

34
35 MR. KOLLER: The group worked through
36 2018 and 2020 Priority Information Needs. Also
37 recently funded projects and identified data gaps. The
38 resulting draft list is on Page 187 of your meeting
39 book. We can work through these one by one and make
40 any final edits this Council sees fit and I recommend
41 that after we have reviewed all Priority Information
42 Needs the Council put forward a motion to approve the
43 list including any changes made by the Council. At
44 that point the 2024 Priority Information Needs will be
45 final and will be published in our Notice of Funding
46 Opportunity this winter.

47
48 You have the list in front of me and if
49 you'd like me to read through the list we can do that,
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0174

1 but that's at your discretion, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about just quickly read through it. We've got some on the phone too.

MR. ROBERTS: Hello, everybody. This is where I get to shine. This is Jason Roberts, anthropologist with OSM. These are in no particular order of importance.

The first Priority Information Need was estimate abundance, run timing, spawning site fidelity, and age, sex, and length composition for Chinook and Coho salmon that stage or spawn in waters of Kenai Peninsula drainages under Federal subsistence fishery jurisdiction.

The second identified Priority Information Need was estimate Chinook, Coho, and Sockeye salmon escapements drainage and delta systems with a high degree of certainty (for example projects utilizing weir, sonar, and/or mark recapture methods).

Number three, develop, test, and implement methods for monitoring escapement and/or mortality of Sockeye Salmon in the Copper River drainage and delta systems, including assessment of predation.

Number four, estimate quality of escapement measures such as fecundity, age, sex, and size to help inform salmon management in the Copper River and Kenai Peninsula drainages.

The next PIN. Understand effects of environmental and/or climate change on stock specific migration timing and abundance of adult salmon, as well as the implications for harvest management, in the Copper River and Kenai Peninsula drainages using sonars and tagging.

The last identified PIN was collect baseline information on juvenile Sockeye Salmon out-migration, timing, abundance, condition, and mortality across the unique sub-watersheds of the Copper River and the Kenai Peninsula drainages.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You guys

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1 have heard him. Very good. Questions, comments.
2 Andy.

3
4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 It might be pertinent to -- if it's possible for OSM to
6 provide us with more information like Prince William
7 Sound Aquaculture's numbers and how their enhancement
8 on the Copper River -- what their numbers are doing in
9 conjunction with what is actually happening.

10
11 We heard earlier yesterday that the
12 numbers -- it takes them 20-some days to do what they
13 used to do in a week or something, so that would be
14 valuable information. I believe Prince William Sound
15 Aquaculture was indebted to the State at some point.
16 That should be some kind of shared data going on there.

17
18 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
19 McLaughlin. Definitely noted. Although we don't have
20 that information here, we can take that into
21 consideration in the future. Thank you.

22
23 MS. STICKWAN: I know we can't
24 prioritize, but I like them all.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I think
27 it's a pretty good list myself, but anyone got comments
28 or questions or feedback. Ed likes it. Go ahead.

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: This has been a pretty
31 common denominator for about five or six years, this
32 smaller fish size thing. It would be kind of great to
33 know what's going on with that. I guess in the marine
34 ocean environment there's something that's important.
35 Fecundity, like you said, how many eggs are in there as
36 well as, you know, just subsistence resource. When you
37 get a bunch of small ones or they fit through your net
38 or whatever it is.

39
40 MR. KOLLER: Thank you for that comment
41 also. Through the Chair. There are a number of items
42 in this Priority Information Needs list that I think
43 will complement other studies that other entities are
44 doing regarding conditions in the ocean. So I think it
45 will strengthen the existing information, but our
46 program is also sort of limited in what we can study.
47 It has to be specific to the Federal Subsistence
48 Fisheries in Federal jurisdiction. What they call a
49 Federal nexus basically.

50

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1 So I think with what's in this list,
2 like I said, it will compliment existing and ongoing
3 information about what's going on out in the ocean.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Right off the top of
8 my head we're doing all these studies about escapement
9 and there's adult fish coming back up the river, but
10 maybe there could be some studies about the out-
11 migration of the smolts or the fry that are going
12 downstream, you know, because Celsius temperature unit
13 cumulative may be making the hatch happen at different
14 timings or whatever because temperatures upstream. It
15 might not always just be the marine environment out
16 there that's going on, but it could be an in-stream
17 situation of the rearing of those salmon.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy's trying to
20 get your list up there.

21
22 MR. KOLLER: Mr. Chair. Mr.
23 McLaughlin. If I may. These are all great points and
24 great feedback. I think this is exactly what we're
25 looking for. If there is a specific list of things you
26 would like to see added to these Priority Information
27 Needs, we can do that. You just need to have a vote
28 with the Council and we can get some things like that
29 put in here. I know that other Councils have been
30 concerned about out-migrating smolt and have also put
31 that Priority Information Need into their list.

32
33 So very good point. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy,
36 here's your chance to put it all in a motion and add
37 your outgoing smolts and anything else you want to
38 approve this list.

39
40 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would make a motion
41 to add gathering data and information on outgoing
42 smolts and even fry success rate hatchery.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. KOLLER: I was just looking through
47 this because I thought that something like this was in
48 these Priority Information Needs, but the last one it
49 says collect baseline information on juvenile sockeye
50

0177

1 salmon out-migration timing, abundance, condition and
2 mortality across the unique sub-watersheds of the
3 Copper River and the Kenai Peninsula drainages.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That pretty well
6 covers it.

7

8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'll rescind that
9 motion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy, we
12 talked ourselves out of that amendment. So if you want
13 to just make the amendment to accept that list, I'd
14 entertain it.

15

16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I make a motion to
17 accept as written on Page 187 the draft 2024
18 Southcentral Region Fisheries Resource Monitoring
19 Program Priority Information Needs.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
22 second.

23

24 MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by Ed.
27 Any discussion.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.
32 Call the question. All in favor aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Angela, I think
41 you're on the phone. Thank you. Okay. Thank you,
42 guys.

43

44 Okay. Now we're going to move on to
45 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Notice of Funding
46 Opportunity. Matt.

47

48 MR. KOLLER: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
49 give just a brief introduction to the topic and then
50

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1 Matt is going to go ahead and take it away.

2

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good.

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MR. KOLLER: Again, Justin Koller with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'd like to begin with a brief presentation by Matt Piche with the Native Village of Eyak. Matt is familiar with the Partners Program and during his presentation he will discuss how the Native Village of Eyak has leveraged the Partners Program to complement their fisheries program.

So go ahead, Matt. Thank you.

MR. PICHE: Good morning, Council Members. It's great to see you again in person. For recent Council members and for the record my name is Matt Piche. I'm the Partners Program fish biologist and natural resources coordinator for the Native Village of Eyak Tribal Government based in Cordova.

I'm here to provide information on how the Native Village of Eyak has established and maintained an important role in Copper River salmon fisheries management through the Copper River Salmon Monitoring Program with funding from the Office of Subsistence Management Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. The data I'll be referencing in my talk can be found on Page 192 of your Council packet. Again that's Page 192.

The Native Village of Eyak's Natural Resources Department was founded with OSM's Partners Program funding. Our Partners Program funding supports a full time fish biologist position and fisheries internships. Furthermore, NVE leverages this funding to seek out competitive fisheries research and monitoring grants. Through the Partners Program the Native Village of Eyak has assembled a team of local fisheries researchers to answer questions that are not only important to the tribe but important to all user groups and agencies working on the Copper River.

I humbly recognize that the Partners Program has funded NVE's permanent staff responsible for maintaining a continuous dataset on Copper River chinook salmon in-river abundance, run size and spawning escapement for the past 20 years. Recently

0179

1 our Partners funding provided staff to lead a
2 system-wide distribution and stock specific run timing
3 study of Copper River chinook salmon using radio
4 telemetry. This was a collaboration with NVE and
5 ADF&G Division of Sport Fish. The three-year dataset
6 will be presented at the winter SCRAC meeting.

7

8 Furthermore, our Partners funding has
9 helped NVE develop a research plan and identify
10 partners to refine the scale of fisheries management
11 knowledge on the Copper River. Data we're currently
12 pursuing is tributary level and stock specific salmon
13 monitoring data to increase the resolution of State and
14 Federal management data during an increasing trend and
15 uncertainty surrounding fishery forecasts and changes
16 in both salmon productivity and marine food webs.

17

18 In addition, Partners Program funds are
19 encouraged to be used towards developing partnerships
20 with other tribes and organizations, government
21 agencies and scientists in the region. We've a diverse
22 set of collaborators. Partners and co-PIs include the
23 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Forest Service
25 and the Prince William Sound Science Center.

26

27 NVE's Partners funding has been
28 leveraged to provide an additional \$9.5 million in
29 research funding toward Copper River salmon providing a
30 substantial benefit to the Copper River subsistence
31 fisheries.

32

33 This summer we used Partners funds to
34 host an intern, Mr. Archer Balls. Archer is a fishery
35 student at University of Alaska and a participant in
36 the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, also
37 known as ANSEP. ANSEP continues to impress us with
38 their students who receive extensive wilderness and
39 safety training in their summer bridge program fresh
40 out of high school which prepares their university
41 level students for success at remote field camps
42 throughout Alaska. So all the agencies in the room I
43 encourage you to reach out to ANSEP for the opportunity
44 to host one of their interns.

45

46 Lastly, I'm here to present the
47 preliminary results of our 2022 data collection efforts
48 in the Copper River Watershed. At the bottom of Page
49 192 you will see our 2022 Copper River preliminary

50

0180

1 in-river abundance range. From the 15th of May through
2 the 11th of July 32,000 to 41,000 chinook salmon
3 measuring greater than 500 millimeters total length
4 migrated through Baird Canyon in the lower Copper
5 River.

6
7 Our assumption tests indicate this
8 projection range is accurate. We will have the
9 in-river abundance estimate finalized by November
10 although in-river harvests have yet to be finalized by
11 National Park Service and ADF&G based on historical
12 harvest we do anticipate the 2022 chinook salmon
13 sustainable escapement goal will have been met.

14
15 Page 193. Depict chinook salmon run
16 size, in-river abundance and spawning escapement
17 trends. The 2022 data will be added to this graph once
18 finalized. While spawning escapement is likely to have
19 been met in 2022, it is important to note the blue line
20 at the top of the figure on Page 193. This represents
21 total returning run size. You can see a decrease in
22 this run size starting in 2008 and this period of low
23 returning run size continued through 2022. We have yet
24 to see chinook salmon run size on the Copper River
25 return to pre-2008 levels.

26
27 On the bottom of Page 194 you can see
28 we captured and tagged 3,261 chinook salmon in Baird
29 Canyon. Further upriver below Wood Canyon we captured
30 and examined 1,719 chinook salmon of which 139 were
31 tagged. This table shows the source of our in-river
32 abundance estimate over the past two decades.

33
34 On Page 195 we can see how chinook
35 salmon harvests are trending on the Copper River. The
36 top figure shows non-commercial harvest of chinook
37 salmon dating back to 1996. The 2022 harvest data is
38 still being compiled for most in-river fisheries and
39 won't be published until next year. The bottom figure
40 you can see the commercial harvest of chinook salmon
41 for the same time period where you can see the 2022
42 preliminary commercial harvest estimate is coming in at
43 11,625 chinook salmon.

44
45 In an effort to preserve the detail
46 within the in-river harvest estimates this data is
47 presented separately in two graphs, but please note the
48 differences in scale along the Y axis.

49
50

0181

1 Lastly, on Page 196 we can see
2 experimental data for the Klutina River Sonar
3 Feasibility Study. For those that aren't familiar with
4 the Klutina River, the Klutina is a pro-glacial lake
5 system with a swift river consisting mainly of rapids
6 and runs with minimal pool habitat. Chinook salmon
7 spawn in the mainstem and within tributaries of the
8 river and lake. Sockeye salmon spawn within lake
9 tributaries and along lake shores.

10

11 System-wide distribution data indicates
12 Klutina Watershed has hosted upwards of 54 percent of
13 the total Copper River sockeye salmon return in upwards
14 of 14 percent of the total chinook salmon return. The
15 Klutina River is an important tributary for Copper
16 River salmon spawning.

17

18 I will caution this is experimental
19 data from a single sonar deployed on the north shore of
20 the Klutina River and the entire wetted width of the
21 river was not insonified in 2022. This data suggests
22 63 percent of salmon passage occurred during a short
23 15-day window from late June through early July. It
24 will be interesting to compare run timing across all
25 study years and to measure the magnitude of the Klutina
26 productivity in relation to Miles Lake sonar counts and
27 abundance with other tributary monitoring programs.

28

29 This project is an important
30 collaboration between NVE and the Ahtna Intertribal
31 Resource Commission. Our staffs worked together to
32 locate a site on Ahtna land in 2021 and together we
33 successfully completed our first year of data
34 collection in 2022. This is a solid example of a
35 partnership spanning the watershed built through
36 Partners Program funding.

37

38 This concludes my presentation of our
39 2022 preliminary data and I hope you have an
40 appreciation of how the Partners for Fisheries
41 Monitoring Program has benefitted Copper River salmon.
42 Thank you for your time and I'd be happy to answer any
43 questions through the Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

46

47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you for all the
48 data collection you guys have been doing. It's been
49 amazing seeing that happen over the years. So 15

50

0182

1 percent of the kings are estimated perhaps from that
2 data up the Klutina. Off the top of your head do you
3 have any ideas about the other tributaries of the
4 Copper, Gulkana or other places, what percentages of
5 kings are in other sections and where?

6
7 MR. PICHE: I have very detailed data
8 on that. Because of time limits I don't have that data
9 in front of me. I was planning on actually presenting
10 that to the Council, all three years of our dataset, at
11 this winter meeting. But I have all of that and it's
12 really interesting stuff. So I'm excited to present
13 that to you, but that's probably a 20-minute
14 presentation all in its own. But, yes, I have that.

15
16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I look forward to
17 hearing that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
20 questions.

21
22 MR. PICHE: Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Just a second.
25 Hope would like to.....

26
27 MS. ROBERTS: In your last sentence or
28 so I do appreciate your collaboration and where you
29 guys are taking data and your excitement just makes
30 everything exciting. Thanks.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Justin, we've got
33 to do some action on this?

34
35 MR. KOLLER: This is just an
36 information item and I'll just wrap things up for you,
37 Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

40
41 MR. KOLLER: Members of Council. Thank
42 you, Matt, for that nice presentation. You were very
43 enthusiastic and it really -- your presentation
44 highlighted some of the extraordinary work that Native
45 Village of Eyak has done in the Copper River Basin with
46 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and also
47 leveraging that Partners Program to boost the program
48 of Native Village of Eyak. So thank you once again
49 Matt for that presentation.

50

0183

1 The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
2 Program materials are on Page 279 of your Council
3 books. This is a pretty short presentation here. In
4 October the Office of Subsistence Management will post
5 a notice of funding of opportunity for the Partners for
6 Fisheries Monitoring Program. This is in October.

7
8 This is a competitive grant for Alaska
9 Native and rural non-profit organizations. The intent
10 of the program is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural
11 involvement in Federal subsistence management.....

12
13 MS. GILL: Justin, can I interrupt?

14
15 MR. KOLLER: Oh, yeah.

16
17 MS. GILL: Sorry. It's on Page 179 of
18 your Council book.

19
20 MR. KOLLER: Pardon me. Thank you. So
21 on Page 179 of your Council book is the material. So
22 once again in October the Office of Subsistence
23 management will post a notice of funding opportunity
24 for the Partners Program. This is a competitive grant
25 for Alaska Native and rural non-profit organizations.

26
27 The intent of the program is to
28 strengthen Alaska Native and rural involvement in
29 Federal subsistence management by providing salary
30 funds to organizations so they can hire a professional
31 biologist, social scientist or educator. The grant
32 also provides funds for science and culture camps and
33 paid student internships like the ANSEP interns that
34 Matt mentioned.

35
36 More information on this funding
37 opportunity will be posted to our website soon. You
38 can also contact Karen Hyer via email or phone. She's
39 the real expert in our office on the Partners Program.
40 Her contact information is at the bottom of page 179,
41 not 279.

42
43 MS. GILL: And it's actually 188. I'm
44 sorry.

45
46 MR. KOLLER: Oh, no. All right. I got
47 my wires crossed here. Sorry about that. So please
48 contact Karen Hyer for any further questions.

49
50

0184

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Questions.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Matt, I want to
8 thank you again too from the Chair and all of us. We
9 know that this has been going many, many years with you
10 and your very good data and a lot of work you've put in
11 there. So appreciate that. Thank you.

12

13 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
14 Angela.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Angela.

17

18 MS. TOTEMOFF: Hi. I just want to say
19 I appreciate the information on the funding
20 opportunity. I think this is a great opportunity and I
21 encourage all of our Council members as well as other
22 folks in the meeting to reach out to your tribes to
23 make sure they're aware of this opportunity. Thanks
24 for the presentation.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. A
27 question for you, Jessica. I had an action on that and
28 I don't see an action.

29

30 MS. GILL: I believe that's correct.
31 There's no action for this one.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Next I
34 have harvest of wildlife for sports purposes in
35 National Park. We did that yesterday. Identify issues
36 for the 2022 annual report.

37

38 MS. GILL: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think
39 this is me. Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
40 Council. It's time to decide what information,
41 concerns or requests that the Council would like to
42 include in it's annual report to the Federal
43 Subsistence Board.

44

45 I'd like to remind the Council that the
46 Board has replied to its annual report from Fiscal Year
47 2021 and that can be found on Page 26 of your meeting
48 books. This is an action item.

49

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0185

1 ANILCA established the Annual Report
2 process as a way to inform the Federal Subsistence
3 Board of regional subsistence uses and needs and to
4 provide recommendations for regional fish and wildlife
5 management strategies, policies, standards, guidelines
6 and proposed regulations.

7
8 Section 805(A)3(d), very specific, of
9 ANILCA stipulates that the Annual Report should contain
10 an identification of current and anticipated
11 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations
12 within the region; an evaluation of current and
13 anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife
14 populations within the region; a recommended strategy
15 for the management of fish and wildlife populations
16 within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses
17 and needs; and recommendations concerning policies,
18 standards guidelines, and regulations to implement the
19 strategy.

20
21 I'd like to emphasize that your annual
22 report ensures that the Board has the most up to date
23 awareness of issues, concerns and current events that
24 impact your subsistence way of life. With your report
25 and recommendation the Board can make informed
26 decisions on regulatory and policy actions.

27
28 This is the opportunity for Council
29 members to share items or information that you would
30 like to see raised to the Board's attention with the
31 Southcentral RAC's Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report and
32 have a discussion on what you'd like OSM to include
33 under these topics.

34
35 I'll make a note of those items and
36 after this meeting is over I will draft the topics for
37 your Annual Report based on the information provided in
38 the discussion. Then the Council will be able to
39 review the draft report at the winter 2023 meeting and
40 provide edits and additional information. If you
41 cannot think of topics to include in the report now or
42 remember them later through the duration of this
43 meeting and you can share them later with permission of
44 your Chair.

45
46 Thank you. With that I think we'll go
47 ahead and start a discussion.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. We go
50

0186

1 through this all the time and sometimes it's a little
2 short to put it together, but like she said we have
3 time to add to it later. So I'll just open it up to
4 Council members and what you would like to see in that
5 report.

6
7 Gloria, you go ahead.

8
9 MS. STICKWAN: At the beginning of this
10 meeting I asked the question about what is the process
11 for the anticipated needs and they kind of didn't
12 really answer me, but if we can begin that process and
13 if they can show us where now so we begin to work on
14 our anticipated needs.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

17
18 MS. STICKWAN: And I had another
19 question about the FCR, my recommendations. Is that
20 going to be included in our annual report or is that
21 part of the fisheries proposals that we addressed? I
22 didn't know where to put that.

23
24 MS. GILL: Sure. The comments from
25 yesterday?

26
27 MS. STICKWAN: The FCR23-05, does that
28 go in here or does that go under the fisheries
29 discussion? I'm not sure where.

30
31 MS. GILL: Sure. So I believe --
32 please correct me if I'm wrong -- those will go under
33 comments for the Federal Subsistence Board to take up
34 at their January meeting when they discuss the
35 fisheries proposals.

36
37 It doesn't need to be in your annual
38 report, but if you want to include it, it's up to you,
39 but it will be put in comments towards the Federal
40 Subsistence Board.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

43
44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Very apparent from this meeting and previous ones that
46 the anticipated needs -- you know, all these regulatory
47 things to come up on the fisheries is a lot to do with
48 the red salmon on the Copper River. So if this is the
49 proper point where we are to address the anticipated
50

0187

1 needs to the Board in our Annual Report I think we need
2 to define that there's competition for these Federal
3 subsistence users of the resource.

4

5 Very limited resources especially with
6 these climate change things like floods and you can't
7 use your fishwheel and whatever. With not only State
8 personal use fisheries, but also the commercial fishery
9 as well. Those are two things that need to be defined
10 and put out there. Hey, red flag here.

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In line with that the severe weather events in the Interior. The deeper snow making it harder for the moose to survive. These climate change things are affecting our continued need to be active in this group for methods and means changes, regulatory changes that make -- you know, seasonal changes. Hey, if you can't get them at that time of year, maybe we need to bounce things around to longer seasons, whatever, to adapt to these new changing situations.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Jessica, did you get all that? He kind of put three in there in one. It was very good because I agree. I think the climate change was a little different on the hunting. You got it?

MS. GILL: I believe so, but I might clarify with Andy afterwards. Thank you.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Online we've got Angela. Do you want to speak.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd also like to bring up the issue with the C&T designation process. I don't know how in depth. It seems like this might be an actual statewide issue that can actually get a lot of traction across the entire -- like all the RACs. I just wanted to bring that to their awareness that this process needs to be overviewed and rethought moving forward.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Excellent, excellent. You stole my idea.

(Laughter)

0188

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, great.
2 Thank you. Gloria.

3
4 MS. STICKWAN: If they agreed to do the
5 C&T again, I think it should be all the RACs working on
6 it together again and not just one RAC like the
7 statewide thing that we did. I think it was a
8 statewide meeting we kind of talked about it or
9 gathering.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy, you got
12 another one?

13

14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. It seems like
15 the C&T thing is a lot like that rural vs. non-rural
16 thing that we -- that can of worms that opened up and
17 we deliberated about that for forever. I was going to
18 the same place for the C&T.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Michael.

21

22 MR. OPHEIM: I was thinking with the
23 climate change you also have the ocean acidification.
24 You have that affecting things like clams or maybe even
25 what the fish are feeding on out in the oceans. So
26 that would be another one I think we could probably
27 hear more about or see some action taken.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that's a
30 good one. I heard that at lunch last night that the
31 clams were -- some of them were toxic. The paralytic
32 shellfish poisoning down in the lower warmer water. I
33 know that's getting to be a problem. It didn't kill
34 the humans, but it killed some chickens that ate it.
35 Too much information. Go ahead.

36

37 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know if I'm
38 supposed to say it, but I'm going to say it anyways.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

41

42 MS. STICKWAN: You know, we signed an
43 agreement -- we supported an agreement with AITRC and
44 how many years it's been. 2000 to 2016? I'm getting
45 old so I can't remember. But it hasn't moved forward.
46 We signed the agreement, we supported it, EIRAC did and
47 it's taking forever. I mean we should have that start
48 working. I'd like to tell the Federal Board to move it
49 forward to Secretary of Interior to start that process
50

0189

1 because there is steps that they haven't even started
2 yet. It needs to be worked on.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You got that one,
5 Jessica?

6

7 MS. GILL: Uh-huh (affirmative).

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

10

11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 On the anticipated needs thing very recently the State
13 closed the commercial crabbing stuff out there and it
14 seems to be looming on the horizon. I'm quite worried
15 about the subsistence crabbing. It's probably going to
16 follow in line after that. I think that would be a
17 pretty important topic to bring up as well.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: One thing we kind of
22 talked about, we had some presentations, that it's not
23 the jurisdiction or whatever. I think it still is
24 worthy of mention in the annual report that in Prince
25 William Sound all the waters are considered State
26 waters because of the way these regulations came about
27 with these Magnuson-Stevenson Act and all these other
28 things that that is doing a disservice to the Federal
29 subsistence users of Prince William Sound having to
30 only be regulated by waters three miles out and
31 farther. That's not typically what subsistence is.

32

33 Subsistence is -- you know, for
34 thousands of years people have been using the land and
35 sea, the coastal area, intertidal zones and it's
36 definitely Federal subsistence, but not regulated as
37 such. State regulations are a lot more stringent than
38 Federal for people's ease of getting food.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Jessica,
43 you've got a pretty good list there. We'll contribute
44 some more to it as we go along. I am open that if you
45 guys do have something just send it to Jessica and
46 she'll send it to me and we'll get it all in there.
47 We'll sort it out. Does that sound good?

48

49 MS. GILL: That sounds great. Thank

50

0190

1 you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You bet.

4

5 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair, we need a motion
6 to approve those things.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We just approved
9 it. Okay, go ahead.

10

11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I make a motion to
12 approve those things that Jessica just recorded.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

17

18 MS. SELANOFF: I'll second the motion.
19 This is Diane.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been
22 seconded by Diane. Good call. Any discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The question
27 called for. All in favor aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.
36 Jessica.

37

38 MS. GILL: For the record, my name is
39 Jessica Gill. I'm the Southcentral Regional Advisory
40 Council coordinator. I'd like to thank all Council
41 members for your volunteer service on the Council on
42 behalf of the Federally qualified subsistence users in
43 your region. Your knowledge and experience is of great
44 value to the Federal subsistence management program and
45 to the Board and I've really appreciated getting to
46 know you all.

47

48 The program constantly continues to
49 work on having robust Councils with full membership and
50

0191

1 at the request of the Board we are going to engage the
2 help of the Native liaisons of the Federal agencies in
3 helping us solicit more applications during the
4 appointment cycle.

5

6 We are also requesting you, Council
7 members, to help because you are our connection to the
8 communities in the region you represent.

9

10 The 2023 Council application period
11 opened on September 13th. The appointment process is
12 long and complex, taking approximately 15 months to
13 receive appointment letters for the Secretaries of the
14 Interior and Agriculture roughly around the first week
15 of December in 2023.

16

17 We are encouraging you to help us
18 spread the word about the process in your region and
19 recruit new applicants. You know the people in your
20 region and you can share firsthand experiences what
21 it's like to serve on the Council and what is involved
22 and how much effort it takes.

23

24 You can also nominate candidates if
25 someone is interested in applying but having a hard
26 time filling out an application. The application
27 packets are available on our website at
28 doi.gov/subsistence.

29

30 We also have a number of application
31 packets here at the meeting on the back table that
32 we'll also give to each Council member so you guys can
33 take it back to your region and distribute as you would
34 see fit.

35

36 Additionally we're mailing out
37 approximately 1,000 copies of the application packets
38 to various addressees across the state. If someone
39 needs a copy to be faxed to them, we can do that as
40 well. We are hoping to have a good number of qualified
41 applicants applying this year so we can fill all the
42 vacant seats and have alternatives available for a
43 situation when a Council member resigns, moves out of
44 the region or passes away.

45

46 I would really appreciate your help in
47 recruitment this year. The application period is open
48 until February 21st, 2023. The Southcentral Regional
49 Advisory Council needs to fill four seats, all of which
50

0192

1 are currently held by incumbents.

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I also encourage all of the incumbents on your Council to reapply and do it before departing this meeting. You should have those that are up for reappointment. Your incumbent application is on your desk. This way you don't need to mail your application packet back to us. All incumbents whose seat expire on December 2nd, 2023 will need to reapply during this cycle.

I'm happy to answer any questions.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Questions on the applications for Council seats.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I guess my question would be I think the incumbents, some of them, applied quite a while back and we want to make sure that the four, if they chose to, do have their application in.

MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, so the application process for the incumbents that are currently sitting on the Council that expire this year the process is still ongoing, so we're hoping that we'll have the nominations by December. If anyone else has anything to add let me know.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'll tell you a story about this application process. I've been nominating people and putting people forward and taking it to our Council meeting and taking it to the community. I send you a few names, you don't appoint them. The Council keeps saying, Greg, you're doing great, reapply. It's not as easy as you think to get people to take your place, but I'm working on it.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah, I do know that the process sometimes -- I don't remember if I applied or not, but I swear I applied for this next thing because I got coerced into it. So if I didn't, let me know. Any comments on the applications? You guys got plenty of people in your regions to apply, so

0193

1 get out the word. Okay, thank you.

2

3 Number (I). You've got a joint meeting
4 with the North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic
5 Ungulate Conference in May.

6 Brian. You say it's for action too?

7

8 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, sir, it is an
9 action item.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

12

13 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
14 Council members. My name is Brian Ubelaker. I'm a
15 wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
16 Management. This morning I'll be presenting an
17 announcement for a Caribou and Ungulate Conference next
18 year that will hopefully be of interest to Council
19 members. I'll also be seeking your input on a couple
20 matters related to the conference and an information
21 flyer about the conference can be found in your meeting
22 book on Page 191.

23

24 A joint meeting of the North American
25 Caribou Workshop and the Arctic Ungulate Conference
26 will be held in Anchorage from May 8th through 12th,
27 2023. The meeting will bring together an international
28 group of managers, researchers, indigenous and local
29 knowledge holders who want to share their knowledge of
30 caribou, muskoxen, Dall's sheep, moose and reindeer.

31

32 The theme for the meeting is Crossing
33 Boundaries. Arctic ungulates regularly cross landscape
34 boundaries, connecting ecological processes between
35 different ecosystems. This necessitates collaboration
36 across geographical boundaries and also call for
37 crossing boundaries between Western science and local
38 and indigenous knowledge.

39

40 The conference will include plenary
41 sessions on co-management, the status of caribou
42 globally, integrating western science and indigenous
43 knowledge and the effects of climate change on caribou.
44 Field trips, workshops, research talks, symposiums and
45 a poster session will also be part of the meeting.

46

47 The conference web address is included
48 on the flyer in your meeting books and I encourage you
49 to visit the website for more detailed information.

50

0194

1 Before I move on are there any questions regarding the
2 purpose?

3

4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. Next I'd like to
9 ask for your input as a Council. One of the events
10 that will take place during the conference is a
11 facilitated discussion on Alaska State and Federal
12 ungulate management. This session is intended to be a
13 neutral forum for Council members such as yourselves,
14 State Fish and Game Advisory Committee members, Federal
15 and State agency staff and other interested parties to
16 discuss ungulate management in Alaska specifically
17 regarding harvest regulations.

18

19 So my question for the Council is what
20 topics and issues would you like to see discussed
21 during this session? It could be anything of concern
22 related to harvest regulations and ungulate management.

23

24

25 Mr. Chair, I will turn discussion over
26 to you for this topic. Your suggestions will be very
27 important in setting the discussion agenda.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: As you could
30 imagine, that's a real can of worms.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I mean it's very
35 admirable and good, but I could foresee that's going
36 to be quite a challenge. I'm going to open it up to
37 the Council here to see comments, but I do know that
38 conflicting regulations with other user groups would be
39 something to kind of sort out and jurisdiction in
40 areas, et cetera, et cetera, regulations that conflict
41 with each other, stuff like that.

42

43 Anyway. Comments. Gloria.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: I think they should look
46 at their feed and talk about that and how they do the
47 counts.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That population

50

0195

1 data would be critical to get it correct for something
2 like that. Other comments.

3

4 MS. FAUST-WILSON: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Donna.

7

8 MS. FAUST-WILSON: Yeah, I'm really
9 glad to hear that there's going to be some discussion
10 of this collaboration between State and Federal and the
11 regulations and such. I would like to see something in
12 regards to the rural subsistence, which is State,
13 within that -- well, basically hunting, not necessarily
14 the fishery, but the hunting.

15

16 As it stands now there's a considerable
17 amount of conflict between the State subsistence
18 opening and requirements of your take is in conflict
19 with the regular hunting season. I think it's causing
20 pressure on the Federal subsistence access or
21 availability of harvestable animals.

22

23 I'd like to see perhaps the State do
24 something where rather than allowing people to hunt
25 longer or earlier season than the regular personal use
26 comes up because it's even more restrictive and the
27 State subsistence hunts allow any, for example, moose
28 -- any bull moose be taken and the regular State
29 personal use has stringent requirements and a shorter
30 season that starts after all the moose have been taken
31 by the State subsistence use and there's such a
32 difference between how they define that rural or
33 subsistence.

34

35 When Federal subsistence use comes in,
36 they've already had their take and you're left with
37 either more people wanting to go for the Federal
38 subsistence or people not being able to collect game.
39 I just see a lot of conflict because the animals are
40 near the road until they get pressured out of it.
41 Those that are on those State subsistence hunt permits
42 are not necessarily from the State.

43

44 If you look at the permit they've
45 printed up, some of them don't even live in the state.
46 They're just adding to their -- adding to whoever gets
47 the permits. They're adding members to that. There's
48 been as many as (indiscernible) taken in a short
49 section of the Glenn Highway on subsistence well before
50

0196

1 anyone gets out there with a personal use and there are
2 no moose. At least not any of that legal requirement.

3

4

5

6 So the opening dates either need to be
7 changed or that hunt needs to be done away with because
8 there's been trespass issues. People can't live with
9 that. They don't know who has those permits or that
10 right and they're out there hunting smaller animals
11 than regular personal use could take. There's been
12 numerous trespasses. Animals taken on private
13 property. These are road hunters coming out of
14 Anchorage and elsewhere.

14

15

16 REPORTER: Hey, Donna. Donna. Hold up
17 a second. So people online besides Donna can you check
18 your phone and see if it's muted. Star, six or use the
19 mute button because there's conflicting conversation
20 going on while Donna is speaking. Some of that
21 background might be you, Donna, but there was another
22 conversation going on. So everybody please check your
23 line.

23

24

All right, Donna, go ahead.

25

26

27 MS. FAUST-WILSON: Okay. Thank you.
28 I'd just like to see some real definition between State
29 and Federal in this subsistence use. They need to come
30 together or this discussion I think is really good and
31 I would like to be able to see that addressed in this
32 upcoming conference they're having. I don't know if I
33 can be there, but if it's on the agenda maybe some of
34 the other concerned individuals will be able to present
35 their opinions and the issues that they see. This is
36 good. I'm glad of it and I really think if we get the
37 word out it will have a lot of input not just from
38 Council.

38

39

So thank you.

40

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Donna.
43 You got a lot there to sort out. Go ahead, Gloria.

43

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: There's some -- you
46 know, there's local people that know a lot and if they
47 could be on this conference like a panel or something
48 that could give their view, we could invite those
49 people, Native people.

49

50

0197

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Some long-term
2 traditional knowledge. That would be good.

3

4 MR. UBELAKER: This kind of leads me
5 into my second ask for this presentation. A critical
6 component of this conference is making sure the local
7 knowledge holders are able to attend and participate.
8 Office of Subsistence Management is able to provide
9 financial support to send one member of each
10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to attend the
11 conference. We are asking that as a Council you
12 nominate a member to attend and participate.

13

14 Again the conference will be held May
15 8th through the 12th next year in Anchorage. OSM will
16 cover all expenses such as travel and conference
17 registration. One expectation of the nominated Council
18 member is that they will be an active participant in
19 the State and Federal Ungulate Management Symposium for
20 which you just provided input.

21

22 So now I'll turn the discussion back
23 over to you, Mr. Chair and Council, to ask that you
24 nominate a member of the Council to attend whom you
25 feel will represent local knowledge and the concerns of
26 your region related to ungulates.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hope had a
29 question just before, so I'm going to let her talk real
30 quick here. Go ahead.

31

32 MS. ROBERTS: Sorry. I think it was
33 more of a comment just to add onto what Donna had said
34 and Gloria had said about traditional knowledge holders
35 that maybe there could be a panel on like things such
36 as like what can the land actually handle because it
37 has been said there's more than the land can sustain
38 but there's no data on that. Some traditional
39 knowledge holders think that that's very valuable to
40 have in discussion.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

43

44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thanks, Mr. Chair.
45 Real quick. Back to the previous step before this
46 nomination thing. My concerns traveling and doing the
47 hunting that I do, habitat changes, less lichen as a
48 function of carrying capacity for what herds of caribou
49 can exist off of. Similar with sheep. The habitat is

50

0198

1 changing. It seems like open tundra stuff is becoming
2 more willows and alders and there's less for the
3 caribou to live off of.

4
5 It would be interesting if you could
6 have presentations or something at this thing about
7 habitat change. Fire in particular. How does that
8 affect calving to migration patterns to -- everything
9 would be good information to ferret out.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You could
12 add that to your list too. Thanks, Andy. Any other
13 comments or questions before we seek a nominations.

14

15 MS. FAUST-WILSON: Mr. Chair, this is
16 Donna Wilson.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Donna, go
19 ahead.

20

21 MS. FAUST-WILSON: Yeah, the ungulates
22 that you're speaking of and the habitat changes, it
23 isn't just, you know, fires and the changing
24 environment. It's also manmade changes. Like new
25 communities developing and requiring some recognition
26 or being able to use resources.

27

28 But it's also -- and I can name one
29 particular incident that the State Department of
30 Transportation and their highway changes, it has caused
31 a massive change in the migration or natural flow of
32 Dall sheep from what is Sheep Mountain Goat/Sheep
33 Reserve crossing from Caribou Creek into the Chugach
34 from the Talkeetnas.

35

36 Since the bridge was built there on
37 Caribou Creek and they built a retaining wall, the
38 sheep are collecting at the bottom where they would
39 normally cross what is open territory through the
40 river. Since that highway has replaced that natural
41 flow with a retaining wall is -- you can't navigate it,
42 the sheep can't navigate it, the sheep collect at the
43 bridge at the bottom of the hill and I spoke with
44 Department of Transportation and Fish and Wildlife
45 about at least putting a sign up.

46

47 Several sheep have been hit there
48 because they get that far and they end up on the road
49 and they mill around until they go back up the hill

50

0199

1 because they cannot cross. Nor have I seen any sheep
2 on Lion's Head Mountain there above the glacier or
3 across the river from me there at, you know, that
4 jackass crossing or whatever. The sheep are no longer
5 crossing there. I'm not seeing sheep over there
6 anymore now.

7

8 I guess Fish and Wildlife had tagged
9 something, tagged a sheep, and he moved from Syncline
10 to Sheep Mountain and that was about it over a number
11 of years. This past summer he dropped his collar. I
12 would like to hear some more information on that. They
13 are essentially land-locked and when hunting pressure
14 begins on the backside there where it's open out of the
15 sheep reserve, those sheep are locked in to that tiny
16 reserve. They cannot cross the highway. They cannot
17 migrate out of there.

18

19 I've noticed an increase in goats.
20 Goats I've never seen in these areas before. They are
21 coming in and of course they don't necessarily hang
22 together. So three rams existed on Sheep Mountain for
23 the entire season and never got out of there. We have
24 conflicts not just from people and these natural
25 disasters or changes in the environment. The animals
26 would migrate and move to better locations and probably
27 survive better if we didn't have more things opening
28 up.

29

30 I hope to not see a reroute of the road
31 or an intertie go through there opening that area up to
32 more off-road traffic, more hunters, more access that
33 the sheep and other game cannot escape. I haven't seen
34 any caribou in the area in a number of years, but I
35 don't know that that's the result of the DOT. Someone
36 needs to -- I brought that awareness to them and
37 hopefully they were doing something about it, but I
38 never did see a sign that was set up there. That would
39 help a lot.

40

41 When people hit the sheep, they don't
42 ruin their car. They just drive on down the road. If
43 they hit a moose, it's a different story. I think
44 there's a lot of moose that move around a lot more than
45 sheep do, but we need to look at the Department of
46 Transportation and the highways maintenance and their
47 issuance -- they would not put up a sign nor would they
48 allow someone else to put up a sign.

49

50

0200

1 To this day I don't think there is a
2 sign there, but the sheep continue to end up on the
3 road. Of course, people stop and look at them that
4 people coming down the hill can't see and they don't
5 see them until it's too late and the sheep have nowhere
6 to go but straight up that hill.

7
8 So there's a different thing there
9 that's influencing the game -- you know, the typical
10 migration of game or use of areas and it would be nice
11 to see something done about that because I don't know
12 how much more they can stand or what that small reserve
13 would support. That's in dire straits in my opinion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good point.

16
17 MS. FAUST-WILSON: Yeah, there's more
18 to consider. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Good
21 points. We'll sort that out. That's a good point.
22 The change in highways and stuff does affect
23 everything. Okay. Let's go ahead and take a look at
24 who we want to nominate from the Council.

25
26 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair. This is an
27 action item.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm getting ready
30 to work on it.

31
32 MS. STICKWAN: What do you mean by
33 participate? What do we have to do? I don't
34 understand what you mean by participate? What does
35 that mean? Do we have to go there and talk or do we
36 have to listen? I don't understand.

37
38 MR. UBELAKER: I believe participate in
39 discussions that are held at the conference, putting
40 your local knowledge forward, the voice of the Council.
41 Making your voice heard and being involved in
42 discussions. There's going to be many break-out
43 sessions. We don't have a list of anything just yet
44 solid, but there might be discussions that would be of
45 interest to the Council or the representative itself.
46 Sitting in on those discussions, actively participate.
47 I don't believe we're asking for any presentations.
48 You're not going to have to get up and speak in front
49 of hundreds of people by any means. Just be involved,
50

0201

1 pass the knowledge along.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We made a
4 decision here. Andy, go ahead.

5

6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 I nominate Gloria Stickwan to be the representative
8 from the Southcentral RAC to attend this caribou.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
11 second.

12

13 MS. ROBERTS: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hope seconded.
16 Thank you. Any other discussion, Council members.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.
21 All in favor aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria will
26 attend and she will carry the wishes of the Council and
27 she will participate and she won't have to talk to more
28 than 198 people.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right.

33

34 MR. UBELAKER: Excellent. Thank you
35 very much, Mr. Chair. Unless there's any other
36 questions.

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to hear
39 what Council has to say. If they have something they
40 want me to say, they should let me know.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we'll let
43 you know. Thank you, Brian. Good job.

44

45 Jessica, did I cover that? That's
46 where I was going.

47

48 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
49 believe we wanted to nominate an alternate as well, but

50

0202

1 I will leave that at your discretion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alternate. Andy?
4 Someone want to nominate Andy?

5

6 MS. SELANOFF: I do. I want to
7 nominate Andy.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Diane wants to
10 nominate Andy.

11

12 MS. SELANOFF: I'll nominate Andy as
13 the alternate.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
16 second?

17

18 MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

19

20 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ed seconded it
23 and so did Michael second it. Okay. Any discussion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none.
28 All in favor of Andy for alternate aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You are nominated
37 alternate if Gloria can't go. Okay. Thank you,
38 Jessica. I knew you had something up your sleeve.

39

40 If you'll go ahead, Jessica. I think
41 the next one is a telephonic internet that you were
42 going to talk to briefly and give us that update and
43 then we'll take a break before we start agency reports.

44

45 MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Members of the Council. For the record my name is
47 Jessica Gill. I'm the Office of Subsistence Management
48 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council Coordinator.
49 I'm going to present you information on how you can get

50

0203

1 reimbursed if you had any telephone or internet
2 expenses associated with your participation and Council
3 meetings over the last two and a half years.

4
5 The materials for this agenda item are
6 in your supplemental material books on Page 6. This
7 issue was brought to the Board's attention by the
8 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council during their winter 2022
9 meeting. OSM reviewed the policies regarding
10 reimbursement and I would like to provide you with
11 information on the types of expenses that may be
12 reimbursed and the documentation necessary to receive
13 that reimbursement.

14
15 For the time period when the Council
16 meetings are held via teleconference you can be
17 reimbursed for internet and telephone charges that are
18 in excess of your normal bill. Council members who
19 have internet or cell phone plans that charged a flat
20 monthly fee regardless of Council meetings cannot be
21 reimbursed at their normal charges.

22
23 In order for Council members to receive
24 reimbursement for excess charges, they need to submit a
25 copy of their bill that covers the time period during
26 which the virtual Council meeting took place and
27 indicate the excess charges for attending the virtual
28 meeting. Council members can submit this information
29 to me, your Council Coordinator, or mail your bill to
30 the Office of Subsistence Management at 1011 E. Tudor
31 Road, Mail Stop 121 in Anchorage.

32
33 This concludes my presentation and I'm
34 happy to answer any questions if you have any.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

37
38 MS. STICKWAN: What does excess charges
39 mean?

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Her question is
42 what does excess charges mean. It's hard to define,
43 but I'll let Jessica take a stab at it.

44
45 MS. GILL: Sure. Thanks, Mr. Chair.
46 Ms. Stickwan. Excess charges would be if your bill is
47 normally \$100 -- sorry. If you had like on the day of
48 the Council meeting you had a telephone expense that
49 was \$20 because you called into the meeting and you can
50

0204

1 document that it was \$20, then we would accept that as
2 a reimbursable expense. Please let me know if I'm
3 misspeaking.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anybody else have
6 any comments on it? I mean to me it's pretty much
7 impossible to do that. We all have monthly plans, we
8 have other plans. What would be better would be for
9 the Office of Subsistence to have a stipend or a fee to
10 cover their -- everyone takes time off from their jobs
11 if they're working. They're spending their own
12 personal time, utilities, everything. There should be
13 some compensation. Not that I'm requesting it, but
14 others may use it and need it. That to me seems more
15 logical.

16
17 Hope.

18
19 MS. ROBERTS: I just want to agree with
20 you. It's nearly impossible to track down that 20
21 bucks.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, good shot
24 at it. Just send us a check.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. We're
29 going to go ahead and -- was there anything time
30 certain I need to get before we take a break? If not,
31 we're going to go ahead and take a 10-minute break and
32 get some fresh coffee, whatever. Thank you.

33
34 (Off record)

35
36 (On record)

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. We
39 need to get started, guys. If you'll take your seats,
40 we'll get going. Okay, let's get started. I had to
41 stand up for that one. We're going to go ahead and
42 keep rolling here. We've got quite a few agency
43 reports and other things I'd like to wrap up.

44
45 We're going to start out with Ninilchik
46 Traditional Council, Darrell Williams. I think you're
47 up. As a reminder, agency reports are approximately 15
48 minutes or less, but some may go over, but we'll give
49 everyone adequate time to do their reports. Thank you.

50

0205

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman. Members
2 of the Board. My name is Darrell Williams with
3 Ninilchik Traditional Council. I'm here today to
4 provide a report on our subsistence fishery.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you and
7 thanks for the printout.

8
9 MR. WILLIAMS: I like the PowerPoints.
10 I think they tend to tell a lot of information. Our
11 fishery has a really long history to be in development
12 in terms of how we got to where we are. I didn't want
13 to spend a lot of time with that because it's really
14 old hat, but it's based off of the C&T, the gear type
15 and bag limits, which are directly related to family
16 size.

17
18 The season for the Kasilof River is
19 June 16th through August 15th. The season on the Kenai
20 River is July 1st through September 30th. Now we
21 always start with this idea of what do we expect in
22 each fishery. So there's permits issued to qualified
23 subsistence users. Then we receive those permits and
24 we fish for them. It's almost like a proxy, right.
25 It's a designated fisher type deal to be able to
26 operate that.

27
28 It's always interesting because when we
29 look at the idea of rural determination and who is
30 going to be eligible, we always define that by what is
31 not rural and it's always a challenge. There are some
32 changes sometimes like you see in the 2012 info there's
33 a block there they were going to add and then the '22
34 info is not there. So we always check this kind of
35 stuff.

36
37 What we've done is we've actually
38 remodeled it. So we want to look at what's considered
39 rural, not urban, and what that area looks like. So if
40 you see that kind of burnt orange color, that's what
41 the rural area on the Kenai Peninsula looks like that's
42 related to our fishery.

43
44 When we look at things like census
45 designated places -- you know, for example, in
46 Ninilchik census designated place there's 350 people.
47 So there's not a lot of folks there in terms of a
48 population, but when you compare it to the size of the
49 overall eligibility area, that changes drastically.

50

0206

1 The stocks were good. Everything met
2 its escapement goal. The Kenai River met its
3 escapement goal. The Kasilof River met its escapement
4 goal. So that was good news for the year. So by the
5 regulatory standards that were established in the whole
6 thing we use a sign-up method and it's based on a first
7 come first serve method. That's a requirement for the
8 fishery. There's an example of the sheet where people
9 sign up.

10

11 Those number of permits keep growing.
12 There's a stagnation point that tends to happen with
13 the population of who's participating, but it keeps
14 growing every year. We talk about 176 permits this
15 year. In the grand scheme of things that's not very
16 many in the area that we're talking about, the area
17 that we serve. What we tend to see is we see people
18 who may be elderly and disadvantaged use the fishery
19 and that's really what we want.

20

21 We still do our reporting the same way
22 as we started. We report within 24 hours. The users
23 are required to report within 72 hours. Reporting
24 requirements are still a problem for the fishery. When
25 people don't report, they're not eligible to receive a
26 Federal subsistence permit the following year. That's
27 kind of a problems. We will get it figured out one of
28 these days.

29

30 When we compare it -- for example, if
31 somebody flies up from Montana and they get an
32 out-of-state fishing license, do they have to report?
33 No. But Federal subsistence users are held at a higher
34 standard.

35

36 The site locations have not changed.
37 We talked about this a little bit when we were talking
38 about the C&T yesterday about the miles of Kenai River
39 that are considered Federal waters and here's actually
40 a picture of what those waters are. The upper one is
41 Mile 48, which is where we don't fish. The lower one
42 is Mile 28, actually where the arrow is pointing, in
43 Moose Range Meadows and that's where we do fish.

44

45 The Kasilof River. That's the Federal
46 waters on the Kasilof River and we fish about a mile
47 down from the confluence to Tustumena Lake. Now the
48 strategy for trying to meet the subsistence need is to
49 fish both the Kasilof and the Kenai River. The sockeye,
50

0207

1 which is what we're targeting, goes to the Kasilof in
2 June and the second run of sockeye goes to the Kenai
3 River in July. So we fish one fishery first and then
4 we switch to the other fishery. The Kenai River
5 fishery is considerably larger than the Kasilof
6 fishery.

7
8 Every year we go out -- this is what
9 the water looks like in the spring after the snow
10 melts. We go out and we do a site check to make sure
11 there's not a bunch of stuff in the water and make sure
12 there's nothing going on that we don't know about. We
13 do that every year.

14
15 We build our own gear, so the mesh size
16 is established, net size, mesh depth. So we do that
17 in-house. We use 5-1/4" mesh because that is the least
18 likely to catch king salmon. There we are. We lay out
19 in the yard and actually work on it and get it all
20 together. We use the same gear considerations that
21 we've always originally proposed and they are
22 successful. Fishing and using the morphology of the
23 river to be able to select fish for one and not be able
24 to harm fish is the other part of it.

25
26 Fish are not caught in the gills even
27 though we're using a gillnet. So here's some pictures
28 of some fish in the net. It's not real good to see on
29 the projector here, but mostly they get caught around
30 the belly or their mouth gets entangled.

31
32 Here we go. I don't know if this will
33 work. Nope. This is a video. We actually took a
34 video -- let's see if this will work. There's a lot of
35 concern about the effects that a gillnet would have in
36 the river. We did a lot of research to be able to make
37 sure that we were on track with what we were looking
38 at. So here's a -- this is where the net is around the
39 fish, around the belly, behind the pectoral fin to the
40 dorsal fin. That's pretty typical about how we're
41 seeing our fish get caught in the net.

42
43 This is valuable information because in
44 the event we were to release a fish or if a fish were
45 to get out of the net, we don't want that fish to be
46 harmed so it's going to die, right. We want that fish
47 to be able to go on and do its thing. So the gear we
48 use on both fisheries are set by sandbags. Just load
49 them up in the boat, go out there and put the sandbags
50

0208

1 in. We hook it to a buoy.

2

3

4 On the Kasilof River we use a running
5 line that goes back and forth and the net gets pulled
6 in and pulled out. We harvest the fish out of the net,
7 we put them into a holding box basically that sits in
8 the water. That way we can count our fish and we can
9 take care of our fish and we can make sure that we're
10 doing everything right. Before we leave the river
11 every day we usually leave the fish live in the well
12 and then we mark the fish by cutting off their dorsal
13 fin and we count them to make sure our counts are
14 correct.

14

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The Kenai River is a little different.
It's a bigger river, faster river. We work this net in
the water. So we do the same kind of thing. We set up
the sandbags. We use a halibut anchor and put sandbags
on top of it. This year in 2022 the water was
exceptionally high. A solid 12, maybe even 14 inches
higher than normal. So that really made it a challenge
in our fishery.

So we set the gear out there with the
anchor and sandbags and we set the net by hand every
day and when we were done fishing for the day we remove
the net by hand. There was a lot of debris in the
river this year because of the high waters. Of course,
with having stationary gear in the river that's always
a challenge.

We work the net in the water and we do
counts basically every 30 minutes. So on the Kasilof
River we actually removed the gear every 30 minutes.
On this river we put the gear in, we fish it for the
day, then we remove the gear itself and that's how we
track the numbers.

We use leaders in the water. That way
it's the same thing. We keep the fish live until we're
ready to count them and harvest them. In the event we
had to turn something loose or something like that we
keep the fish alive as long as we can.

We know to count and catch fish and
then we record the data. Usually our field sheets look
a lot like this when we're trying to count every 30
minutes off the stringers. They get to be kind of
scratch pads, but that's how we're able to manage and

0209

1 make sure everything is okay.

2

3 We're still catching some damaged fish.
4 I'm still convinced these are electrofishing injuries
5 because we've seen this in Canada. It's really common
6 there. So this is something that I keep bringing up to
7 kind of remind everybody that there's some other
8 problems.

9

10 Yesterday we were talking about seeing
11 future (indiscernible). We do have a later season in
12 September and we generally have not fished it. We did
13 one year. This was one of the things we caught in that
14 late season. September 13th we caught a king salmon
15 and there's a picture of Danny who was trying to get it
16 out of the net. It was tearing the net up. It was a
17 pretty big fish. But you can even see on the back of
18 his tail -- you can still see his spots. He's barely
19 blushed, you know.

20

21 This is what I was talking about
22 yesterday. I think there's some more information that
23 needs to be looked at on the chinook timing. That fish
24 should have been in the water much earlier. It's very
25 interesting. I also mentioned that my folks live on
26 the Funny River and we're not seeing kings go up the
27 Funny River until August. So there's something that's
28 really changed there.

29

30 Our typical day in the water is having
31 to go back and forth. You know, again, this is where
32 the Federal waters are. It's not what we chose. We
33 would have a different preference, but it makes for a
34 very long day. We usually fish the net from three to
35 six hours every day in the water.

36

37 In the event when we do harvest king
38 salmon -- which is very, very rare because we use
39 selected techniques to weed those guys out -- we take
40 genetic samples and we provide them to U.S. fish and
41 Wildlife Service.

42

43 So the results of the fishery. The
44 Kasilof, as we fished that first, we caught 973
45 sockeye. We had no incidental bycatch. In previous
46 years we have encountered a couple of chinook salmon.
47 Just really weird events. Stochastic. It was less
48 fish than we actually caught in 2021. So the effort
49 was 75 fishing hours, so actually time the net was in
50

0210

1 the water. So it was an average of 13 fish per hour.
2 It was interesting because in 2021 it was 20 fish per
3 hour. So the run seemed to be a little slower.

4
5 The Kenai River fishery results. We
6 caught 2,943 sockeye. We fished for 27 days. We also
7 caught 58 coho. We do have C&T and established methods
8 and bag limits for coho, so we distribute those when we
9 catch them. We didn't catch any dolly varden. We
10 caught 31 pink salmon and we turned those guys loose.
11 Fishing the bars and the way we have the net set has
12 been pretty good about filtering out pink salmon too.

13
14 So we fished for 96.5 hours and we
15 averaged 30 fish per hour. Last year we averaged 45
16 fish per hour. In the end we fished until August 15th
17 and 39 permits were not filled this year. I will say I
18 think a lot of that had to do with the high water.
19 When the fish encountered the net and the way they're
20 caught around the belly that extra current and extra
21 water I think allowed more fish to be released from the
22 net.

23
24 That is the presentation for the
25 fishery. Any questions?

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
28 Darrell. Good presentation. I might just make a note
29 and a comment to refer to that one king you caught a
30 few years ago late in September. The sport fishery you
31 recall always closes on the 1st of August and it's
32 pretty well known that there's the later, larger run
33 that still any kings at all around are the late fall
34 kings. We don't want them to know too much about that
35 because then they'll open that and that will be gone,
36 but there are kings later in the fall that have
37 survived this and that ought to be a clue to the
38 regulators what's going on.

39
40 MR. WILLIAMS: Certainly. I agree.
41 The same thing. I can't speak to about it important
42 information. You know, I look at the subsistence
43 fishery as a representative grab sample of what's going
44 up the river and I think it's valuable information. I
45 really wish that they'd take a harder look at what
46 we're catching and why. I think it would contribute to
47 the overall data.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
50

0211

1 questions for Darrell.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much.

6

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ahtna Intertribal
10 Resource Commission next.

11

12 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 For the record, my name is Karen Linnell. I'm the
14 executive director of Ahtna Intertribal Resource
15 Commission. We're comprised of eight Federally
16 recognized tribes and the two ANCSA corporations in our
17 region, Ahtna, Incorporated and Chitina Native
18 Corporation. Seven of our village corporations merged
19 with Ahtna, Inc. in the '80s. They're the landowners
20 and each one of those entities has a seat on my board
21 of directors.

22

23 Just to give a brief update. I don't
24 have any PowerPoint presentation, but I did bring my
25 staff. So if you have any more pointed questions,
26 they're able to answer them. The community harvest
27 system that was set up and run for the first time last
28 year we had 40 participants and zero harvest of moose
29 and zero harvest of caribou.

30

31 This year my database crashed and I
32 wasn't able to print permits. I got about 15 out and
33 still no harvest. The caribou were not in Federal
34 lands until after the season closed, so there was no
35 ability to harvest caribou under the Federal hunt. We
36 just heard yesterday that the State count for the
37 caribou is now at 17,000. Their management objective
38 is 30 to 35,000, so they're nearly half of their
39 management objective. There will be no State caribou
40 hunt for the winter season starting October 1st through
41 March 31st -- October 21st I should say. So for that
42 the caribou harvest is severely limited.

43

44 With the heavy snow last year it
45 really, really took a hit to our herd. Caribou
46 actually calved in Unit 11 on the Wrangell-St. Elias
47 side this year. They usually cross -- they used to
48 cross February and March and come back into Unit 13 and
49 cross the Richardson Highway in March. It was well
50

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1 into May before they came across. So almost two months
2 later.

3
4 I think that crossing the Copper River
5 and coming back had a toll on the calf count and
6 mortality aside from the deep snow. So we're really
7 concerned about that. This Caribou and Ungulate
8 Conference that they're having next spring couldn't be
9 a more opportune time to raise concerns and look at
10 what kind of research can be done on the caribou and
11 the habitat and what the land can sustain.

12
13 We just completed our final year in our
14 carnivore study. This study started from our elder
15 Christopher Gene asking a question, why are we allowing
16 bear baiting on Ahtna lands. We don't even know what's
17 out there. How do you know how many are out there. So
18 we started with a small study with Ahtna, Incorporated
19 and in a 26-square-mile area we had 26 hare snares and
20 the State said you might see one. This time of year
21 you might see one bear. Well, we ended up with 30
22 distinct genomes. So 30 individual bears. That kind of
23 surprised them.

24
25 Then we moved to another area where we
26 had high encounter incidents and we thought we'd see
27 more browns than blacks. We ended up with more blacks
28 than browns, which was pretty interesting. Now this is
29 our third year in a full on collaboration with the
30 State and it was done in a head-to-head comparison to
31 their aerial flight surveillance where they collar
32 bears and they fly every day for two weeks to see how
33 many times they encounter those bears and can count
34 them. They use that as an extrapolation factor.

35
36 It's 1/20th -- the area that they
37 survey is 1/20th the size of the whole game management
38 unit and they multiply by 20. Well, we all know that
39 they're prone to be where the food is. This year with
40 no caribou in the calving grounds there where they
41 usually do the count I think it's going to have a real
42 effect on their numbers. As far as cost comparison to
43 having folks out on the ground and doing the counts, I
44 think we'll have a little more accurate data. Looking
45 to improve old methodologies and what is the latest
46 best practices.

47
48 Working with the Alaska Department of
49 Fish and Game research and University of Alaska
50

0213

1 Fairbanks on this project, I think that we're looking
2 to have five peer-reviewed reports out of it. So it's
3 going to be pretty interesting. Sterling and AITRC
4 will be co-authors on those reports with the State and
5 UAF.

6
7 We're also looking and working on
8 something with -- we were approached by ADF&G to
9 partner with them on a habitat study for the caribou.
10 They're looking at improving what information they
11 have. They heard us when we said you keep saying it's
12 more than the land can sustain, what do you have to
13 back it up, and there was no data.

14
15 So their research coordinator is
16 looking at that and partnering with University of
17 Alaska, Alaska Center for Conservation Science, ACCS,
18 on this. So they put out some exclosures this year to
19 block off some areas so that they can measure growth of
20 caribou habitat. Then they're looking at the diet and
21 nutritional value for what the caribou do eat. Then
22 they'll look at the physiology as well. So it's
23 looking at improving the old methodologies of measuring
24 the metatarsal as a health factor, which was outdated
25 in the '70s. So it's time to improve those methods and
26 we're glad to be a partner with them on that.

27
28 We're also worried about the Mentasta
29 Caribou Herd. We haven't been able to hunt in Game
30 Management Unit 11 because of the Mentasta Herd, so we
31 can't hunt the Nelchina Herd because of the Mentasta.
32 At its peak it was about 3,000 animals, but it's
33 flatlined to about 600 animals over the last 20 years.
34 So if we can hunt -- and that's a mitochondrial DNA, so
35 it goes through the cows is the difference, so we're
36 looking at trying -- and we've got to prove this spring
37 a bulls-only hunt that may be announced. So trying to
38 find out what's going on out there.

39
40 We worked with Mentasta Village Council
41 to put in a tribal wildlife grant to collar some
42 caribou so that we can see -- for the Mentasta Herd to
43 see where they're at and what's going on. That
44 separation from the Nelchinas. So we might be able to
45 hunt some Nelchinas during the winter months.

46
47 Then looking at a predator/prey dynamic
48 it's presumed to be a predator pit, is why they
49 flatlined, and they need some help there. So we want
50

0214

1 to know what's going on with the wolves and finishing
2 up the bear study. This year we're actually -- thanks
3 to Denali National Park and Wrangell-St. Elias -- able
4 to have some of our lure stations on the edges of those
5 Parks so we can look at movement of the bears in and
6 out of the Parks, both Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias.
7 So the same thing with the wolves. We want to look at
8 movement and dynamics and what's going on there.

9
10 Our fisheries. We just finished our
11 data collection on Town Lake in Chitina trying to look
12 at a restoration there. We're waiting on the eDNA
13 results so that we can include that into our
14 restoration plan.

15
16 Klutina River Sonar. You heard Matt
17 Piche talk about partnership with AITRC. They were
18 able to capture the entire season and the runs that go
19 into the Klutina this year. They had it in early
20 enough and got it out after what they believed to be
21 the last run in August. He said they counted
22 tentatively 30,000 sockeye into the Klutina. So
23 they're going to be looking over those numbers this
24 winter and measuring to look for the kings and count
25 the kings as well.

26
27 We heard you talk about looking at the
28 life span of the salmon and that's one of the things
29 that we've been looking at. We'd like to do some hydro
30 acoustics on Klutina Lake too to see what the fry are
31 doing and then look at smolt out-migration, trying to
32 get the whole life span of the sockeye or the salmon in
33 that system. Hopefully expand to other rivers.

34
35 We're also working on establishing a
36 tribal historic preservation office. This was brought
37 about by some trespass issues they had at a historical
38 site on O'Brien Creek Road or what used to be under
39 Governor Frank Murkowski, the Copper River Highway.
40 They cut right through a family graveyard and camp and
41 made a trail down to the river. So we're looking to
42 establish this tribal historic preservation office to
43 protect those historical sites and do some fieldwork
44 prior to any developments in the area both by DOT
45 and/or anybody else.

46
47 We have a couple grants with the
48 National Park Service. One of them is to write an
49 ethnography assessment and overview of the Ahtna People
50

0215

1 and the use of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.
2 The Park has been around for 40-plus years and the book
3 is finally getting written about that.

4
5 One of the things from our working with
6 Wrangell-St. Elias under Superintendent Ben Bobowski he
7 created a caribou working group to see what kind of
8 data is out there on the caribou and started talking
9 about across the landscape and from that we talked
10 about the changing conditions in snow and ice and
11 inability to get into the Park because of the river not
12 freezing. So now we're working on a caribou snow and
13 ice TEK project to document the changing ice conditions
14 and how that prohibits some of the subsistence trapping
15 that might happen within the Park boundaries.

16
17 Then, as was said earlier by OSM Staff
18 and Barbara Cellarius as well, we're working on a
19 community household survey with ADF&G, the National
20 Park Service and OSM to update some community household
21 surveys.

22
23 Changing conditions in key subsistence
24 species. We've heard our elders say that there's been
25 changes in the fish. There's been changes in the
26 wildlife. So we've got a grant to start collecting
27 information and write -- you know, try to get at what's
28 changing in them and what's causing those changes. So
29 we're asking harvesters to share any pictures or any of
30 their harvest that has those anomalies.

31
32 Nodules in our salmon. One of my
33 elders said that there was a big mass behind a gill
34 plate in one of the salmon she had shared with family
35 that brought it to Anchorage. So we didn't get it at
36 our office, but we asked them to take it to ADF&G so
37 they can look at it. But just documenting those types
38 of things so we can see what the changes are and
39 whether they could be harmful or not to ourselves as we
40 consume them.

41
42 We're working with Alaska Conservation
43 Foundation on an indigenous sentinels network looking
44 at data collection of both scientific and citizen data.
45 Sightings of animals. You know, are the moose
46 twinning, are they not and that type of thing. Kind of
47 similar to what we started a few years back with the
48 See a Moose, Report It, but I little more detailed for
49 all species. It actually will be an app that we'll
50

0216

1 have in our phone and you can just put it in and be
2 done. So we're hoping that gets up and running here in
3 the coming year.

4

5 Future projects. Oh, and we are -- we
6 heard one of our elders talk about concerns that they
7 have with the changing conditions they're saying in our
8 animals. We're actually collecting samples from folks
9 who have harvested a moose this year to look for heavy
10 metals in the kidneys and liver and looking at what's
11 in the actual meat itself, the muscle, and whether
12 there's any metals in there that can affect our health
13 as well. If there's nothing, then we can say, no, we
14 looked, you're good to eat. Keep going your
15 traditional ways. Or if there's a concern, we need to
16 know and develop a much larger program for it.

17

18 Some of the things that we've been
19 looking at and want to look at is talking with Sue
20 Entsminger from Eastern Interior RAC. She's out of
21 Mentasta in the north end of Ahtna territory in
22 Chistochina and then out at Chitina there's been
23 sightings of mountain lions. Purely anecdotal.
24 Nothing to document it. So that's one of the things
25 that we'd like to do is set up some game cams and try
26 to see if we can capture something on film so that we
27 can say, yeah, it's there and put those anecdotal
28 stories, you know. Get them documented and then we can
29 start to manage for them because that could be having
30 an impact on our sheep as well.

31

32 Then sheep surveys. We also are
33 working on fire resilient communities and that's part
34 of our Food, Fuel, Jobs initiative. If we can protect
35 our communities, the best way to create moose habitat
36 is by a fire. We haven't had a fire in our area for
37 100 years. A few years back it was 100 degrees and
38 extremely scary that we might end up with a fire. So
39 we want to make sure that our communities are safe and
40 protected.

41

42 Looking towards filling information
43 gaps, not duplicating any efforts in all the work that
44 we do and taking the concerns of our tribal members and
45 our neighbors to heart and developing it into a
46 question and try to answer those questions.

47

48 So that's kind of what AITRC has been
49 up to.

50

0217

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's an awful
2 lot, Karen. It's very good stuff. It's stuff that you
3 could share and you're sharing it with other people
4 because you're on the cutting edge, a lot of knowledge.
5 So we appreciate that. Appreciate the report.

6
7 Questions for Karen. Andy.

8
9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thanks for sharing all
10 that information. It's amazing. A lot of good stuff
11 there. Just one thing to mention. It might behoove
12 you guys if you had that one caribou season that
13 caribou came in after the season -- what's going on
14 these days, at least in my region that I've helped do
15 some proposals with, you might want to behoove yourself
16 by a proposal that extends the hunting season so that
17 you can adapt to these changes in migratory timing of
18 the caribou that are coming through.

19
20 On the same note, if you -- uh-oh,
21 there's the calving or something that's not as
22 prominent because of that bad winter, you also might
23 want to decrease the bag limits. First attack the
24 State bag limit part and then jump to the Federal.

25
26 MS. LINNELL: Thank you for that. One
27 of the things that is necessary is getting that -- as
28 Gloria talked about the estimated or anticipated needs
29 for subsistence. That's an important part to being
30 able to set those things and actually look at closure
31 of Federal lands to provide more opportunity for
32 Federally qualified users and that type of thing.

33
34 The same with our fisheries. We need
35 those anticipated needs so that we have a number that
36 will trigger the closures and things like that. It's
37 not a feelings or an us and them thing, but it's
38 actually based on science and population.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
43 Anything else? Hope, you want to go?

44
45 MS. ROBERTS: Yeah. The extended
46 season thing, I've seen a lot of discussion in board
47 rooms where the extension part was kind of a big deal.
48 So maybe changing it from one date to another rather
49 than extending it. Some people really want to discuss
50

0218

1 do you really need this much more time. We'll take it
2 off the end and put it on the other end.

3

4 MS. LINNELL: Thank you for that. That
5 is one of the concerns. Federal season starts in
6 August 1st. Awfully warm. They're still in State
7 land. They're way out in the Talkeetnas yet and they
8 haven't moved into Federal land, so it does make a
9 difference.

10

11

12 The other thing that will make a
13 difference is being able to get the State to finalize
14 our land selections because we've got over 2 million
15 acres of State-selected lands which hasn't been
16 conveyed and probably won't be, but they're near 95
17 percent of their entitlement and they still have 20
18 million acres of over-selections that hasn't been
19 prioritized. That would lend to more Federally-managed
20 opportunities.

20

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hope just brought
23 up something I want to make a comment on. Be careful
24 of letting them change the dates. The State took 10
25 days off of our early season and they gave us five days
26 back. I'm not a mathematician, but I lost five days
27 out of it.

27

28

29

(Laughter)

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The weather was
cold and I can't use them. Anyway. Go ahead.

MS. LINNELL: And the same is happening
with our salmon. Like I said, we didn't get them until
middle of June this year. The last couple years I
think -- in the last five years its probably been after
June 7th. So this year having them in Chistochina June
21 was pretty late. But they were getting into Chitina
then. That early run is the run that goes the
farthest. It goes up to Chistochina and Batzulnetas
where Katie John's land is and so that usually comes in
the middle of June and July.

This year for their Culture Camp at
Batzulnetas there weren't any fish. They weren't
running and they weren't coming to the wheel. So we're
not sure what -- you know, a lot had to do with the
high water and then the harvest on the high water and
just a different movement. I think more needs to be --

0219

1 more research needs to be done as to why there's so
2 many changes. It can't be just heat and that because
3 it's been going on for quite some time.

4
5 The other is looking at, you know, the
6 whole life cycle. When you blend all the salmon stocks
7 into one and only count at one place and not what's
8 getting to the spawning beds, I think that's a concern
9 as well. When my grandchildren can tell me which fish
10 came from Batzulnetas and which fish came from Suslota
11 and they've never been to Suslota in their life but
12 they know because my grandfather taught me and my uncle
13 taught my grandkids, you know, that they know that.

14
15 We had an elder who passed a couple
16 years ago who fished out of Chitina and he could tell
17 you which one came from Tonsina River, Klutina, Sanford
18 River, all the way to Batzulnetas and Suslota. He knew
19 the color, the size, the run timing. He knew where
20 they came from. Having that ability and knowing and
21 understanding that and backing it up with science is
22 something that we want to do so that we can say these
23 are diverse stocks and we need to manage for diverse
24 stocks. So that's one of my goals.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's a good
27 goal. It's interesting because I know growing up in
28 Cook Inlet we know the fish. We know where they're
29 going. They're going to Kenai, Kasilof, Susitna, know
30 the size, you know, especially the elders. They could
31 really tell right off the bat. The problem is they're
32 all mixed stocks and they all come together and then
33 how do you sort them out, you know. So it's a tough
34 one.

35
36 But thank you, Karen. We'll go ahead.

37
38 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're
41 going to keep going here. So next one I have is
42 Chugach Regional Resource Commission. Hey, there you
43 go, Christine.

44
45 MS. BRUMMER: Hi, Greg. It's nice to
46 see you guys again, it's been awhile.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

49
50

0220

1 MS. BRUMMER: So good afternoon. Good
2 morning Southcentral Regional Advisory Council members.
3 My name is Christine Brummer. I am the Fish and
4 Wildlife Coordinator for the Chugach Regional Resources
5 Commission, often called CRRC and I wanted to just
6 provide you with a brief update today on our programs.
7

8 So for those of you who are not
9 familiar with CRRC, it's a non-profit and a tribal
10 consortium in the Chugach region. We serve seven
11 Southcentral tribes in the community of Valdez,
12 Tatitlek, Cordova, Chenega, Seward, Nanwalek and Port
13 Graham. The organization was established in 1984, the
14 tribes came together to promote their tribal
15 sovereignty and to protect their subsistence resources
16 through the development and implementation of natural
17 resource management. CRRC has worked to grow their
18 internal capacity through hiring Staff and creating new
19 programs over the years. And CRRC has several
20 programs, including the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
21 Management, which develops, implements and promotes co-
22 management between Federal and State governments for
23 the use and conservation of migratory birds for the
24 State of Alaska. Spring 2023 meeting is currently being
25 planned and this meeting should take place in April so
26 keep your eyes and ears open. The Alutiiq Pride Marine
27 Institute, which conducts monitoring work and research
28 in areas of ocean acidification, harmful algaeblooms,
29 water quality and leads mariculture research and
30 development of state of Alaska and the Pacific
31 Northwest.
32

33 CRRC was recently granted funding for a
34 project called transferring environmental DNA methods
35 to the Alutiiq Pride and Marine Institute laboratory to
36 support the Chugach region ocean monitoring program in
37 determining the spacial distribution of Pacific
38 herring. And this project's lead investigator is our
39 fish and wildlife biologist, Dustin Carle. The goal of
40 this project is to build upon the existing Alutiiq
41 Pride Marine Institute lab by implementing
42 environmental DNA analytical methods to aid in
43 determining spacial distribution and relative abundance
44 of herring in the region and sharing the data with
45 member tribes and other partners as subsistence co-
46 management plans develop. The Alutiiq Pride Marine
47 Institute Laboratory or APMI will be working to utilize
48 key project partners to receive training and validate
49 environmental DNA methods. The Staff will work with
50

0221

1 partners to educate them on collecting field samples
2 and building capacity and analyzing samples at APMI.
3 The data will be used to assist CRRC and tribal leaders
4 and jointly developing subsistence management plans for
5 herring and in the future other key subsistence
6 species. The long-term community goal is for CRRC to
7 build laboratory capacity to support its partners with
8 monitoring and assessments of key resources that the
9 communities rely upon.

10

11 The client change program seeks to
12 identify and mitigate climate change threats to human
13 health, community infrastructure and access to
14 traditional resources and livelihoods. Erin Shue,
15 CRRC's climate change coordinator has been heading up
16 the climate change cohort. The cohort is a one year
17 leadership, training and planning effort that is run
18 through the partnerships between CRRC, Chughmiut, the
19 University of Fairbanks and the model Forestry Policy
20 Program. The climate change cohort seeks to increase
21 the Chugach region's ability to prepare for and respond
22 to the impacts of climate change. Cohort members are
23 made up of Chugach regional tribal members and these
24 members are working to increase their leadership and
25 communication skills, build a network for climate
26 change experts, and regional resources, learn more
27 about climate change in the region, contribute to
28 regional planning efforts and increased knowledge of
29 project management and grant writing. The Chugach
30 region needs leaders to guide responses to climate
31 change and to protect the Chugach people, villages, and
32 natural resource systems. This cohort is assisting in
33 the need to train such leaders. The cohort meeting
34 twice a month to train, develop climate change related
35 plans and develop skills to plan for funding community
36 planning and preparedness projects.

37

38 The marine mammal program aims to
39 improve conservation and management of marine species
40 within the Chugach region while collaborating with
41 Federal and State agencies to ensure healthy marine
42 mammal stocks, work towards co-management strategies
43 and advocate for continuation of subsistence life ways.
44 And currently our marine mammal program manager, Raven
45 Cunningham, is working on a really neat project called
46 Chugach*muq, and muq is a (indiscernible) for ocean and
47 its contents. This is a culturally competent co-
48 management plan for marine mammal species that will
49 improve conservation and sustainable resource
50

1 management for the Chugach region. CRRC will be
2 hosting a week long workshop in Cordova starting on
3 November 14th. CRRC is using the pilot project to
4 develop a research protocol that combines ethnographic
5 interviews and citizen science to better understand
6 subsistence resources. Staff is working with several
7 specialists, including the Alaska Department of Fish
8 and Game, Subsistence Division and marine mammal
9 program as well as an independent research consultant
10 to educate and communicate the community with
11 scientific concepts around climate change induced
12 ecosystem responses and marine mammal distribution,
13 migration, health, diets and behavior. This project
14 will build internal Staff capacity at CRRC and the
15 Native Village of Eyak by learning how to conduct
16 interviews with traditional knowledge holders and
17 observations and concerns as well as conducting harvest
18 surveys. A final report will be published detailing the
19 results as well as how to replicate this project in any
20 tribal community. CRRC is waiting for additional
21 funding but will be replicating this project in all
22 seven of our communities which will be an additional
23 four years of work. Once completed we will have a new
24 database that will be available on marine mammal
25 distribution, abundance, harvest and data -- and or --
26 or excuse me -- collected for the Chugach region and
27 this will help contribute to inter-Agency decisions,
28 co-management and inform future research.

29
30 The subsistence program provides a
31 platform for CRRC's tribal members to speak and act as
32 a unified voice on Federal and State hunting and
33 fishing regulations. The program assists tribes and
34 protecting Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights,
35 including the harvesting, sharing of fish and game and
36 other resources enhance Alaska Native management on
37 traditional lands and resources. It also supports
38 CRRC's Staff to develop and begin implementation of co-
39 management agreements, MOAs, other agreements and we do
40 these agreements with Southcentral land management
41 agencies. The goal of this program is to strengthen
42 and protect the well-being of the Chugach people.

43
44 And so the subsistence program actually
45 hosts virtual subsistence alliance meetings, which are
46 open to the public, once a month. We put the flier on
47 our FaceBook page and the meetings are held through
48 Zoom and we often have guest speakers so you can find
49 information on the guest speakers through those posts.
50

0223

1 And the meetings are every Wednesday of each -- the
2 first Wednesday of each month and they start at 2:30 so
3 CRRC Staff can also send you a calendar invite on
4 Request, you can email me at christine@CRRCALASKA.org.
5 Or you can email Michael, he's our InterTribal Liaison,
6 he sits on your Council, to request additional
7 information or that calendar invite. Our next meeting
8 is actually November 2nd at 2:30 and we're having the
9 Office of the Secretary to the Interior, Congressional
10 Affairs and Policy Advisory, Sara Taylor, joining us,
11 so if you can join us we'd love to have you.

12

13 And that basically concludes my agency
14 report to you. I thank you for allowing me to speak
15 and share with you today. If you have any questions
16 let me know, and, again, thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
19 Christine. Questions. That's a lot you guys are
20 doing. We know Michael, we know how to get a hold of
21 him.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone got any
26 questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
31 you much.

32

33 MS. BRUMMER: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you.
36 Okay, we're going to try and keep going here for a
37 little bit.

38

39 REPORTER: Greg.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we wanted
42 to thank Tina, she flew out on us, we got new a
43 recorder here and he's right on it. I'm just checking
44 you.

45

46 REPORTER: Yeah, I know.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

0224

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The next
2 one we have -- I have here that you wanted to swap
3 them, Jessica, did you want to go to Annette first,
4 or.....

5
6 MS. GILL: Yeah, let's do Annette's
7 first.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

10
11 MS. GILL: Give me just one second
12 here.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Also while she's
19 taking her one second we could discuss this a little
20 bit, the Council, we have about approximately an hour
21 and 45 minutes left for agency reports that I'm
22 estimating it'll take to finish so we could either work
23 through lunch or we could take a lunch. You could
24 think about this during this next presentation.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 (Pause)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's if they
31 all use their 15 minutes.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 MS. GILL: All right, Greg, we're
36 ready.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Annette,
39 are you there, are you a virtual.

40
41 MS. JAROSZ: Yes, can you hear me?

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I could hear you
44 loud and clear, go right ahead, we got you up on the
45 screen there.

46
47 MS. JAROSZ: Okay. Perfect. So hello
48 everyone, my name is Annette Jarosz. I am a Biologist
49 at Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute which is operated by
50

0225

1 Chugach Regional Resource Commission. So Christine did
2 a great job describing what Chugach Regional Resource
3 Commission is so I'll quickly go through my first
4 couple slides. Today I'll be addressing and talking
5 about our ocean acidification program and how that
6 revolves around our Southcentral tribal communities.

7

8 If you could scroll to the next slide.

9

10 So as Christine said, Chugach Regional
11 Resource Commission is a consortium of seven
12 Southcentral Alaskan tribes. We were established to
13 manage natural resources (indiscernible - breaks up)
14 across the region. So Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute
15 is located in Seward.

16

17 And if you go to the next slide there
18 is a picture of our facilities in downtown Seward right
19 on the waterfront. Our building was established with
20 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill funds in the early '90s and we
21 were established to be a culture facility to help
22 promote research and shellfish enhancement within our
23 tribal region.

24

25 And so if you go to the next slide that
26 shows kind of our module where we do a lot of our
27 shellfish mariculture. We have at least three species
28 that we're (breaks up) almost year-round that we do
29 research with our local tribes and their beaches to
30 help maintain healthy population of shellfish. Within
31 the last 10 years we have really increased our research
32 capacity at Alutiiq Pride and our first big step in
33 doing that was creating an ocean acidification lab.

34

35 So about 10 years ago, if you go to the
36 next slide, it shows this really crazy looking machine.
37 So our first step in creating our ocean acidification
38 lab was obtaining a berkalator. So this berkalator is
39 a machine that was created by Burke Hale and it is
40 capable of high resolution ocean chemistry
41 measurements. So it can give us really high detailed
42 down to like .00 decimals of measurements for carbonate
43 chemistry and we're able to do continuous monitoring so
44 we take water that comes straight in from Resurrection
45 Bay and continuously look at the carbonate chemistry
46 within that water but we can also do discreet samples.
47 So if you look in the picture just right under the
48 computer there's some beer bottles and those are what
49 our samples are kept in. We ship these out to our

50

0226

1 communities, they fill it with their water just outside
2 their communities, mainly (breaks up) and they can send
3 it to us and we can use the berkalator.

4

5 So that's what I'm going to talk about
6 on the next slide.

7

8 We have a pretty robust community
9 sampling system in place that we've developed over the
10 last 10 years.

11

12 If you go to the next slide. This is
13 kind of our total community sampling but I'm just
14 talking today about our ocean chemistry sampling which
15 is circled in red. So we ask our samplers from each
16 community to once a week take temperature, salinity,
17 plus these bottle samples.

18

19 If you go to the next slide, there's
20 just a couple pictures of our samples -- samplers
21 within their communities, on their local docks. If you
22 look in the lower right you can see Ivy from the Native
23 Village Eyak, she is filling a bottle and that bottle
24 will be capped and that can be shelf stable and we can
25 look at the ocean chemistry in that after she sends it
26 to us. So we can create these really cool timelines
27 and graphs over years worth of data that we've
28 collected.

29

30 So if you go to the next sample, it
31 shows exactly what we do to get these samples. So we
32 have these ocean acidification tips that are just
33 action packers that come with thermometers, caps,
34 bottles, cappers, and once they fill up that cardboard
35 with six bottles they send it to our ocean
36 acidification lab manager, Jacqueline Ramsey and she
37 can run it through the berkalator and get our results.

38

39 So if you go to the next slide, and I'm
40 not sure, it should be -- the next slide should have
41 the TC02 and PC02, it should be two separate lines. If
42 it's just one line, if you don't mind going to the one
43 that has the -- the graph that has two lines on it.
44 That shows us the total CO2 and the partial pressure,
45 CO2, that's what the berkalator can tell us and that's
46 exactly how we understand ocean acidification, right,
47 it's CO2 in the atmosphere is getting into our oceans
48 and bringing up the CO2 level in the ocean. And then
49 what we do is we kind of take that information and

50

0227

1 convert it into something that has a more biological
2 relevance to it and that is what the next graph, which
3 has just the single line and it has the aragonized
4 saturation levels on it. So aragonized saturation
5 sounds like a super fancy word and it really just means
6 the bio availability of calcium carbonate, which is the
7 molecule that our shelled animals, such as clams, crab
8 use to create their shells. So in the ocean we want
9 these levels to be really high. We want there to be a
10 lot of calcium, calcium carbonate to be within the
11 ocean and we have those levels drop that means that
12 these individuals will have a hard time creating shells
13 and if they have a -- if they spend too much energy it
14 can cause them to die or it can cause them to really
15 struggle and be stunted or -- yeah, it can cause them
16 to struggle to put on the shell and have lasting
17 effects. So experts say that anything below a 1, which
18 is signified by the red line on the graph can be
19 dangerous levels, dangerously low levels and can cause
20 these shell species to have trouble. So this is an
21 example of the Native Village of Eyak over three years
22 from 2019 to 2021 and you can see that at three points
23 in time it was below that level, which isn't -- you
24 know, three points over three years isn't too bad,
25 normally it's above which is really good to see. What
26 we're finding out through our sampling is that it's
27 very site specific. So it's really good that we have
28 all these different sampling sites throughout the
29 region to understand what the parameters, what about
30 each site makes it different.

31
32 So this was just an example of Eyak.

33
34 One of the down sides of doing sampling
35 this way is that it takes a very long time to get this
36 information. This is a three year time series. So
37 we're asking samplers to just arbitrarily take these
38 bottle samples and send it to us and then it could take
39 us months, if not a year to get this information back
40 to them. So one of the things that Alutiiq Pride is
41 trying to do right now if you go to the next slide,
42 which should have the PC02 on it and the title is
43 (breaks up) for hatcheries. We are trying to beta test
44 and develop a hand portable device that will give you
45 real-time aragonite saturation and PC02 so your
46 carbonate chemistry at real-time, rather than bottling
47 it, storing it and sending it to us and getting it back
48 months later. This is kind of our solution to
49 streamline the information. So you can take this
50

0228

1 device, there's this little (breaks up) that you can
2 fill up and it'll give you a PCO reading right back and
3 on the right it shows this little app that Burk has
4 developed and it's just kind of a plug and go. You
5 plug in the information that you get, like your water
6 temperature, your salinity and the number outputs and
7 it can give you all the information you need right then
8 and there. So we're really excited about this, this is
9 the big thing that we're trying to develop right now in
10 our ocean acidification lab and we're hoping it's
11 really going to cut down on our time and be a really
12 good educational tool to bring out to our communities,
13 to local schools, and a great way to teach how
14 carbonate chemistry affects all of us and the species
15 living within our ocean.

16

17 If anyone has any questions, if you go
18 to the next slide, my email's there, our website,
19 FaceBook, everything.

20

21 Thank you so much.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very
24 much. Questions for her. Andy.

25

26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. I'm
27 just curious what variations in the sites of that
28 reading going below 1.0, you got various sites and that
29 specific one was -- I forgot what you said, Tatitlek,
30 maybe, on those three points that dropped below the
31 one; how does that vary site to site? Did that
32 compare, are these timings about the same?

33

34 MS. JAROSZ: You know what I would have
35 to ask our OA manager on that one, I am not too sure.
36 I would -- yeah, I don't know if I can answer that.
37 But I know it is different between our sites, I know
38 it's quite different between -- it was an image from
39 Eyak so Port Graham and Nanwalek are going to be very
40 different just because geography-wise they're pretty
41 far apart. But I don't know for sure. I'd have to
42 pull up the data on that one, I apologize.

43

44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: No problem. Another
45 thing, just a thought, plankton bloom peak in Prince
46 William Sound is approximately the 10th of April,
47 that's when these larval forms of plankton are at their
48 infanticeimale stage of -- you know things that have an
49 escoskeleton where this calcium issue happens so if

50

0229

1 that's April, mid-April, you'd kind of want to focus on
2 where these -- if these points are dropping below 1.0
3 in March-ish, or April, that seems to be the biggest
4 detriment to the plankton issue that we're talking
5 about.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's good.
10 Okay, once, again, thanks Annette, any other questions
11 for her.

12

13

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Okay,
our next one, we're going to go back up National
Weather Service. Brian.

MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Hello, can you
hear me, this is Brian Brettschneider.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I can hear you
loud and clear.

MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Wonderful. So I
am presenting remotely so just let me know when my
presentation is up on your screen.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Jessica
are you ready or are you.....

MS. GILL: I think we are good to go.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Brian, I
think we're good to go, you could go right ahead, it's
up on the screen and we're ready.

MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Great. And I'll
just say next slide when I'm ready. But my name is
Brian Brettschneider. I am with the National Weather
Service, Alaska region based in Anchorage. At the
Alaska region we serve all the weather services
offices, the three in Alaska, Fairbanks, Juneau and
Anchorage. And what I'd like to talk today is a little
about what the climate outlook looks like for the late
fall and for the upcoming winter season.

So if you'd go to the next slide.

0230

1 And the next slide should be a map just
2 of the region. Obviously you guys know what the region
3 looks like but this is kind of the area that I'm -- so
4 most climate outlooks cover the state and I'll try to,
5 you know, extrapolate it down to what it means for the
6 Southcentral RAC region. But just keep in mind that
7 there's a lot of -- a lot of this is a very big picture
8 stuff.

9
10 So if you'd go to the next slide.

11
12 And that should be a bar chart showing
13 LaNina probabilities. And I'm thinking that a lot of
14 people in the room there have -- are familiar, at
15 least, with the terms ElNino, LaNina and so on. So
16 LaNina is a cooling of the waters in the tropical
17 Pacific Ocean and that actually has a large impact on
18 the climate patterns for large regions of the entire
19 globe. It affects where the big tropical thunderstorms
20 are and that affects the jet stream and that affects
21 where high and low pressure sets up and soon and so
22 forth. So we've actually been in a LaNina for the last
23 two years and we are heading into, almost certainly our
24 third LaNina winter in a row, a so-called triple dip,
25 which has only happened a few times before. And what
26 this chart shows, and on the bottom, the SON, that
27 stands for September, October, November, the next one
28 OND is October, November, December, and as you can see
29 there is almost a 100 percent chance that we're going
30 to continue into a LaNina for the next few of these
31 periods and then the DJF which would be the December,
32 January, February, so the core winter months, you know,
33 75 percent chance. And so this gives us a lot of
34 guidance to look at, well, what happens in LaNina
35 falls, LaNina winters, LaNina springs because we're
36 looking at things three, four, five, six months out.
37 There's a lot of chaotic processes, there's a lot of
38 randomness and there's only a few things that we can
39 really latch on to and say these things matter, these
40 things have some influences on the climate system.

41
42 So next.

43
44 And what we find, typically in Alaska,
45 and this is not a hard and fast rule but typically
46 LaNina winters are cooler than normal in basically the
47 entire state. And maybe it's a little bit more, the
48 cool is a little bit more pronounced in the Interior
49 and parts of Southwest but basically everywhere on
50

0231

1 balance is cooler. Now, we do consider this a rule of
2 thumb because it doesn't always work out that way, in
3 fact the very warmest winter on record in Alaska
4 2000/2001 was a LaNina winter so it works great a
5 majority of the time but not all the time so that's
6 important to remember.

7

8 So if you'd go to the next slide.

9

10 Sticking with the theme of LaNina
11 winters, as everyone knows things are warming, things
12 are different than they used to be, you know it's not
13 as cold as it used to be in the winters, snow isn't on
14 the ground as early in the season. You know, October
15 -- in much of Alaska October used to be the snowiest
16 month of the year, it's not the snowiest month of the
17 year almost anywhere anymore because now a lot of that
18 snow falls as rain. So this map actually shows kind of
19 a trend. You know, if we just look at LaNina winters
20 we actually see that they're getting quite a bit
21 warmer. Now, this would hold true for -- really ElNina
22 winters as well or what we call insoneutral where
23 there's not any ElNino or LaNina so really no matter
24 how you slice it things are always, or things are
25 getting warmer in all scenarios. But with that said
26 ElNino winters are typically much warmer and LaNina
27 winters are typically notably cooler.

28

29 Keep that in mind that all other things
30 being equal we would expect this coming winter and then
31 even into the spring to be a little bit cooler.

32

33 So next slide.

34

35 So this is the -- what I call the late
36 fall outlook. So October, November, December. This
37 was issued on September 15th. the next one will come
38 out actually I believe next Thursday. But this one is
39 very -- what we call (indiscernible) a very typical
40 LaNina map and, of course, I'm just focusing on Alaska
41 where the Southeastern part of the state is a little
42 bit cooler and the Northwestern part of the state is a
43 little bit warmer than normal and the rest are kind of
44 what we call equal chances, or that there's not really
45 a signal either way. And for the Southcentral RAC
46 region, most of that region is kind of painted in that
47 first shading of below normal. So there's a slight
48 indication that it's going to be cooler than normal but
49 not a very strong indication so don't be surprised if
50

0232

1 it ends up being a little bit normal than normal.
2 Again, this is a pretty weak signal.

3
4 Next slide.

5
6 And this is precipitation and for
7 precipitation for the early fall -- or, I'm sorry, for
8 the late fall, there just really is not a lot of
9 signal. There's a little bit of above normal signal
10 for Southwest Alaska but basically everywhere else we
11 say equal chance so it's just as likely to be wetter
12 than normal as it is to be drier than normal as it is
13 to be near normal, so just not a lot to go on there.

14
15 Next slide.

16
17 So the next slide is the formal winter
18 period. Of course, winter in Alaska is -- depending on
19 where you are, let's say in the Southcentral region
20 it's going to be more like about five months long, but
21 the classic, you know, core winter months of December,
22 January, February this is the official outlook and it
23 looks very similar, very much the same, below normal in
24 Southeast, above normal in Northwest, but for the
25 entire Southcentral RAC region not a lot of signal.
26 So, again, it's just as likely to be warmer than normal
27 as it is to be cooler than normal. Now, one thing to
28 keep in mind is they do factor in trends in this. So
29 if there is, let's say, a small indication that it
30 might be cooler than normal but the trend has been that
31 it's been warmer year after year they'll kind of offset
32 each other in that example. So keep in mind that about
33 25 percent of these maps are trend.

34
35 Okay, so next slide, should be No. 9.

36
37 This is the same one but for
38 precipitation. Now, in this case, for the core winter
39 months there's a fairly strong, or a moderately strong
40 signal for above normal precipitation and the main
41 thinking on this is that the core winter months in
42 LaNina winters are typically wetter than normal. So
43 it's not that they're necessarily seeing anything like,
44 you know, a big plume of moisture moving toward Alaska
45 but this is more of a statistical analog of let's look
46 at these past winters, core winter months of
47 precipitation and in more years than not it's a little
48 bit wetter than normal. So that would be good for snow
49 and traveling on snow and so on. So if you combine the
50

0233

1 temperature and the precipitation we end up with
2 approximately normal temperatures and a little bit
3 wetter than normal. So that's kind of where winter
4 stands right now.

5
6 If you go to the next slide which is
7 Slide 10.

8
9 This is what's called the NMME, which
10 is the North American Multi-Model Ensemble, so this is
11 kind of an amalgamation combining of a bunch of
12 different models of -- and this is for the December,
13 January, February period and this one actually shows a
14 fairly strong cool signal but, again, this is a very
15 classic LaNina pattern. And LaNina patterns, again,
16 they work out a lot of the times but sometimes they
17 don't. So this is a very classic looking LaNina
18 pattern.

19
20 Next slide, should be No. 11.

21
22 The previous one is a North American
23 Ensemble, this is kind of a European Ensemble and
24 generally, actually the European computer models just
25 do a better job, unfortunately. And this one shows
26 pretty normal temperatures with maybe a slight tilt
27 toward below normal right along the Northern Gulf of
28 Alaska Coast, but not a super strong signal, but a
29 little bit of signal and it's really the only blue area
30 on the entire map.

31
32 Okay, next slide. And I've kind of
33 used up my 10 minutes, this is a point where I could
34 cut it off now or am I okay to go a few more minutes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're good to
37 finish up, you got 15 anyway.

38
39 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Oh, I'm sorry,
40 okay.

41
42 So Slide 12, the next one.

43
44 So this is just kind of a trend, I have
45 a couple of trend analysis maps. This is kind of for
46 the fall months, how are temperatures trending. And
47 you actually -- this is kind of a little bit unexpected
48 is in the traditional fall months, in the Southcentral
49 RAC region we actually see a little bit of a small
50

0234

1 trend toward -- for high temperatures of cool, so,
2 again, keep in mind when we have a lot of precipitation
3 and a lot of cloud cover that prevents the sun from
4 heating things up.

5

6 If we go to the next slide which is
7 Slide 13.

8

9 That same kind of fall temperature
10 trend, but this is for low temperatures. Now, we don't
11 have any trend, and even a little bit of a warming
12 trend. So we do like to often separate what's going on
13 with high temperatures and what's going on with low
14 temperatures. So, again, kind of a cooling for the
15 high temperatures or but kind of a flat, or even a
16 little bit of warming for the low temperatures.

17

18 And then Slide 14, the next one, is a
19 trend in precipitation and this is really quite
20 interesting. There's a decrease in fall precipitation,
21 again, for the September, October, November period, you
22 know, over the last century. So not really -- not
23 talking about the last 10, 20 or 30 years but over
24 almost 100 years. An interesting decrease in
25 precipitation for the areas in the Southcentral RAC
26 region.

27

28 Next slide, this should be No. 15.

29

30 Now, this is where we're going to see a
31 lot of warmer colors. If we look at the core winter
32 months, December through February, and look at the max
33 temps, which are the high temperatures, you know, a
34 notable warming, almost everywhere -- actually
35 everywhere except for maybe around Haines, it's not
36 quite as bad in the Southcentral region but no place in
37 the state, including Southcentral Alaska, has been
38 immune from the warming and again this is just for high
39 temperatures.

40

41 If we go to the next slide, No. 16.

42

43 This is really the telling one, it's
44 the low temperatures. And when people say it's not as
45 cold as it used to be, often they're referring to that
46 kind of deep cold, you know, those 30, 40, 50 below
47 temperatures and they're right, those just don't really
48 happening anymore. We see a tremendously warm --
49 tremendous warm trend in the overnight low

50

0235

1 temperatures, they're just not as cold as they used to
2 be by a pretty wide margin.

3

4 Only two more slides, No. 17.

5

6 The same thing but for the core winter
7 months of precipitation and we actually see kind of a
8 slight decrease for the precipitation for most of the
9 Southcentral RAC region. Not a very large decrease but
10 except down on the Kenai Peninsula we do actually see a
11 little bit more warming and -- I'm sorry, a wetter
12 signal, largely a result of kind of deeper low
13 pressures and more storminess in the Gulf of Alaska and
14 you see that kind of -- the wet signal statewide, you
15 know, all the way from Bethel to Yakutat, where I'm
16 actually calling you from today.

17

18 And then kind of finally just for
19 perspective, the last slide, this is kind of a national
20 view of the core winter months, precipitation change.
21 This one's a little bit different type period, this
22 one's 75 years instead of 94 like the other ones so the
23 map colors are a little bit different. But you can
24 see, you know, in comparison the Lower 48 has
25 experienced a lot of really dramatic changes in many
26 places for changes in precipitation so we've had some
27 ups and downs in our winter precipitation. They've
28 been in a range that is (indiscernible - cuts out) as
29 our folks in the Lower 48 have experienced but as we
30 warm up even more don't be surprise if those changes
31 that we see in precipitation in Alaska become more and
32 more extreme.

33

34 Okay.

35

36 So I apologize for talking as fast as I
37 did but that is my presentation. Anyone, as always --
38 I didn't put my email address on there but -- but
39 anyone is always welcome to send me an email, it's
40 brian.brettschneider -- if you go back up to the first
41 slide, it's just brian.brettschneider -- so you can see
42 how my name is spelled, at NOAA.gov., and you can get a
43 hold of me anytime and I'm always to help and answer
44 any questions about anything. But for today, I'm happy
45 to take any questions over the phone that anyone in the
46 room there might have.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Brian,
49 great presentation. Anyone got a question. Go ahead,
50

0236

1 Dennis.

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MR. ZADRA: Yeah, Brian, I'm just curious. I live in Cordova and all that and we have had absolutely the wettest fall starting late July and all through August, September and everybody's saying, people that have lived there their entire lives, but I'm just wondering is what might be the cause of that?

MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: So what's interesting is about July -- say about July 5th or 6th a large area of low pressure set up in the Bering Sea and it -- what are we, it's October 13th, it basically hasn't moved since the first week of July and in that configuration we've just had this relentless Southwest and South flow of moisture coming straight up, you know, from the sub-tropics and it facilitates, it promotes low level storms, low pressure systems to spin around across the Alaska Peninsula and then move in to the Gulf of Alaska. And, you know, it's almost unprecedented for a pattern to be stuck like this for basically four months now, well, for a little over three months now, and it's -- you know, it's got to end sometime. But other than that we're just going to stay in the same kind of regime where we're going to expect wetter than normal conditions and warmer than normal conditions because that Southwesterly flow is a warm flow.

But it is -- from an atmospheric perspective it's almost unprecedented and then, of course, from an actual measurement precipitation perspective, you know, many areas from King Salmon to Anchorage to Cordova to Valdez all have had record, or near record wet periods the last three months.

MR. ZADRA: Okay, thank you for that. That's definitely what we see and usually these pressure -- low pressures just kind of drift through and we get a storm but then it gets nice but it's just hanging on and just hoping for some reprieve at some point.

Thank you.

MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: You and me both.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No reprieve, rain until snow, yep. Okay, any other last questions.

0237

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Brian.
4 We got your email address and we appreciate it and
5 thank you for your presentation.

6

7 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Thank you for
8 allowing me to participate.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Council.
11 Shall we take a lunch break or.....

12

13 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:we want a
16 lunch break, let's make it an hour, some of us got to
17 check out of our hotel rooms so how about, what do you
18 say it's -- 1:30, does that work.

19

20 (Council nods affirmatively)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, 1:30
23 everyone be back and we'll wrap up our agency reports.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 (Off record)

28

29 (On record)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got
32 quietness. You notice I got the old Coordinator, he
33 showed up, Donald Mike, today. Say hi to Donald. And
34 we got the new Jessica here, and we got DeAnna that's
35 leaving us, she stepped out -- she didn't leave did she
36 -- no, okay, thank you. Thank you.

37

38 On the record we're going to go ahead
39 and get back started here. We broke for lunch and we
40 are down to U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Todd.

41

42 Yep, as soon as you relax I'm going to
43 get you, Jessica that's the right place, right.

44

45 MS. GILL: (Nods affirmatively)

46

47 MR. ESEKLIN: I guess for the new
48 members I should introduce myself.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You better do
2 that or we'll blame it on someone else.

3
4 MR. ESEKLIN: I always blame everything
5 on Andy.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,
8 that's a good guy to blame it on, yeah, Andy Loranger.

9
10 MR. ESEKLIN: Good afternoon, Council
11 and Chair. My name's Todd Eseklin from the Kenai
12 National Wildlife Refuge. I manage the subsistence
13 hunting on the Kenai with the in-season manager, Andy
14 Loranger. And probably first and foremost I wanted to
15 thank DeAnna even though she already left.

16
17 MS. PERRY: I'm here.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. ESEKLIN: I just want to thank her
22 for years of keeping me in line for all these meetings
23 and deadlines and everything. And how the meeting's
24 gone so far obviously you're doing a good job Jessica.
25 So anyway at these fall meetings I tend to want to just
26 give a quick update on the hunting season.

27
28 So far we still have open hunting
29 seasons going on so I'm not going to report any of the
30 final numbers yet. We have a late moose season,
31 October 20th to November 10th that a ton of people are
32 signing up for, which is maybe an indication they
33 didn't get their moose during the early season. So
34 this year we, so far including another one I issued
35 this morning, we're up to 130 permits for 1505 moose
36 hunt. And I think, say the last three years, was
37 usually around 90, so we've had an increase -- Moose
38 Pass accounted for probably 34 of that, I think. So a
39 few more permits in addition to the addition of Moose
40 Pass.

41
42 The early season as everybody noted was
43 super, super rainy and some of the places where I
44 normally would see subsistence hunters going out, I
45 drive by there and day after day there were no trucks
46 parked on the road where they typically go out. So we
47 had six moose harvested so far in the early season. I
48 would say our average is usually about eight to 10 so
49 definitely down a little bit but probably not due to
50

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1 moose numbers, just due to people not wanting to go out
2 in the rain and do it. Two cows were harvested and in
3 total four of the six moose would not have been legal
4 under State regs, so still showing a significant
5 opportunity that the subsistence provides.

6
7 And drawing hunts, we had a really
8 successful drawing. Issued our sheep, our four goat
9 permits and two caribou permits and we had zero harvest
10 out of all those. I still have one outstanding goat
11 permit that hasn't been returned. That season's open
12 until November 14th so there's still opportunity for
13 that one hunter but the other three hunters have turned
14 theirs back in, said they weren't going to go out
15 anymore.

16
17 So I think that wraps up harvest for
18 now. Look forward to giving you complete numbers after
19 the -- after the late season I think we'll see more
20 moose harvested during the late season than we
21 typically do just because we're kind of a little bit
22 low on this early season but you never know, if we get
23 a bunch of snow people may not want to go out either.

24
25 Yeah, but available for any questions,
26 comments. Andy's got to have something.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. Just
31 curious to Kings Bay moose thing, it's been closed
32 because of that one flag so that's a pretty small data
33 point to have closed that whole thing for Chenega and
34 Tatitlek having precedence over being able to harvest
35 moose in the Kings Bay area of Unit 7. It'd be nice to
36 get another survey flown on that so that can open back
37 up for a subsistence opportunity for those two
38 villages.

39
40 MR. ESEKLIN: I'm only in charge, or
41 not even in charge, but helping on Unit 15 side of
42 things so you'd have to talk to the Forest Service
43 about Unit 7 side.

44
45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay. Well, the last
46 time it was a half -- half and half on the flight chart
47 or something, you guys kind of -- with Milo?

48
49 MR. ESEKLIN: Yeah, that would have
50

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1 been Unit -- probably half and half with Fish and Game
2 and the Forest Service.

3

4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay, gotcha, thank
5 you.

6

7 MR. ESEKLIN: Yep.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, any other
10 questions for Todd. Go ahead, Hope.

11

12 MS. ROBERTS: Hi. Hope. You said you
13 were from the Kenai area, is that like all five of
14 these units, like everywhere in this area that you
15 repre -- that you're -- the Kenai.

16

17 MR. ESEKLIN: Unit 15. Unit 15 so 15A,
18 B and C, that portion of A, B and C that are on the
19 Kenai Refuge.

20

21 MS. ROBERTS: Okay. I know it sounds
22 like a brand new question but.....

23

24 MR. ESEKLIN: No, go for it.

25

26 MS. ROBERTS: Okay. So how do you --
27 do you have tagging numbers for the marine mammals
28 there because I don't think I've ever run into a sea
29 otter tag in the Kachemak Bay area?

30

31 MR. ESEKLIN: They're -- yeah.

32

33 MS. ROBERTS: Really.

34

35 MR. ESEKLIN: Yeah.

36

37 MS. ROBERTS: I just became the tagger
38 for the Valdez area.....

39

40 MR. ESEKLIN: Oh, cool.

41

42 MS. ROBERTS:because you could
43 never get it done there so I just kept asking until
44 they gave it to me.

45

46 MR. ESEKLIN: Yeah. So I do sea otters
47 and walrus. But what we've tried to do with sea otters
48 because the private taggers actually get a small
49 commission, is that there's folks in Seldovia, Homer

50

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1 and there's even a person in Kenai and so rather than
2 have the Service do it, I -- my initial thing is give
3 them the names of those other taggers so that, you
4 know, they can make a couple bucks off of that process
5 as well and then if they can't get ahold of them then
6 we do them at the Refuge.

7

8 MS. ROBERTS: So where would I find
9 that information if I needed it, because I've hunted
10 out of.....

11

12 MR. ESEKLIN: Oh, just, yeah, call the
13 Marine Mammal marking and tagging program. They have a
14 list of all the taggers statewide.

15

16 MS. ROBERTS: Well, I don't need it now
17 but.....

18

19 MR. ESEKLIN: Yeah.

20

21 MS. ROBERTS:I did before, you
22 know what I mean.

23

24 MR. ESEKLIN: They'll email you a list
25 and you can see who the closest people are nearby --
26 and I'm sure there's probably somebody else near Valdez
27 too.

28

29 MS. ROBERTS: Are people harvesting a
30 lot of otter?

31

32 MR. ESEKLIN: Not really, no. I mean
33 there's a -- it just kind of comes in pulses. You'll
34 get a -- you'll get a couple kids that get on to it and
35 they're like, okay, and they -- you know I think the
36 biggest problem with sea otter harvest in Kachemak is
37 -- there's two issues, you have the private shellfish
38 farms and stuff and they kind of solicit people to come
39 over and harvest in their bay and that gets a little
40 iffy as to whether that's subsistence or something else
41 going on, so that gets a little iffy. And then the
42 other thing is it's really easy to go to Yukon Island
43 to that channel, and people go to the same areas and
44 just keep hammering them and that's probably my only
45 observations with what's happening in Kachemak. But
46 Michael probably has more of a sense of living there
47 all the time there too.

48

49 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You got a
2 comment, Michael, I'm going to put you on the spot
3 there.

4
5 MR. OPHEIM: Sure, I'll make a comment.
6 No, there's actually two taggers in Seldovia, my nephew
7 and I. And you know we'd get calls at the tribe there
8 in Seldovia when I was working there and people would
9 ask, you know, where they could hunt and what not. And
10 so we'd try and tell them where we'd been seeing sea
11 otter populations and, you know, trying to make sure
12 they knew what they were after because not everybody
13 knows what they're looking for and trying to let them
14 know that, you know, January's usually the better time
15 for hides and everything like getting the peak hide.
16 But, yeah, it's -- you know we've had some people that
17 get all upset about sea otter hunting. I guess a few
18 years back there were some guys that got some sea
19 otters right in front of a charter boat and so there
20 was an uproar over that, which was I thought was kind
21 of funny but they didn't like seeing the fuzzy critters
22 that they take pictures of get shot. But we've been
23 working with Brad out of the Anchorage office here for
24 I don't know how many years and he's usually pretty
25 easy to get a hold of. And there was a new guy too and
26 I don't remember his name but I have Brad's number if
27 you want that to be able to call in.

28
29 MS. ROBERTS: I've been working with, I
30 think her name is Holly, and she usually answers the
31 phone. But that's really, really good information and
32 since you're the intertribal liaison at CRRRC it'd be
33 awesome to have that collectively for like the seven
34 tribes for people who actually harvest them. That
35 would be very cool to see, just a suggestion.

36
37 Thanks.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm not
40 going to totally relieve you yet I just got a quick
41 question for you, Todd, and I don't know if you're
42 involved in it. I've been getting stuff from Andy on
43 Refuge Infrastructure Bill and culverts and building
44 and roads and stuff, is any of that affecting the
45 Kenai, any of the hunt area. I haven't responded to it
46 yet, I haven't got a chance to read it in detail but I
47 know there's a big push to upgrade a bunch of stuff in
48 Refuge roads and accesses.

49
50

0243

1 MR. ESEKLIN: Uh-huh. I haven't been
2 directly.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

5
6 MR. ESEKLIN:involved but
7 whenever -- I know where everybody hunts, you know, I
8 know where most of the impacts are going to be so you
9 know we've had several times where we've had some
10 project or somebody wants to do research and they're
11 going to fly their helicopter around, Andy's been super
12 responsive but saying, no, they can't do that during
13 this timeframe because it's going to affect the
14 subsistence season.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Just
17 wondering, okay. Just so you don't know where I am.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. ESEKLIN: I know where you live.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You got to catch
26 me getting there.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Strike that from
31 the record.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
36 questions.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good,
41 Todd, thank you. Say hi to Andy.

42
43 MR. ESEKLIN: Will do. You guys have
44 safe travels back.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay, next
47 we got the National Park Service.

48
49 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0244

1 Council members. My name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm
2 the Cultural Anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias
3 National Park and Preserve. So I'll be giving you the
4 wildlife report and the anthropology program report.
5 We already heard from Dave Sarafin, I think he finished
6 his report earlier.

7
8 So I'll start with the -- oh, so I
9 don't know if there's -- Supplement 3 is about caribou
10 and Supplement 4 is the subsistence and anthropology
11 report. I don't know if they have separate page
12 numbers. I just know how they were posted on the web.

13
14 MS. GILL: Sure, thank you. The
15 subsistence and anthropology report is on Page 23 in
16 your supplemental book and the caribou update is on
17 Page 21 of the supplemental book.

18
19 MS. CELLARIUS: So I'm going to start
20 with the caribou and I'll start with the Chishana
21 Caribou Herd. We currently have 44 active -- or as of
22 early September we had 44 active collars although there
23 were two new mortalities that have been found since
24 then. The Park is working with other partners
25 including Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fish and
26 Wildlife Service and Yukon environment on revising the
27 management plan for the herd. They are hoping to fly a
28 population survey. With the snow that we've gotten in
29 the last couple of days the conditions have improved
30 for the survey. If they're not successful tomorrow
31 they plan a comp count later in the fall.

32
33 The -- in July the Wrangell-St.Elias
34 Superintendent under a delegation of authority from the
35 Federal Subsistence Board issued a special action to
36 close the 2022 season because the herd didn't achieve
37 the productivity goal set in the management plan. The
38 target is a three year rolling average of 15 calves per
39 100 cows and the most recent average was 14 cows per
40 100 cows. A copy of the special action is in your main
41 book. I believe it's Page 117 and 118. So that's the
42 update for the Chishana Caribou Herd.

43
44 Moving on to the Mentasta Caribou Herd.
45 Last month the biologists were able to deploy 10
46 collars on adult females bringing the total number of
47 collars on the herd up to 13. The females that were
48 collared were generally in good condition. Poor
49 weather conditions prevented them from conducting a
50

0245

1 comp count they had planned to do -- they had planned
2 to do a composition count at the same time they were
3 doing the collaring but that didn't work out so they
4 hope to do a survey next summer. And then for moose
5 and sheep we share your concerns about the populations
6 after recent hard winters and completing surveys next
7 year for both species is a priority for us.

8

9 So that's the wildlife report and I
10 will stop and see if there are any questions before
11 jumping into the subsistence and anthropology report.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions for
14 Barbara.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: On the line.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You're
23 good to go.

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: All right. So as -- so
26 we issue quite a few permits, not as many as BLM but we
27 do issue quite a number of permits for hunts in the
28 Park and as of October 1st, the Park, with some
29 assistance from Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge had
30 issued 182 Federal subsistence permits for moose, goat
31 and sheep hunts on Wrangell-St. Elias lands in Units 11
32 and 12. The Unit 11 fall moose hunt is most popular
33 with 139 permits issued followed by the Unit 11 elder
34 sheep hunt with 25 permits. And those permit numbers
35 are all updated from what's in the report because I had
36 to submit the report a month or so ago. And we'll be
37 providing harvest information in the spring 2023
38 report. We're starting to get reports in but it's too
39 preliminary to present.

40

41 As has been mentioned a couple of
42 times, we are partnering with the Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game Subsistence Section along with the Ahtna
44 InterTribal Resource Commission to survey some upper
45 Copper River communities about subsistence harvests.
46 We'll be doing the surveys in early 2023 and early 2024
47 surveying households about their harvest and use of
48 fish, wildlife and plan resources.

49

50

0246

1 And then we do have some new Staff on
2 our subsistence team that I wanted to mention. Kyle
3 Cutting has been hired as the Park's new wildlife
4 biologist to replace Judy Putera who retired in May.
5 And then Amber Cohen who is with me here today has been
6 hired as a cultural anthropologist to help support the
7 Park's subsistence ethnography and Alaska Native
8 Relations programs.

9

10 That concludes my report, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions for
13 Barbara. We got one here, Andy, go ahead.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, real quick. Any
16 information on the bison, how they fared this past
17 winter.

18

19 MS. CELLARIUS: I have not heard. I
20 can ask around and if I get any information I can get
21 it sent to you.

22

23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
30 you, and you're totally done.

31

32 MS. CELLARIUS: Trying to be quick.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay,
35 who's next.

36

37 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
38 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Amy
39 Craver and I am the Subsistence Coordinator for Denali
40 National Park and Preserve. Today I'm going to give
41 you just a brief update on the Denali SRC and a
42 wildlife report. Pat Owen, our Wildlife Biologist, was
43 not able to call in for the wildlife report.

44

45 Okay.

46

47 So on August 24th the Denali SRC met in
48 person in Cantwell. Prior to the SRC meeting, the SRC
49 members joined our newly established Denali Ancestral
50

0247

1 Lands Connection Steering Committee and Park Staff on a
2 bus trip into the Park to visit an archeologist site
3 followed by a bear spirit ceremony at the Denali
4 Visitor Center, which included a dinner hosted by the
5 Park. The SRC meeting included Park reports, a
6 regional office briefing on harvest of wildlife for
7 sport purposes in National Preserve, a briefing on two
8 requests for individual C&T determinations and an
9 update by AITRC. A special followup teleconference
10 will be held on November 8th at 6:30 p.m., to further
11 discuss the harvest of wildlife for sport purposes in
12 National Preserves and the two requests for individual
13 customary and traditional use determinations in the
14 Cantwell Traditional Use Area in the Park additions.

15

16 And now Pat Owen wildlife report, it's
17 on Pages 219 and 222 in your meeting book and I'm just
18 going to hit the high points here.

19

20 MS. OWEN: I'm actually on, this is Pat
21 Owen.

22

23 MS. CRAVER: Oh, okay, all right, I
24 guess Pat is on. Okay, go for it Pat.

25

26 MS. OWEN: Sorry about that, I just
27 figured I'd save you from doing it for me since I
28 managed to get on.

29

30 Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and members
31 of the Council. My name is Pat Owen, I'm a Wildlife
32 Biologist at Denali National Park. And I just want to
33 make a couple of comments on the written wildlife
34 update that you have for Denali in your meeting
35 materials.

36

37 First of all, just a little bit about
38 bear monitoring in the Park. We've had a long running
39 project looking at movements of bears across the
40 boundary of the Park in the Northeast corner. That
41 project is -- at least the field portion of that
42 project is coming to a close. We had five radio
43 collars remaining out there and all five of those
44 automatically released in September. We were able to
45 retrieve three of those five collars. Two of them, I
46 believe, quit transmitting and so we weren't able to
47 find them. But it's fortunate that we were able to get
48 the ones that we did because they are store on board
49 collars so we will get the data from the collars. And
50

0248

1 the analysis of the data from that project will be
2 ongoing.

3
4 Probably the big news for us is that --
5 you probably already heard, that the Denali Park Road
6 is closed to about halfway out at Mile 45 and that's
7 given us an opportunity to look at movements of bears
8 along the section of road or around the section of road
9 where there is no vehicle traffic. We had planned the
10 project with a start date of May 2022 and for a lot of
11 reasons we decided to postpone it for a year. So right
12 now the plan is that we will radio collar upwards of 20
13 bears at the basically west end of the road beyond
14 which vehicle traffic is allowed to travel. We'll keep
15 those bears radio collared for two years to look at
16 their movements and habitat use around the road when
17 there is no traffic on that road. And then in theory
18 in 2025 when the road is ready to reopen again we will
19 recollar those same bears with collars that will last
20 an additional two years so that we can compare their
21 movements and habitat use with the non-traffic
22 condition with the traffic condition once traffic
23 resumes out there. So that's a big undertaking for us
24 that we're hoping to get going this spring.

25
26 In terms of wildlife management or
27 especially bear management, things have been very
28 manageable for us this season even though we've got
29 basically the same number of visitors on half of the
30 Park Road, we did a lot of planning last winter about
31 how we were going to handle that and we saw a lot of
32 bears along the Park Road, lots of visitors came to the
33 Park and saw bears along the Park Road, most especially
34 in late August and through September. And one thing I
35 will say that I wished I had heard reports from Council
36 members this morning because the one thing that I have
37 picked on from our SRC members and also from the
38 Council members for the Eastern Interior RAC last week,
39 is that, and from everything that I know and people
40 that I've been talking to, it sounds like the blueberry
41 crop, at least in Interior Alaska was not great, that
42 it was pretty patchy and in some places seemed like a
43 total failure altogether and that is certainly what I
44 encountered here in Denali and I think that might have
45 something to do with why we were seeing bears moving
46 around so much. I think late in the season they needed
47 to cover a lot of ground to get what they needed. So
48 I'd be really interested to hear what other folks were
49 seeing in terms of what berry crops looked like.
50

0249

1 Cranberries were great, blueberries were not so great.

2

3

4 Moose monitoring for us, we have put
5 our moose surveys on hold indefinitely while there is a
6 reevaluation of the protocol but I will tell you that
7 there is a section of the Park Road about -- starts at
8 about 6.5 Mile goes to about 11.5 that we, typically,
9 every year, close for people going off the road.
10 Basically it means that people need to stay on the road
11 in that five mile section and it's because it's a
12 really busy area for moose rut. And one of the things
13 that was really interesting about that this year is
14 that we had some -- what seemed to be, unseasonably
15 warm weather, for all of September and even into this
16 first part of this month of October and there was not
17 near as much rut activity out there as we typically see
18 in any given fall. There were certainly moose around
19 but we were not seeing the number or the activity like
20 we typically see out there.

20

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21 In terms of caribou monitoring, there's
22 some numbers there in the report, I won't go through
23 all of those. But just one comment on caribou is that
24 composition surveys were completed at the end of
25 September. Another biologist does the surveys and I do
26 not have the numbers to provide for you for that but we
27 will by springtime for sure.

29 Sheep surveys, again, there's some
30 numbers in the report. I guess the only comment that I
31 would make about sheep surveys is that we had extensive
32 aerial surveys planned. We were not able to pull those
33 off for weeks because of bad weather and by the time we
34 finally got the weather to be able to do it the vendor
35 that we had lined up to do that project decided that
36 they were no longer available. So the sheep surveys
37 that we had intended to conduct we didn't get done.

39 Wolf monitoring. 13 packs within the
40 bounds of the Park. Numbers seem to be fairly steady.
41 There was only one pack in an area off the road that
42 needed to be closed and actually it was -- it was a
43 river that was closed mainly because the river is
44 really popular with pack rafters and the wolves are
45 denning right next to the river so to minimize
46 disturbance to them we closed that river for the
47 pupping season.

49 The Alpine Wildlife Project that is

0250

1 described in your update, again, I won't go into all of
2 the numbers but just to say that that project finished
3 up field work this last year. This project is done by
4 a graduate student out of the University of Montana and
5 so we will be awaiting the data analysis from that
6 project and a final report once she's done with her
7 dissertation.

8

9 In terms of some of the avian work that
10 we've been doing here, we did Golden Eagle nest
11 occupancy surveys in April and then productivity
12 surveys in July. The occupancy of nesting territories
13 was high when we did that in April but reproductive
14 success was low in July by the time we went back to
15 look to see how many young there were. This is
16 probably a factor of the low hare abundance, we're
17 still kind of at the bottom of the cycle and the hare
18 numbers have not come back up yet.

19

20 One other note about birds that I would
21 just mention is that I was also hearing from a lot of
22 the folks at the Eastern Interior RAC meeting that they
23 were feeling like songbird numbers were down and
24 certainly we didn't see that here when we did our
25 breeding bird surveys. The numbers and the -- the
26 number of birds and the number of species that we were
27 detecting on our breeding bird surveys was right in
28 line with what we typically expect to see out there.
29 So it would be really interesting to find out if any of
30 you folks or anybody you've been talking to has a
31 suspicion that songbird numbers are down.

32

33 The only other thing that I'll mention
34 is just that subsistence permits, we issue permits for
35 Federal -- Federal subsistence permits for moose and
36 caribou in the Traditional use Area in Unit 13E. For
37 the first time in a few years we were actually able to
38 issue those in person. I also did some of those from
39 my office. I do not have harvest numbers on that yet
40 but I do know, because hunters have contacted me, that
41 at least one moose and, outside the permit system, one
42 bear has also been taken down there.

43

44 And that's the end of my report, thank
45 you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Pat.
48 Questions for her on that report. Good report, in-
49 depth. For your anecdotal information, the birds on
50

0251

1 the Kenai are terrific. There's more rupchik, more
2 spruce hens flying around, you can't get your car
3 through the hunting roads but that's just my
4 observation. I could have had four gunnysacks full
5 but.....

6
7 MS. OWEN: I appreciate that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
10 Okay, we'll move on, Bureau of Land Management.
11 Caroline.

12
13 MS. KETRON: Hi everyone. I am
14 Caroline Ketron, I'm the Anthropologist and Subsistence
15 Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management in
16 Glennallen, Alaska. I've got some quick updates to
17 share. We were open to the public this year with some
18 periodic Covid mitigations in place and a hybrid
19 permitting system. So hunters could come in in person
20 and get their permits or verify their qualifying
21 information over the phone and have their permit mailed
22 if they had been issued permits within the last couple
23 years. We also went to Delta Junction again this year
24 in person to issue permits to qualifying residents
25 there.

26
27 And our report is in the big meeting
28 packet and begins on 222.

29
30 So I have some preliminary numbers for
31 you to fill in some of those blanks. We'll have final
32 numbers for the moose and caribou hunts in Game
33 Management 13 for the winter RAC meetings.

34
35 For the Unit 13 Federal subsistence
36 moose hunt we issued 1,190 permits. The five year
37 average for that is 1,290 so we're a little under
38 normal but it's within our normal range. The number of
39 harvested moose reported to-date is 51. The season
40 closed September 20th and we'll have more information
41 to add about attempted permits and hunter success at
42 the winter RACs but that harvest number is a little
43 lower than normal for us.

44
45 For the Unit 13 Federal subsistence
46 caribou hunt we've issued 2,550 permits so far. That's
47 most of our normal amount. through the winter we'll
48 issue a couple hundred but we've issued the bulk of our
49 permits at this point. Harvest reported to-date for
50

0252

1 this hunt are 21 bull caribou, and six cows. We're
2 continuing to have conversations with Fish and Game,
3 AITRC, local partners and stakeholders about the status
4 of the Nelchina Herd and we're interested in feedback
5 from the RAC. The winter Nelchina Caribou hunt reopens
6 October 21st and currently we are encouraging Federal
7 subsistence hunters to take bulls.

8
9 So through the Chair, I can take
10 questions.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
13 Questions, anyone. We got one pondering, anyone else.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I guess good,
18 Caroline, that was a good job.

19
20
21 MS. KETRON: All right, thanks.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good, thank you.
24 Okay, U.S. Forest Service. Steve.

25
26 MS. D'AMICO: Good afternoon, can you
27 hear me?

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I could you hear
30 me, you don't sound like Steve but I could hear you.

31
32 MS. D'AMICO: True. Thank you, Mr.
33 Chair and Council members for the opportunity to
34 provide you this report for the Chugach National
35 Forest. For the record my name is Ruth D'amico, I am
36 the District Ranger here on the Seward Ranger District
37 and I'll be reporting out for the Chugach today.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

40
41 MS. D'AMICO: So currently the Chugach
42 National Forest Subsistence Program is continuing to
43 support wildlife surveys for moose, caribou and
44 mountain goats in Unit 6 and 7 through a cost-share
45 agreement with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
46 and this continues ongoing cooperative monitoring
47 projects.

48
49 For the Prince William Sound zone, Unit
50

0253

1 6, moose season opened September 1st. There were
2 approximately 764 applications that were received for
3 the 60 moose permits. 30 bull permits and 30
4 antlerless permits were issued for Unit 6C for this
5 year in 2022. Antlerless moose harvest will close
6 October 31st and the bull harvest will close December
7 31st. So as of this time we do not yet have all of
8 those numbers so we will provide them to you when we
9 get them.

10

11 For deer, the season opened August 1st
12 and runs through December for five deer within Unit 6,
13 antlerless deer may be harvested from October 1st
14 through December. And one of those five may be
15 harvested between January 1st and January 31st within
16 Unit 6. Early indicators are that the deer numbers may
17 be down in some areas due to winter mortalities.

18

19 For mountain goat, that goes from
20 August 20th to February 28th in Cordova. The District
21 Ranger, Steve Namitz, under his delegation of authority
22 by the Federal Subsistence Board closed Unit 6D, which
23 was that sub area, RG242 to additional harvest of
24 Federal subsistence mountain goats based on harvest
25 reports, the quota for that sub unit GR242 was met with
26 the harvest of two goats. The remaining unit 6D sub
27 areas RG243, RG244-45, RG249, 266 and RG252 will remain
28 open until quotas are met and/or the end of season is
29 -- occurs, which is February 28th.

30

31 For black bear work has continued with
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the cooperative
33 Prince William Sound black bear project. That work
34 this summer and fall, they retrieved dropped collars
35 from bears captured in 2017 and the last batch of
36 active collars, which were deployed in 2018, they have
37 recovered data from those collars and are working with
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game biometrician to
39 begin that data analysis and publish early results. In
40 the paperwork you received you should have a link to
41 that report.

42

43 For salmon, the Copper River Delta
44 fishery is ongoing and harvest reports are not due
45 until the end of December, December 31st. Anecdotal
46 sources say that harvest has been slow due to low
47 returns and poor fishing conditions.

48

49 On to the Kenai Peninsula zone,

50

0254

1 Management Unit 7, there were several new regulatory
2 changes that occurred within Unit 7 on the Kenai
3 Peninsula in April 2022 following the Federal
4 Subsistence Board meeting where the town of Moose Pass
5 received customary and traditional use determinations
6 for moose, caribou, mountain goat and dall sheep. the
7 moose season date changed from opening August 10th to
8 opening on August 20th and closing date was extended to
9 September 25th to coincide with the State moose season
10 closing. And there was also a new dall sheep hunt that
11 was established on Unit 7 for one full-curl ram by a
12 drawing permit. For that dall sheep drawing by permit
13 an emergency action was issued on August 4th of 2022
14 closing that Federal subsistence drawing hunt on the
15 Round Mountain and Crescent Lake the two areas that
16 were within the Unit 7 where a drawing could be
17 conducted, based on the aerial surveys that were
18 conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game of
19 no harvestable surplus of full-curl rams being
20 observed. And the remainder of Unit 7 remained open to
21 dall sheep under State regs.

22
23 For moose and caribou. this year the
24 Seward Ranger District returned to hosting town hall
25 meetings for issuing hunting permits to the communities
26 of Hope, Cooper Landing and Moose Pass for those
27 residents in person. For Unit 7 there were 93 permits
28 issued as of this month and out of that we had 229 days
29 hunted by only 29 people.

30
31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted)

33
34 MS. D'AMICO: 28 of those individuals
35 did not hunt and we're still waiting on approximately
36 41 harvest reports.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 Yes?

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're just
43 getting some people not muted.

44
45 MS. D'AMICO: Caribou, issued 71
46 permits, only one harvested, mountain goat we had two
47 or three under drawing and one has been harvested to-
48 date at this point.

49
50

0255

1 And personnel updates, Milo Burcham
2 retired in June after 20 years.

3
4 So with that I will end, it there are
5 questions.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got a
8 few questions. Go ahead, Andy.

9
10 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. Just
11 a quick comment, hopefully this barking up the right
12 tree, no Milo anymore so still wanted to inquire,
13 hopefully there'll be an aerial survey or whatever type
14 of survey has to take place in order to find out and
15 monitor the population of moose that historically has
16 existed and been utilized as a subsistence resource in
17 Prince William Sound by the two villages of Chenega Bay
18 and Tatitlek, Kings Bay, Unit 7 mostly, but some of
19 that actually drifts into Unit 6.

20
21 MS. D'AMICO: I will take that note and
22 -- and for my information that I have on that Kings
23 Bay, in 2020 there was a determination that it would
24 remain at status quo, that it was closed to Federal
25 subsistence for those two communities due to lack of
26 moose and that these wildlife closures would be
27 reviewed every four years, so I believe it is on the
28 docket to be reviewed again in 2024. So hopefully we
29 will be able to work with ADF&G to actually look at
30 that area and get some better information.

31
32 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. I'd
33 just point out that the survey was flown on a deep snow
34 winter day in a short period of time. I'd like to see
35 that as soon as possible back in the next two years.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MS. D'AMICO: Thank you.

40
41 MS. WILSON: Question to the Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, go ahead.

44
45 MS. WILSON: Yeah, my question was
46 pertaining to your numbers and I was just wondering,
47 would that include any numbers from the State
48 subsistence hunts, like that there's permits for, or --
49 well, I guess I should be more specific, Unit 13 has a
50

0256

1 State subsistence hunt, I'm just interested to know if
2 any of those numbers from them on their subsistence are
3 included in these totals?

4
5 MS. D'AMICO: Not for the Kenai
6 Peninsula zone.

7
8 MS. WILSON: Not the Chugach Mountains,
9 or Unit 13.

10
11 MS. D'AMICO: I don't know anything
12 about Unit 13.

13
14 MS. WILSON: Okay. So no community
15 moose hunts generally -- just a general question, are
16 any of the State hunts counted in those totals,
17 subsistence?

18
19 MS. D'AMICO: No. These that I have
20 reported on were only for Federal subsistence hunts.

21
22 MS. WILSON: Okay. That answers my
23 question, thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
26 questions.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, thank
31 you for your report we'll go ahead and move on.
32 Jackie, I didn't even have to say anything, here they
33 come, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MS. KEATING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 For the record Jackie Keating, Division of Subsistence,
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And before I get
40 into my update I just wanted to introduce my new
41 colleague, Jake Egglehoff, Jake just joined us last
42 month. He's going to be primarily the research lead
43 for a lot of the field work that we have in the
44 Southcentral region and we have a whole lot of projects
45 coming up this year so welcome Jake.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I just met you, I
48 ran into you in the hall going to the bathroom,
49 literally.

50

0257

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. EGGLEHOFF: No introduction needed.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. EGGLEHOFF: Nice to meet you all.

8 Happy to be here and happy to work with you.

9

10 MS. KEATING: Great. And I have a one
11 page update. It was in the supplemental materials, I
12 think it might be Item No. 7. But I'll just go through
13 some of the projects that we have going on and.....

14

15 MS. GILL: Jackie, if I may interrupt.

16

17 MS. KEATING: Yeah, plea.....

18

19 MS. GILL: Sorry. It's a handout that
20 you have and it's not in your books, yeah, it was just
21 a handout that should have been on your desk.

22

23 MS. KEATING: Thanks Jessica.

24

25 MS. GILL: Yeah.

26

27 MS. KEATING: So first of all, just a
28 brief reintroduction to who we are at Subsistence.

29

30 Our mission is to scientifically
31 gather, quantify, evaluate and report information about
32 the customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and
33 wildlife resources. One of the primary ways that we do
34 that is through these comprehensive household harvest
35 surveys and almost all of our projects are partnerships
36 with tribal entities and other agencies. So the nice
37 part about presenting later in the day is that our
38 partners have presented a lot of our projects already.

39

40 But the first one is one that both
41 Karen and Barbara mentioned, we're doing the
42 comprehensive harvest surveys in the Copper Basin area.
43 This winter we'll be doing Mentasta and Chistochina.
44 Next winter we will be surveying Slana and Nabesna. So
45 looking forward to doing both of those and that is very
46 much a capacity building project with Ahtna InterTribal
47 Resource Commission where we are providing State Staff
48 to do training and assist with surveys and interviews,
49 but it's really to work with Ahtna and kind of help

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1 them facilitate the project.

2

3

4 The second project we have is over in
5 Prince William Sound. We have funding from the Prince
6 William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council to do
7 updated harvest surveys over in Tatitlek. We haven't
8 done surveys there since 2014 so looking forward to
9 getting over there. And we are hopefully also
10 obtaining funding to do Chenega in 2024. That's
11 dependent on getting another round of funding and on
12 community approval. So we presented to the natural
13 resource group with Chenega earlier this week and
14 they'll be bringing it in front of the Council in
15 November.

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And then moving over to Port Graham, we also have funding that the Port Graham Corporation wrote us in on for a part of a broader project. So not this winter, but in 2024 we'll be doing updated comprehensive surveys there and that's part of a larger project to look at recovery from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

And then, lastly, Christine mentioned with the Chugach Regional Resource Commission that we've been very involved in the Marine Mammal project that they're doing over there. Lots of really great work. Raven Cunningham's been doing an amazing amount of bringing money in and making new research happen. So just like the Ahtna project, this is sort of a capacity building where we are providing training for surveys but primarily supporting the Chugach Regional Resource Commission and the Native Village in Eyak for doing marine mammal surveys which haven't been done since 2008.

And the last thing I wanted to mention is about a year ago when this Council met and was reviewing the customary and traditional use determinations for Moose Pass and some other communities on the Peninsula there was some frustration over the fact that those decisions have to be made based off of one year of data for a lot of those communities and so I just wanted to remind this body that one way to deal with that situation is updating those comprehensive harvest data through surveys and one of the ways to do that is by making that a priority information need next time funding comes up and then we can apply to those projects and update subsistence

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1 harvest information. So it's usually phrased something
2 like updating reliable harvest estimates for
3 communities that you're concerned about. So I just
4 wanted to remind folks that we're here to help with
5 that if that's something this body is interested in.

6

7 That's all I have. I'm happy to answer
8 questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
11 Jackie. Jake. Questions -- anyone got questions for
12 them. Sounds like -- yeah, we do, go ahead, Hope.

13

14 MS. ROBERTS: Thanks that was really
15 informative. So for your tribal and community partners
16 that you are doing marine mammal management research,
17 when is the last time you guys had any data for like in
18 Valdez because, you know, I know that there they tend
19 to be left out a little bit because the Valdez Native
20 Tribe is not Federally-recognized but individuals are
21 and we're marine mammal harvesters. And, you know,
22 like we would like to be included in things like that
23 as traditional ecological knowledge holders, you know.
24 And just kind of want to be in the loop, you know, if
25 like maybe that could happen.

26

27 MS. KEATING: Yeah, through the Chair.
28 Ms. Roberts. Thank you for that. That's a very good
29 point. And I would have to triple check this, I'm
30 pretty sure that there were residents of Valdez that
31 participated in surveys in 2008 but it's been awhile
32 so, yeah, any effort to revamp that would be great. I
33 know Chugach Regional Resource Commission is sort of
34 leading the charge but, yeah, definitely have to look
35 at that.

36

37 Thanks.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other
40 questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good source of
45 resources, it sounds like you're working really well
46 with a lot of communities on different projects so
47 that's great to see. Appreciate it. And I got your
48 number now too, so.

49

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1 (Laughter)

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, let's see, where are we at. Okay, Scott, we got you now, you've been waiting a long time. You go ahead.

MR. AYERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. It's been quite a meeting. I've learned a whole lot, I imagine there's been a lot of great information presented to you as well. Happy to be wrapping up the reporting section here.

Again, Scott Ayers, Office of Subsistence Management and I have the OSM report for fall 2022 Council meetings.

So on behalf of OSM, I want to thank all Council members for exceptional work that you do on behalf of your communities and user groups during these trying times. We value your expertise, and the contribution of your knowledge, experience to the regulatory process. Thank you for sticking with it through this long meeting. I have three topics to cover with you today.

The first topic is in-person Council meetings. We are holding all winter 2022 Regional Advisory Council meetings in person this fall, OSM Staff are happy that we can finally see you all face to face. We thank you again for bearing with us over the past two and a half years during the pandemic and the teleconference meetings. The Federal Subsistence Management Program recognizes that in-person Council meetings are preferable. The Council meetings must follow Federal guidelines. We're hoping that Covid19 levels are low enough in each of the communities where meetings are planned at the time of the meeting so that we will be able to meet these requirements. We are working with each of the Councils to conduct the in-person meetings safely.

Next topic is changes in Staffing.

OSM is pleased to welcome two newly hired Subsistence Council Coordinators, Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough and Jessica Gill, your very own. Both have a wealth of knowledge and experience in working with rural users in communities as well as Alaska subsistence issues.

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1 Eva Patton, transferred to the National
2 Park Service.

3
4 Karie Crow returned to OSM as the
5 budget analysis.

6
7 Bernard Shavings joined us as an
8 Administrative Support Assistant.

9
10 And Michelle Andrews joined us as OSM's
11 Executive Secretary.

12
13 OSM Team continues to work on
14 rebuilding our capacity and we're getting a lot closer
15 to being back to full Staffed so we're excited about
16 that.

17
18 And the very last item I have here is
19 RealID for travel to Council meetings, and this is
20 something we've been talking about for awhile.

21
22 Over the past two and a half years
23 we've been reminding Council members about the change
24 in requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May 3rd
25 every air traveler will need to present a RealID
26 compliant driver's license and other acceptable form of
27 identification, like a passport, to fly within the
28 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on
29 small carriers. Please note that all Council members
30 will need to make sure they have required RealID for
31 travel to fall 2023 Council meetings.

32
33 That concludes my update unless you
34 have any questions.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, questions
37 for Scott.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Everyone got
42 their ID, we're good to travel, in-person, we love it,
43 it's not only better it's almost mandatory, and your
44 other one, change in Staff, congratulations and good.
45 So what else we got. Questions.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none,
50

0262

1 Scott, you do a fabulous job, thank you. We're going
2 to press on now and we're going to closer her out.

3

4 MR. AYERS: Sounds good, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay.....

7

8 MS. ROBERTS: I had a question for OSM,
9 sorry, I forgot.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

12

13 MS. ROBERTS: So the Native Liaison is
14 for OSM, right.

15

16 REPORTER: Your mic.

17

18 MS. ROBERTS: Sorry. I just had a
19 question, that I noticed that there not very many, or
20 any comments or anything from the Native Liaison from
21 OSM, why is that, do you know? I mean I meant to ask
22 you, sir, I'm sorry, but I didn't get a chance to. But
23 I just -- it's on my mind and I.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: People haven't
26 participated. He sends me out a notice all the time.
27 We wanted you back up Orville.

28

29 MR. LIND: Oh, I just love it. I love
30 it.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We know you had
33 too big of a lunch.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. LIND: Thank you. For the record,
38 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM. Great question.
39 The question's been asked ever since I got to the
40 office in 2014. There are a lot of factors that are in
41 play when we consult. I have several types of
42 consultations but my main consultation is with tribes.
43 My responsibility, as you know, is Executive Order
44 13175 says, we must listen to the tribes, they must be
45 heard. My main role as a Native Liaison is to
46 facilitate consultations between tribes and the Federal
47 Subsistence Board.

48

49 One of the things that I find out is

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1 that is like the example I shared earlier, that
2 regulatory cycles, wildlife cycle, the fisheries cycle,
3 kind of falls in place where subsistence activities are
4 full going, they're going very strong. So, as I'm
5 told, Orville, I'm sorry I can't make the meeting I'm
6 going to be picking berries, fishing, or hunting, that
7 type of deal, that happens. The other factor is that
8 when I send out notices, we try to do it at least two
9 weeks to three weeks in advance. I have emails. And
10 as Gloria, too, will remember, that sometimes the
11 contacts aren't there, they will gone, so they have
12 someone else watching the office, they basically don't
13 know what to do with the message. A lot of times there
14 will be messages that don't reach the place. In some
15 cases, as of last year, I believe, we had the same
16 question asked where a regular person who attends
17 consultations says, I never got the message, Orville,
18 and I say well I sent it to you, well what email did
19 you use, the one you gave to me and to find out that
20 she changed her email address so that's why she didn't
21 receive the information. So there's a lot of things
22 that are in play.

23

24 Once we -- and I really have to say
25 that OSM does an excellent job of doing outreach.
26 Since I've been in the position here as the Native
27 Liaison since 2014 we've come a long way. Now, when the
28 messages, outreaches go out, again, we don't have
29 control once it reaches the tribes or the corporations,
30 but I can tell you one thing, since 2014 when we
31 started we have far more responses and tribes engaging
32 in consultations. For example, the last fisheries,
33 2023 to 2025 we actually had good representation during
34 the consultations for these regions, except for I
35 believe Yukon-Kuskokwim didn't have a representative
36 although other representatives were present and they
37 just didn't have questions or comments.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
42 Orville. Gloria, you got a question.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: I just think he's doing
45 a good job of outreaching. Each one of us in our
46 region, we need to reach out to our villages and
47 contact him and give him our village number and who's
48 in the office to -- you know the village office so they
49 can call in. It's our responsibility to share this

50

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1 information and I do, I give it -- if I get updates in
2 emails, or changes I give it to -- I'm sorry I am no
3 longer working and I won't be able to do that anymore,
4 I hope the next person that's going to take over my job
5 will do that and keep us -- because we always call in.
6 Somebody from our region always calls in. And I can
7 remember in the day when it was just me sitting in the
8 audience and nobody else or very few people were in the
9 audience for Native giving public testimony.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: That was back in the
14 early, early days when it was just me and Staff.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MS. STICKWAN: It'd be just full of
19 Staff. And that has changed and I'm glad that the
20 Native Liaison is and hopefully we will share our
21 numbers and more people call in.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
24 Orville I will tell you just a comment from my
25 perspective. Generally we're always up to our ass in
26 alligators, excuse my saying, but that's a true story
27 and our Councils are -- you know, when you call us we
28 always try to make time but it doesn't always work out
29 but we do know how to get a hold of you and we get a
30 hold of you, so it works very well that way too, it's
31 just kind of offline. But I know the last round we
32 missed but I know that's a very good question, because
33 it's there and we need to have that communication.

34

35 I do know that, too, that when things
36 were hot and heavy when we had consultations, we had
37 the whole doggone Sullivan area full of people, so we
38 know how to pack a house too when we need to, so,
39 anyway.

40

41 Thanks, that's my comment.

42

43 You want a followup.

44

45 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you so much for
46 that answer. I'm sorry, do you -- Thank you so much
47 for that answer. So what I'm hearing is consultations
48 are held while people are hunting and gathering because
49 if you sent out anything -- because on a different day
50

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1 I'd wear the hat of Secretary of the Board of Directors
2 at the Valdez Native Tribe, and on a different day I'd
3 wear the hat of the Chair of the Valdez Advisory
4 Committee so I'm out there fishing because I do own a
5 sportfishing charter, so if there's a way that we can
6 switch dates around to where it's more convenient for
7 people who actually harvest and stuff like that it'd
8 probably be easier. And I'm available, you know, to
9 help, you know, if you ever need it for anything, you
10 know, because I really would like to see comments
11 coming from your department.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
16 Orville.

17

18 MR. LIND: Thank you for that Council
19 member. I will say that, you know, this is not a bad
20 thing, me being responsible for 229 Federal recognized
21 tribes, 12 regional corporations and up to 880 village
22 corporations, sometimes the phone is very busy. And
23 I'll get a lot of questions about, you know, hey,
24 Orville, you know we don't have any caribou here, or we
25 don't have any birds flying over anymore, you know,
26 questions that really don't pertain to my position,
27 however, for some reason they know that I will try to
28 help them as much as I can and lead them to the right
29 person eventually.

30

31 I will say there's one other factor I
32 forgot to mention, too, as a former village Chief and
33 tribal member and corporation member, there's a high
34 turnover in rural Alaska. I find out that -- you know,
35 when I was back home in rural Alaska my Council changed
36 pretty frequently and in contact with large family
37 members and being around tribes, the same thing happens
38 out in rural Alaska so that's another factor. And you
39 know what besides all the factors that affect our
40 outreach efforts and communication, I think we've come
41 a long way and I think we're only going to get better
42 with people like you wanting to reach out.

43

44 And like I said, I made a mistake, when
45 I first got this job I put my phone, personal phone
46 number on my card, don't ever do that.

47

48 (Laughter)

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0266

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I went through
2 the same problem.

3
4 MR. LIND: But it worked, in the long-
5 run it worked and I appreciate that. And I can only
6 say that OSM, with even new Staff, we got great Staff,
7 thankful that we're almost fully Staffed again that,
8 you know we can only get better, and we can't get
9 better without any people asking questions like that.

10
11 So, Quyana.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Quyana,
14 thank you, we're done. Okay, go ahead, I didn't want
15 to open it back up.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think we really
20 answered that one thoroughly -- oh, go ahead, Scott.

21
22 MR. AYERS: Thanks. I just wanted to
23 state one more item that in addition to the scheduled
24 consultations that we have, if anyone at any point in
25 time wants to request consultation with the Board, they
26 can just reach directly out to our Program and do so.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Right.

29
30 MR. AYERS: It doesn't have to be only
31 during those scheduled times.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, the only
34 consultation that I know that we've requested before as
35 a RAC with the Board is when OSM is working on
36 proposals midstream, in-stream, early, infancy,
37 whatever, to work with the proponent. Yeah. Okay,
38 thank you.

39
40 Okay, we got through there so now we're
41 down to confirm location and future dates. Do you want
42 to take that Jessica, you want to -- we're meeting
43 March 16th and 17th, that's what you say?

44
45 MS. GILL: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Currently we're scheduled to meet March 16th and 17th,
47 2023. From the meeting minutes from last time it says
48 that the location was to be determined but I've also
49 seen that the location is Anchorage, so I just want to
50

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1 confirm that. So maybe we could get confirmation on
2 that before we move on to the fall.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'll just
5 make a comment, it usually is the winter meeting in
6 Anchorage. Dennis.

7

8 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, just a comment. I've
9 noticed the Board of Game meeting is March 17th through
10 the 21st, so I don't know if that conflicts any of the
11 agencies or anything like that.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: The Southcentral
14 meeting, right.

15

16 MR. ZADRA: And it is the Southcentral,
17 yeah, Unit 6, 7, so that would probably going to be
18 pertinent to quite a few of our people.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We could just
21 jump over to the next meeting, to show up at the State
22 meeting.

23

24 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, but the State
25 meeting's going to be in Soldotna, that's what they
26 said.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, they said
29 that a few years ago too. Yeah, good point Dennis,
30 yeah. Everyone's schedule is tremendous, I know.
31 Okay, we got maybe one possible conflict there, I don't
32 know what the others are. You guys got -- do we want
33 to confirm Anchorage and we want to confirm those dates
34 or do we want to move it a day forward or a day behind.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The 17th is St.
39 Patrick's Day too, we might be wound up pretty good
40 too.

41

42 (Pause)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I don't know, you
45 know, it's just -- anyway, at least you got away from
46 the 9th and 10th, you always want to have it on my
47 birthday the 10th, so, anyway, 16th and 17th, I think
48 works for me, or the 15th works, but how about the rest
49 of you guys. Do you want to move it one day up so we
50

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1 could go back to Soldotna, or -- I could go one day up
2 -- could we do the 15th, 16th?

3

4 (Council nods affirmatively)

5

6 MS. GILL: Mr. Chair. I think that
7 should work. It does overlap with the Bristol Bay RAC
8 meeting but I don't think that should be an issue with
9 us so.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: They're shaking
12 their heads okay.

13

14 MS. GILL: Okay, great.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that'll
17 solve both problems if we could go March 15th and 16th,
18 okay. If you go into April you're going to have to
19 come to Scottsdale Arizona to find me. I got a meeting
20 there.

21

22 Okay, we confirmed that's going to be
23 in Anchorage and you'll let us know where.

24

25 MS. GILL: Yes, I will.

26

27 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
28 Angela.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MS. GILL: Sorry, Mr. Chair, we do need
33 a motion just to confirm those dates and then we'll
34 need a motion for our future meeting date as well, for
35 fall 2023.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

38

39 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
40 Angela.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's go
43 ahead and do a motion for the.....

44

45 REPORTER: Greg. Greg.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:first one
48 here, the.....

49

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0269

1 MS. SELANOFF: I'll make.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:Anchorage
4 meeting.

5

6 REPORTER: Greg, you have someone on
7 the phone.

8

9 MS. SELANOFF:a motion for the
10 winter 2023 meeting to be March 15th and 16th in
11 Anchorage.

12

13 MR. HOLSTEN: I second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got a
16 motion and a second, but I missed the phone call,
17 someone was on the phone.

18

19 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yeah, I was asking if
20 you could repeat those dates again?

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The date would be
23 March 15 and 16, 2023 in Anchorage for the winter
24 meeting.

25

26 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
29 Angela. We got a motion on the table for the 15th and
30 16th in Anchorage in March, any discussion.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
35 in favor aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It carries. The
44 next, we got to select a fall 2023 meeting date, maybe
45 Kenai Peninsula, Cordova, what's your guys' thought.
46 I'm not asking you, I'm just trying to get the feel --
47 Cordova might still be a little hot.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

0270

1 MR. ZADRA: Yeah.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, okay. You
4 know the Kenai Peninsula, we ain't been there in quite
5 awhile so you know you got the new one down there,
6 Moose Pass, and everyone can get to the Kenai pretty
7 good but it's up to you guys, we're glad to have you
8 down that way.

9

10 MS. ROBERTS: I say Kenai.

11

12

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You say Kenai.
13 There's quite a few people that would like to have one
14 in Kenai, we haven't had one there in a long time.
15 There's good venues there. Kenaitze Indian Tribe's
16 build a bunch of new buildings, we'll just take one of
17 theirs.

18

19

20

MS. GILL: So just to confirm, in Kenai
City there?

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

24

25

MR. HOLSTEN: Good idea.

26

27

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That sound good.

28

29

(Council nods affirmatively)

30

31

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah.

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Everyone like
that and then we'll figure out a schedule, I don't know
what date that's going to be.

35

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44

MS. GILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Most
of the calendar is pretty open, we've had three
scheduled meetings for the RACs so far, I think I
included the updated calendar in your additional
materials that were on the page there. So it looks
like Kodiak/Aleutians, Eastern Interior and Western
Inter -- or sorry, Seward Peninsula have all scheduled
their dates so one, note, Eastern Interior scheduled
their meeting for October 4th and 5th.

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You guys
want to take a crack at the date for the fall meeting,
October 4th and 5th are taken. We got the 11th and
12th, I'm not sure what time AFN is that year, but the

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1 11th and 12th is usually enough to work, that'd be
2 close to this time.

3

4 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, can I
5 recommend the 2nd and the 3rd.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: 2nd and 3rd --
8 2nd and 3rd of October?

9

10 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That works for
13 me.

14

15 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, that wouldn't work
16 for me, Greg, I'm still dealing with my clients up
17 until about the 7th.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got
20 Dennis that's.....

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to have it
23 earlier.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: What.

26

27 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to have it
28 early because we got 14 inches of snow at home and to
29 drive to Kenai.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, we hunt
32 until the 25th so sometime after September 25th might
33 work but it would have to be late September maybe.
34 That last week of September looks like it might be
35 open.

36

37 MR. ZADRA: And I can always call in,
38 too, Greg.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Gloria, we
41 could try the last week of September or early October
42 if you want, the first week of October.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: That's fine.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: I just don't want it any
49 later.

50

0272

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any later.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And if you could
6 call in, that'll work Dennis, the 2nd and 3rd?

7

8 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, I'll call in.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Everyone
11 else, is that 2nd and 3rd tentatively good.

12

13 (Council nods affirmatively)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If I told you my
16 schedule I think you'd feel sorry for me, I don't want
17 to tell you that, but I'll try the 2nd and 3rd, okay.
18 We're going to do a motion for that.

19

20 MS. SELANOFF: I'll make the motion for
21 the fall 2023 to be October 2nd and 3rd in Kenai.

22

23 MR. HOLSTEN: I'll second.

24

25 MS. TOTEMOFF: I second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Moved and
28 seconded to have the fall meeting in Kenai, October 2nd
29 and 3rd, 2023. Any other discussion.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
34 in favor aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed to
39 that online, Angela or Donna.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All good, okay,
44 that's our schedule. Okay, we have come to the hour
45 for closing comments, so what we do in closing
46 comments, this is a time for the RAC members to each
47 have a closing comment and I started with Ed last time
48 so I'm going to start on this side of the table and
49 work around this way, and I'll take the last shot after
50

0273

1 Ed.

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MR. OPHEIM: Yes, great to be here in person and coming to Anchorage. It was a good drive, beautiful weather, finally. So presentations were amazing. Always a great learning experience with all the folks coming up and giving us presentations on the work that's been done. Just a lot of great things happening and appreciate all the hard work that goes into putting these meetings together as well.

So that's all I got and hope to see everybody next year.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Michael.

Diane.

MS. SELANOFF: It was good to be here, good to see everybody, good to reconnect and good to see faces again and have visits all over. So it's been a pleasure to come up here and meet with you all again.

One quick thing, I would just like to ask that we do on our calendars. I notice this one says October 9th Columbus Day holiday, that's actually been recognized now as a Federal holiday for Indigenous Peoples Day so if we could have that on there it would be much appreciated.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

Hope.

MS. ROBERTS: This has been a really, really great experience being here in-person. So glad to meet people in-person because it's easier for me to remember rather than being on Zoom and it's much more personal. And I think we're on the seventh year of it being Indigenous Peoples Day, seventh or eighth year. But I'm really glad to be here.

Thank you. And thank you, DeAnna.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Hope.

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1 Gloria.

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Gloria.

MS. STICKWAN: It's good to be in-person and hear everybody -- can hear everybody a lot clearer than on the phone and understand so I'm glad to be able to be in-person and hope to see you guys next time and thank you for all the reports.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Gloria.

Andy.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, it took me about 10 years to learn all the faces and now after Covid it seems like musical chairs happened again so I'll be working on putting faces with names again this time. But thanks to all the agencies and the entities and the people that came and gave testimonies, of all this information, wealth of information combined from everybody, that's how all this works. I appreciate it.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.

Dennis.

MR. ZADRA: I just will reiterate how much I appreciate having in-person meetings now and especially all the work that goes into it and safe travels home for everyone.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ed.

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, again, it's great to be back and in-person and see everybody. I think one of the things I have really always liked about in-person meetings, et cetera, is being able to talk to different folks during coffee breaks, lunch, et cetera, et cetera. And I've always liked agency reports. I thank all the people from the agencies, that's one of the best things I get out. And thank you, Greg, for another meeting, and especially Jessica, thank you very much. Next time when you have arrangements and you tell people where the building is, you have to remember some of us are pretty old and they found me wandering

0275

1 around and wanted to know where I was going, so thank
2 you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Online we
5 have -- did you want to make a comment before,

6

7 MS. STICKWAN: Appreciate to DeAnna.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I got that, I've
10 already got that covered.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: Okay.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Online, we have
15 -- Angela are you still on there.

16

17 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yes, I sure am, and
18 thank you, Mr. Chair. And I just want to say that I
19 appreciate your leadership during these meetings, I
20 think you run a very tight ship and you navigate a lot
21 of opinions so I appreciate that. I also appreciate
22 everybody's input. And I do have to say the difference
23 between in-person and over the phone is by far way
24 different and I apologize I wasn't able to be there
25 today, but I really did appreciate the time I was able
26 to spend with you guys yesterday. And, yeah, I look
27 forward to the next meeting.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
30 Angela. Is Donna Wilson or Donna Claus on the radio --
31 phone.

32

33 MS. WILSON: Yes, I'm here, this is
34 Donna.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Donna, go
37 ahead.

38

39 MS. WILSON: I guess I would just
40 comment that I really feel bad that I wasn't able to
41 attend and see all of you in-person, that would have
42 been much better. As I'm out here, I was traveling
43 until the day before yesterday so I wasn't able to
44 catch up with the materials, I was out of step with
45 everything but, really I just appreciate all of you and
46 you've been so kind and it sounds like everything was
47 accomplished and I am just absolutely amazed at some of
48 the comments and thoughts that people have offered and
49 I really hope to continue to hear those.

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0276

1 I want to thank, especially, Gloria,
2 for her comments. And, DeAnna, all of her help to me.
3 And Jessica, I appreciate you handling this the way you
4 did and me and my out of step comments but the two
5 concerns I have and I would probably write that down
6 and address it when I get some materials to me here.

7
8 But thank you all so much and God Bless
9 the whole meeting, it was wonderful to hear all of you
10 and it went well.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
13 Is anyone else, was the other Donna online.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I will go
18 ahead and make my closing comments. First of all, in-
19 person, is tremendous, and there is no replacing that
20 and we can't stop Covid, but, anyway, it's so good and
21 I'm just glad to be here. For me, and especially
22 Chairing, you know, the interaction is critical. And
23 just as a reminder the whole thing, how it works for us
24 as a RAC is to have the public testimony, have all the
25 agency reports, know all the data so we could make good
26 decisions and make good, you know, use of what we
27 present to the Federal Board.

28
29 We need to encourage the people that
30 want to see change or want to promote something, to
31 show up in-person, to come and make testimony. I'm
32 real encouraged with new Board members and I welcome
33 you and good to see you and get to meet you and the new
34 skills and the Chairmanship is available at any time.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But anyway.....

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Don't laugh.
43 Don't laugh. It could happen. I did mention the new
44 Staff and the agencies here and I'm impressed with a
45 lot of you people there you've done well, you done real
46 well.

47
48 I'd be remiss, but I want to say very
49 much thank you to DeAnna. You did an outstanding job
50

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1 and don't let me let you get away without giving you a
2 card we got for you. But she's done a great job. And
3 I think she's kind of told Jessica what to do, and you
4 missed one point. I had it all squared away with
5 DeAnna not to overload the agenda, you know.

6

7

(Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I see I got to
10 work on this a little bit, but, anyway, you're doing a
11 fantastic job, Jessica, you really are, so I really
12 appreciate it.

13

14

15 Everything was great, we took time.
16 Sometimes I could be even more aggressive, but I try
17 not to be. When there's something that I think that we
18 need to ferret out or listen we'll always make the time
19 for it as long as I'm sitting here.

19

20

21 So anyway, I thank everyone, have a
22 wonderful trip wherever you're going. Enjoy the fall.
23 Life is short, have fun, take care.

23

24

Thank you.

25

26

27 With that, the Council could make a
28 motion and we'll adjourn.

28

29

30 MS. SELANOFF: This is Diane, I'll make
31 a motion to adjourn.

31

32

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

33

34

MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

35

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded. Moved
38 and seconded by Ed, and we stand adjourned.

38

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Thank you.

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(Off record)

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(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 13th day of October 2022;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 2nd day of December 2022.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26